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YOUTH FOR EUROPE

Democracy & You

A short, easy guide to Europe, democracy and your voice

Based on the YOUROPE research report. A brochure for students



Funded by the European Union

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

Researchers across Europe studied how young people learn about democracy and citizenship.

This short guide shares their key ideas in simple language – and asks what YOU think.



At the end, you can share your opinion in a real survey!

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TWO PARTS OF THE RESEARCH

A

What researchers think

Over 1,200 studies about European democracy and citizenship, and what they found, and where they came from.

B

What countries actually do

A look at laws and school curricula in 10 European countries and what they teach about citizenship.

ACTIVITY: MIND MAP OF EUROPE

Fill in the mind map with words, pictures or photos.
Then think about this:

What does ‘Europe’ mean to you in your everyday life?

Do you feel connected to Europe? Why, or why not?



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WHAT DID RESEARCHERS FIND OUT?

1209 publications about European democracy & citizenship were published between 1992 and 2025.



This field is growing fast

Over 1,200 studies since 1992, most after 2013.

It mixes many subjects

Mostly education research, plus political science and sociology.

Where does the research come from?

Most studies focus on Western and Northern Europe. Central, Eastern and Southern Europe are studied less and often only in terms of problems, not strengths. Countries outside the EU are mostly studied in relation to joining the EU.

MANY WAYS TO SEE “BEING EUROPEAN”



A legal thing

Rights, duties and laws that come with being a citizen.



A feeling

Belonging and identity – feeling connected beyond your own country.



Something you do

Taking part, having a voice, being active in your community.



Something you learn

At school, with family, and with friends – not just in class.

HOW DO COUNTRIES TEACH CITIZENSHIP?

Researchers compared laws and school curricula in 10 countries. Here are 6 examples:

Country	Main focus	Europe in the curriculum?
Turkey	National identity & values	Mentioned, but not a big focus
Poland	Participation & media literacy	Yes – explicit and implicit
United Kingdom	Rights & responsibility	Less since Brexit
Norway	Global citizenship & human rights	Not an EU focus (non-EU country)
Spain	Rights, equality & participation	Present, but not clearly defined
Ukraine	Democracy & rule of law	Strong, pro-European

→ Every country does it differently. Some focus on national identity, others on global citizenship and human rights.

ACTIVITY: YOUR OWN SCHOOL

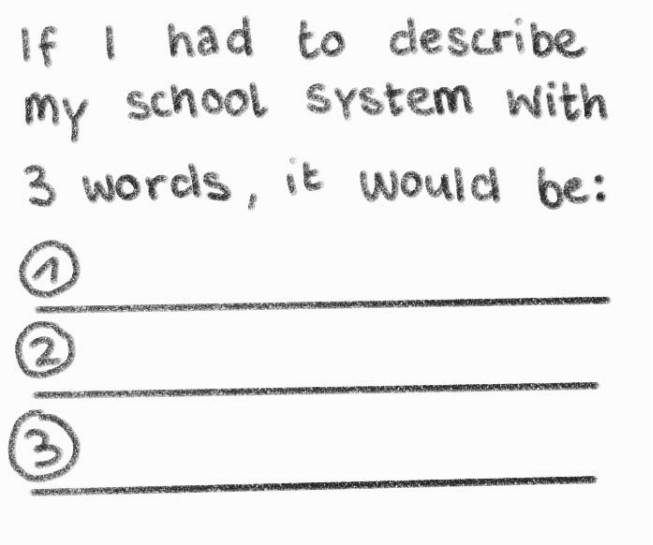
You just saw how different countries teach citizenship. Now it's your turn to reflect.

1 **Describe your own citizenship classes in 3 words:**

2 **Would you like more of it, less of it, or something different?**

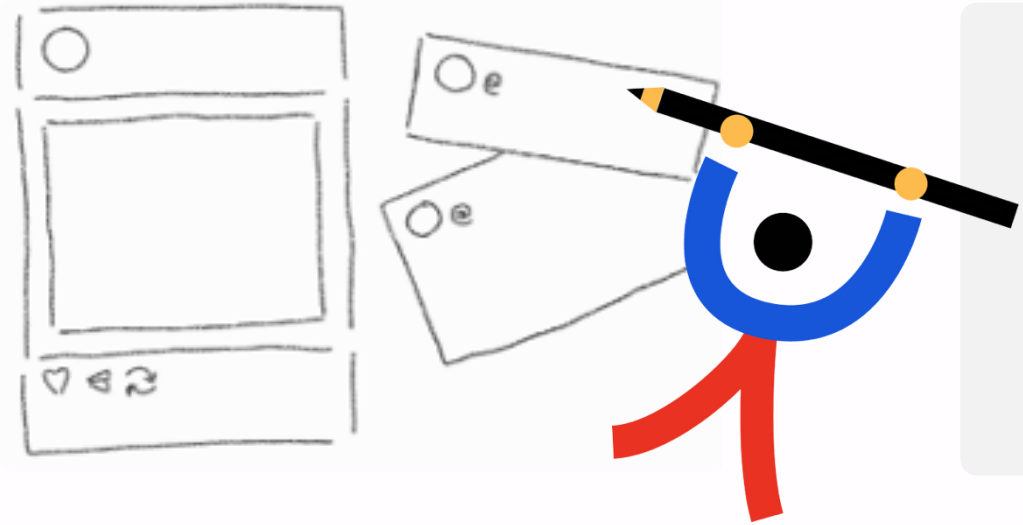
3 **Do you feel that your voice and experience are taken seriously at school?**

Think of one example: a moment when you felt heard, or a moment when you didn't.



ACTIVITY: HOW DOES THIS MAKE YOU FEEL?

Do you think everyone has equal opportunities to participate in society? What would need to change to make things fairer?



Write a short social media post about what you've learned and how it makes you feel.

Your voice matters

Take the short survey and help shape a new, youth-inclusive framework for European democracy and citizenship.

yourope-project.eu/youth-survey/



Want to keep talking? Explore all 6 topics on the Dialogue Map:

yourope-project.eu/dialogue-map

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