

General project information

The multilingual platform [EduSkills.plus](https://www.eduskills.plus) is dedicated to various cosmopolitan educational strategies and their growing importance in the European and international context. Teachers will find free materials, online and offline training and information to face current educational challenges.

The project is based on the assumption that intercultural integration in a globalised world requires specific strategies to break down prejudices, challenge stereotype, overcome cultural barriers and promote dialogue. Among these strategies, education for cosmopolitan engagement through specific educational policies and practices seems to be most effective for children and youth.

„Modern democracies are confronted with the challenge of providing education which is responsive to the increasing complex world. One goal of education for democracy is the achievement that citizens will be competent to participate in democratic societies.“, says Dr. Daniela Camhy from the Austrian Center of Philosophy with Children and Youth. „Building a community on inquiry, which is crucial within philosophy, is a very deep process, a very democratic process, where you recognise how democracy can function.“

Since December 2016, eight partner organisations from six European countries have been working together on the project funded by the European Commission. Together they developed the online platform EduSkills+, on which materials and information can be found in six languages: German, English, Italian, Polish, Slovak and Slovenian. The exchange between the staff of the partner organisations resulted in learning content and additional multimedia content using modern didactic tools. The teachers can look forward to a variety of materials and modules based on the findings and results of successful projects of the renowned institutions University of Naples, Georg Eckert Institute, Südwind Association and Austrian Center of Philosophy with Children and Youth, developed in close cooperation with the other partners and adapted to the European context. These include a curriculum specially developed for the promotion of cosmopolitan commitment for philosophising with children and young people, teaching diversity sensitivity and the global learning approach.

„You will find a great variety of exercises designed in order to provide the students with the tools aimed at developing their cognitive abilities, providing them with criteria such as the ability of reasoning, helping them to make judgments, to be more precise in their definitions and create concepts. At the same time the exercises promote the development of affective components, such as empathy, imagination and relational skills.“, explains Dr. Maria Miraglia from the University of Naples.

The main target group of EduSkills+ are motivated teachers with an interest in strategies for cosmopolitan engagement, diversity education

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and philosophising with children and youth. The online platform is also aimed at all those who wish to address these issues.

The project was realised with the financial support of the European Commission. Responsible for the content: Education@Internet (Slovakia), Studio GAUS GmbH (Germany), L'Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II (Italy), Austrian Center of Philosophy with Children and Youth (Austria),

Structure of the platform EduSkills+

The platform has three main components: modules, videos and the media library.

Modules

Free and creative teaching materials on four broad subject areas support the learning of skills necessary for active participation in democratic processes, critical thinking and living in diverse societies. The ready-to-use modules for teaching diversity and global issues, as well as implementing philosophical issues in class, are composed as follows:

1. General information about the module (description, didactic perspective, connections to curriculum)
2. Background information on the topic
3. Lesson plans (3-11x45/60min)
4. Related materials (exercises, texts, videos, worksheets)



The modules can be used in the classroom as a whole or only partially and deal with topics such as human rights, racism, migration climate change, globalisation, fair trade and consumption. The modules are grouped under four umbrella topics.

Interconnected world

Globalisation, its benefits and its risks

Living together

Migration, its causes and life in a plural society

People on the move

Democracy and peaceful coexistence of diversity in Europe

Thinking together

Critical thinking about the world and one's own place in it.

Videos

Videos provide a brief introduction to some modules and the use of the platform in general. A number of longer videos refer to the concept of the philosophical approach.

Media library

In the media library you can find multimedia content such as links, literature, didactic material and other projects dealing with the topics of the modules. These can be sorted by various filters, such as topic, language, type of material.

Why cosmopolitan education?

We live in a time of great uncertainty and change. The acceleration of globalisation has many effects, reaching into people's lives and into European classrooms. We see an increasing migration and diffusion of cultures that lead to new ways of acting and thinking and are accompanied by the weakening of local ways of life.

„Unfortunately, in this time of great regression, we see that interculturality does not arise naturally.

Rather, the reaction that we have is very often a closing within one's own identity which induces us to take refuge in our stereotypes and prejudices.“ – Dr. Stefano Oliverio (University of Naples)

Technological progress and especially the new media are changing the way we interact with each other and perceive information and knowledge. Failure to look at these changes appropriately in the light of one's own life leads to fear, exclusion and detachment from society, and in extreme forms to violent radicalisation.

All this puts pressure on schools and teachers to understand the ever evolving global environment and prepare students for this new world. This requires the development of specific educational strategies aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue and the construction of new identities resulting from engagement with the other. Such educational strategies can provide cognitive, affective and social tools to address prejudices and stereotypes and prepare students for active citizenship in a diverse and complex society.

The aim is to promote the development of dialogical and reflective competences that form the basis for the development of a cosmopolitan dialogue and identity. Such dialogue is seen as a necessary condition for social inclusion and the social development of complex communities.

„The philosophical dialog, which we promote here, is the development of active thoughts, and we try to help children, or adults, to acquire tools, to articulate, to reflect, to recognize connections, discover contradictions within information and to learn to think independently. It is a holistic thinking, to be open-minded and have the capability to participate in dialogue. So children learn, or adults learn, to articulate and also to reason and to give good judgments, and that leads, hopefully to more tolerance and openness, to other opinions, to other ideas, to other cultures; that is very important.“ – Dr. Daniela Camhy (Austrian Center of Philosophy with Children and Youth)

Partner organisations

The success of EduSkills+ relies on the solidarity of the partners, who have contributed their qualities and experience to achieve a common goal together. In the EduSkills+ project team there are partners from different sectors, NGOs, private and public educational institutions who guarantee a successful project as well as its dissemination to the target groups.

1. Edukácia@Internet

Partizánske, Slovakia

Project responsibilities: project management and coordination

www.ikso.net

The international organization E@I is a youth organization that promotes international cooperation and communication around the world by carrying out educational projects, supporting intercultural learning and the use of languages and Internet technologies. In collaborative projects, it focuses on intercultural learning, languages and IT use, website development, CD/DVD/book publishing, production of promotional and training materials and organisation of seminars.

2. Studio GAUS GmbH

Berlin, Germany

Project responsibilities: support in project coordination, design and programming

www.studiogaus.com

Studio Gaus is an organisation founded in 2014 that focuses on the promotion of education and culture for all - based in Berlin, Germany. In total, its expertise covers all important phases of the development of complex projects - starting with the development of concepts, coordination of all associated activities and public relations, to the programming of web designs and the implementation of the projects. The team has many years of experience in the successful implementation of several EU projects, such as the development of multilingual portals with many users, and works with reliable partners throughout the European Union. The focus of our work is on education and e-learning.

3. Università Degli Studi di Napoli Federico II

Naples, Italy

Project responsibilities: content development, teacher training

www.unina.it

The University of Naples Federico II is one of the oldest and most prestigious Italian and European universities. The Humanist Studies Department (DSU) is one of the largest Italian university departments and includes various disciplines in the field of human and social sciences. The DSU brings together researchers from different fields of research and is therefore characterised by a strong interdisciplinary approach to the development of research in the various fields of the humanities and social sciences, especially psychology, pedagogy, philosophy and linguistics.

4. Austrian Center of Philosophy with Children and Youth

Graz, Austria

Project responsibilities: content development, teacher training

www.kinderphilosophie.at

The Austrian Center of Philosophy with Children and Youth is an independent non-profit organisation and has existed since 1985 and was the first of its kind in Europe. Until today the Institute in Graz is the only one in the German-speaking area. The main areas of work are research, education and further training of children, adolescents and adults, counselling of educational institutions, project organisation, as well as the development of work and teaching materials. The center works in various contexts with children, adolescents and adults, is involved in open youth work with an intercultural approach and is committed to the social and professional integration of migrants and refugees.

5. Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research, Member of the Leibniz Association

Braunschweig, Germany

Project responsibilities: content development, dissemination and sustainability of the project
www.gei.de

The Georg Eckert Institute conducts applied, multidisciplinary research on textbooks and educational media, particularly in the fields of history and cultural studies. In addition, it advises national and international education policy-makers, practitioners and organisations and acts as a coordinator and mediator in international questions and projects relating to textbooks.

6. Südwind Association

Linz, Austria

Project responsibilities: content development, didactisation of content
www.suedwind.at

For 40 years Südwind, as a non-governmental organisation, has been committed to sustainable global development, human rights and fair working conditions worldwide. Through educational work in and outside schools, the publication of the Südwind magazine and other publications, Südwind focuses on global connections and their effects. The organisation is committed to a fairer world through publicity events, campaigns and information work.

7. Krzyżowa Foundation

Krzyżowa, Poland

Project responsibilities: teacher training, testing of materials
<https://www.krzyzowa.org.pl/de/>

The Krzyżowa Foundation for mutual understanding in Europe is specialized in activities for European integration and the development of contacts and cooperation between nations. These tasks lead the foundation to achieve its main purpose of the statute, which is to promote and support activities for the consolidation of peace and mutual tolerance, characterised by the coexistence of nations, social groups and individuals. The Krzyżowa Foundation is a politically independent, non-profit organization and non-profit organization, which spends all proceeds for the statutory purposes.

8. Inter-kulturo d.o.o.

Maribor, Slovenia

Project responsibilities: support in project coordination, development of content
www.inter-kulturo.si

The Slovenian company Inter-kulturo specialises in international projects and cooperation in the fields of education and culture, especially in the field of languages and intercultural understanding. Inter-kulturo develops innovative didactic tools to promote independent learning in the networked world and to help teachers adapt to the challenges of digital learning.