

“Educating the democratic citizens of tomorrow” is an Erasmus + KA2 (Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices – School Exchange Partnerships) project. The project will bring together five organisations: from Poland, Spain, Portugal and two schools from Greece. Our project is about democracy, its multiple transformations throughout time and the ways this type of government can improve people’s lives.

The aim of the project is to provide students with knowledge, understanding and skills and, by moulding their behaviour and attitudes, to teach them how to exercise and defend their democratic rights and responsibilities in society. The project focuses primarily on empowering students to have a voice in the society they live in and valuing diversity, both linguistic and cultural.

The activities in the project are based on the principle that every pupil can develop his learning potential in an agreeable and stimulating learning environment that favours autonomy and creativity. Within the project rhetorical speeches on controversial issues and strategies used to influence the voters could be presented. Some activities are designed to present different and often conflicting opinions that flourish in a society. This is where role-playing can be useful and may cover a significant part of the activities. Not only is role playing beneficial for young growing minds, it can also give those involved a better understanding of the feelings and behaviour of others in situations they have not actually experienced themselves. The participants could play various social roles to understand the conflict between individual and social interest.

In addition, we will organise transnational learning, teaching and training activities of individuals, so that they could bring added value in the achievement of the project’s objectives. The project activities will involve visits to places where democracy was born, such as the ancient Agora in Athens, where Athenian citizens discussed in person every issue of their everyday life, the Greek Parliament or the ancient theatre of Larissa, dated back to the 3rd century BC, where poets and playwrights freely expressed their beliefs and accused their leaders taking advantage of the democratic freedom of speech.

The methodology of the project will be a combination of theoretical research and development of social and interactive skills. The designed activities will also help develop transversal skills, such as digital skills and multilingualism. They are also an opportunity for teachers to gain competences in addressing the needs of pupils with disadvantaged backgrounds.

The students, teachers and the local community will benefit from the outcome of this project, too. By participating in different activities the students will improve language and communicating skills, share their knowledge of democratic institutions and understand the political evolution in societies. Seminars and blended mobilities will allow students to experience formal, informal and non-formal learning, thus enhancing the social, ICT and language skills of the learners.

“Educating the democratic citizens of tomorrow” is about helping young people to understand the world and find their place within it. The local community will benefit a lot from the involvement of students who, as future responsible citizens, will be interested in discussing, negotiating, presenting arguments and respecting people’s rights. Thus, in the long term, schools and communities situated in both cities and the countryside will feel that their needs will be respected and their opinions appreciated.