

Title:

*Engage, inspire, empower:
Citizenship education through eTwinning*

Date: 20 - 22 March

Format: Hybrid

Venue: Clarion Hotel Helsinki

Address: Tyynenmerenkatu 2, 00220 Helsinki, Finland

Target audience

This course is addressed to secondary education teachers and initial vocational education and training (IVET) teachers, members of the eTwinning community.

Background of the workshop

Citizenship education is not about acquiring knowledge; it is about shaping values, fostering critical thinking, and nurturing active citizens. It is the antidote to the skepticism and populism growing throughout Europe ([EIB Vice-President Vigliotti, 2024](#)), grounded in the core values of the European Union, as outlined in Article 2 of the [Treaty on European Union](#) (TEU) —respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and human rights, including the rights of minorities— citizenship education promotes a society characterised by pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity, and gender equality. To achieve these aims, citizenship education focuses on preparing students to become active, informed, and responsible citizens. This involves equipping them with the necessary competencies to contribute to the development and well-being of society. Active citizenship education emphasises practical experiences, encouraging active participation in social, political, and civic life ([EECUEA, 2017](#)).

Secondary and IVET educators are key factors in this process. They require robust training and support to effectively nurture the next generation of democratic citizens. Cross-cultural collaboration can encourage mutual understanding, respect, and active participation in democratic processes. eTwinning enhances awareness of cultural diversity and shared European heritage but also equips teachers and students with skills for responsible, inclusive global citizenship. In 2023, the [Council Conclusions](#) on the role of education and training in promoting common European values and democratic citizenship, highlighted, besides other topics, the contribution of [eTwinning](#) and the [European School Education Platform](#) in strengthening shared European values and fostering EU democratic citizenship, as well as the importance of continuously reinforcing, disseminating and supporting these initiatives.

Goal of the workshop

Acknowledging the crucial role that schools play in shaping young minds and nurturing democratic values, this workshop aims to provide secondary and IVET teachers with the knowledge, strategies, and resources needed to effectively incorporate citizenship education into their teaching practice. By empowering teachers to promote self-awareness, civic engagement, and inclusivity, we strive to cultivate a generation of responsible and active citizens who will contribute to a brighter future for all.

The objectives of this onsite workshop include:

- Strengthening teachers' knowledge of democratic principles, civic processes, and the importance of citizenship education in fostering social cohesion and inclusivity.
- Equipping teachers with innovative tools, techniques, and resources to effectively integrate citizenship education into their curricula and classroom practices.
- Empowering teachers to create inclusive classrooms that respect diversity, promote equity, and encourage active student participation in civic life.
- Building teachers' confidence and leadership in delivering citizenship education, supported by lesson planning, best practices, and hands-on activities.
- Facilitating the exchange of ideas, experiences, and resources, fostering a community of educators committed to cultivating active and responsible citizens.

Draft Agenda

All times indicated are EET (Eastern European Time)

DAY 1 – Thursday, 20 March

Plenary session (streamed for the online audience – no registration needed)

13:00–14:00	Registration
14:00–14:30	Opening - Welcome by the European Commission - Greetings from the Finnish Authorities and/or NSO - Introduction by the CSS
14:30–15:00	Keynote 1 – European Commission <i>Info TBA</i>
15:00–15:30	Keynote 2 – Finnish Professor/teacher <i>Info TBA</i>
15:30–16:00	Break

16:00–16:45 **Networking activity**

17:00–18:30 **Cultural activity**

19:30 Dinner

DAY 2 – Friday, 21 March

One room per session will be streamed for the registered online audience

09:30–11:00 **Workshop session 1**
4 in parallel

11:00–11:30 Break

11:30–12:30 **Networking**

12:30–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:30 **Workshop session 2**
4 in parallel (same as above)

15:30–16:00 Break

16:00–17:30 **Workshop session 3**
4 in parallel (same as above)

19:30 Dinner

DAY 3 – Saturday, 22 March

Plenary session (streamed for the online audience – no registration needed)

09:30–10:00 **Keynote 3** - Finnish professor/teacher

10:00–11:00 **Panel discussion**

11:00–11:30 Break

11:30–12:15 **Networking activity outcomes**

12:15–12:30 **Closing speech**

12:30 Lunch boxes - Departure