

Europe and Me



A new on-line educational resource on the EU

The European Union is central to the lives of millions of people across Europe. It affects their daily lives in a myriad of different ways. Yet many young people are barely aware that the European Union exists, let alone have any coherent understanding of its work and purpose. Conventional teaching has tended to portray the European Union as a set of abstract structures, far removed from the daily lives and experience of many ordinary young people living and working in Europe today. Especially in times of an upcoming European Parliament Election there is a need to look beyond the abstract norms and to connect Europe to the today's youth.

Europe and Me is a new educational resource designed to open young people's eyes in a simple and practical way to the work of the European Union as it affects them and their peers. It does not aim to promote any particular view of the European Union, but seeks to engage young people in an active and critical exploration of some of its major policy areas - such as the environment, consumer protection, employment, minority rights and international aid – and the ways in which these impinge on the lives of young people. It presents young people with some of the practical problems confronting Europe today – such as river pollution, international football hooliganism, disability rights and discrimination at work – asking how *they* would solve them and the role they see for international co-operation in this.

The resource comprises a series of themed discussion activities based on semi-animated PowerPoint stories, together with case studies and background information, follow-up practical investigations in the local community, and opportunities for young people to make their voices heard on European issues. It is accompanied by suggestions for evaluation and detailed background notes for teachers.

It has been created to meet the curricular needs of teachers and other educational professionals working with young people in the 14-19 age group in EU member states and countries in Europe aspiring to become EU members. While designed with vocational education in mind, it will be found equally useful in the general secondary school setting. It can be integrated into individual curriculum subjects, used in stand-alone civic education or citizenship sessions or used as an inter-disciplinary tool to help teachers to inject a European element across their school or college curricula. It can also be used in English as a second language class when dealing with various societal challenges (for example crime, pollution).

Europe and Me is free and currently available on-line in several different languages, with plans for further translations in the near future. It has been developed by the Citizenship Foundation with funding from the Steering Committee of the Initiative for Learning Democracy in Europe (ILDE).

The ILDE group

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