

Conclusion



T-Kit
on
European Citizenship

So you've made it to the end. Congratulations, and welcome! It is of course only the end of the beginning – as the real work starts now: putting it into practice. With what we now know of the past, with the insight we have into potential futures, and with the points of reference we have gained from the various theories and practice of others – what is it that we feel called to do?

We hope you have arrived here stimulated, with ideas buzzing and plans emerging. As is often the case in this work, you may have as many questions as answers – and as many a trainer will tell you, that's a good thing! What it is essential to remember, is that we should always be faced with some questions. If we are not, we stop learning – and that would be tragic!

Rather than this being a disempowering thought (how on earth am I expected to do my work well if I don't have all the answers?!), it urges us to start now. If there can be no final answer to life, the universe and everything (or even to European Citizenship), then there is no point in waiting for it. We had better dive into the uncertainties of life with energy and joy, accepting that whatever happens as a result, happens, and there is no point in regretting it. At the same moment, and in the same breath, we must take responsibility for acting now on anything we are not satisfied with.

A key element to this work is the coherence between what we are communicating and the way in which we communicate it. If we are trying to encourage participation, respect and creativity, with these as essential content parts of our educational programmes, we must reflect those in the methods we choose to use, and most importantly in our own personal approach to the people we are working with. Being an educator for European Citizenship is as much about developing our own selves, as it is about facilitating others, learning new methods, and convincing funders that our projects are worth their money.

As we hope you have realised now, education for European Citizenship is not a value-free agenda. In fact, it gives us the opportunity to connect to some fundamental human values such as respect, creativity and love – and to give them form in the playground of European youth work. It is work which future generations will be thankful for. It is work which should help to secure a continent that is peaceful, just, ecologically sustainable, and a supportive partner to peoples and communities from other parts of our planet. It is work we can be proud of.

**A History of Europe
and Citizenship**

**Contemporary
Approaches
to Citizenship**

**Future
Developments**

**Our Conceptual
Framework**

**Contemporary
Approaches
to Education
for European
Citizenship**

**Our Educational
Approach
to European
Citizenship**

**Citizenship
Scenarios –
Project Examples**

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