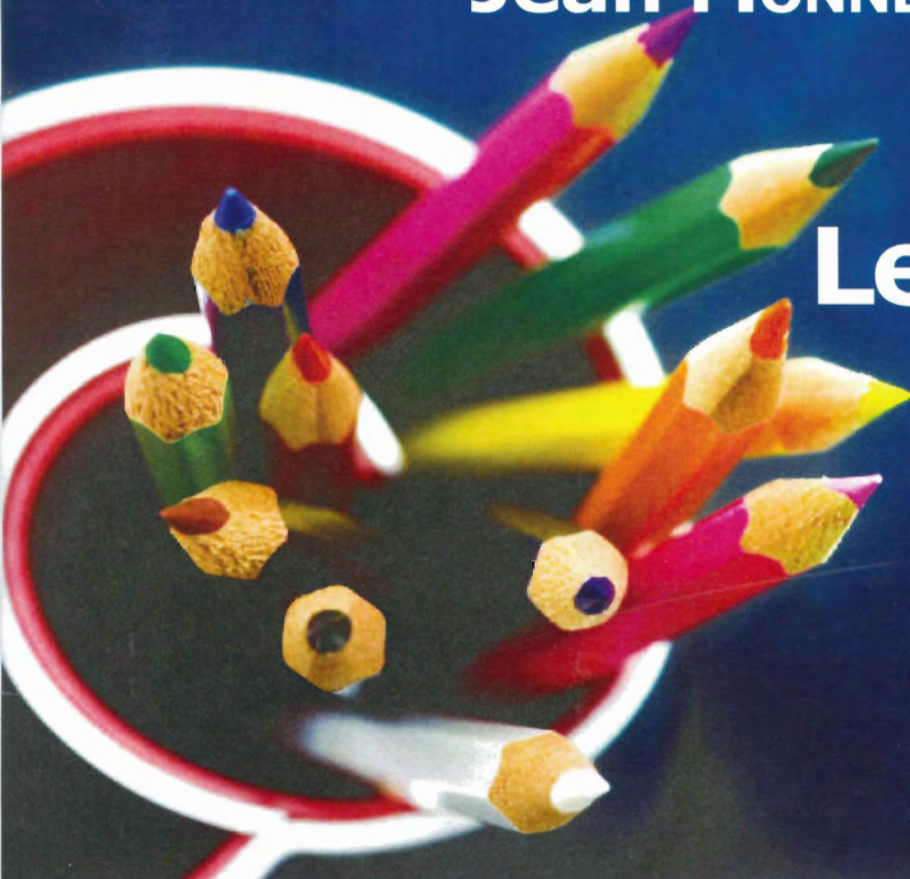




European  
Commission

# Jean MONNET Programme

# Learning EU at School



Profiles of projects selected in 2011

## Foreword

In 2011 the European Commission launched the "Learning EU @ School" initiative on the basis of evidence that European Union issues are a matter of importance for all members of society, particularly in this period which is economically and socially difficult for European citizens, for the European Union and for its Member States.

It is therefore necessary to facilitate the teaching and learning of European Union subjects. The main purpose of the initiative is to develop teaching methodologies and didactic content on the European Union as part of the curricula in compulsory education by Jean Monnet Professors.

The "Learning EU @ School" initiative is a concrete response to a real need as underlined by the European Parliament with the wish to include measures promoting civic education (teaching and learning) on European Democratic Citizenship, including studies of Europe and the EU in the European Member States' secondary schools.

The first generation of "Learning EU @ School" projects supported in 2011 in the framework of the Jean Monnet programme involves 46 institutions developing and improving the process of learning EU topics at primary and secondary school level.

In this brochure the Higher Education Institutions implementing these new activities are presented together with a summary of their projects, their main results, outputs and a first idea of the impact on EU learning and teaching opportunities in schools achieved at the end of this pilot period.

We hope that this publication can be useful in providing an indication of the interest Higher Education Institutions have in becoming an active part in "Learning EU @ School".

**Pierre Mairesse**

Director, DG Education and Culture  
European Commission

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**Website**<http://unipd-centrodirittiumani.it>**Project budget (in EUR)**

78,400.00

**Grant amount (in EUR)**

58,800.00

**Italy****UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA****Citizenship and Constitution****Project objectives**

The general objective of the project was to update and raise the level of knowledge of the European Union institutional system and its functioning, in order to reduce the current gap between civil society and European institutions and to promote active citizenship through the sharing of knowledge and the strengthening of attitudes and behaviour aimed at protecting and promoting human rights. Special attention was paid to identifying channels giving access to democratic participation in the EU decision-making process in the pursuit of objectives of common good at various levels according to the principle of subsidiarity, thus in the light of multi-level governance. In particular, the theme of "active citizenship" was addressed in the light of the "Europe 2020" Strategy, which urges a creative mobilization of competences and skills capable of producing "innovative ideas" to enhance a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Intercultural dialogue and modes of constructing an inclusive city within an inclusive EU constituted a substantial part of the project agenda within the overall capacity-building approach, strongly action-oriented. The specific objective of the project was twofold: to train a qualified group of teachers/tutors from all the Italian Regions to enable them to become trainers of trainers on the topic of active citizenship and human rights in the EU; and to develop a training module for learning EU at school as an integral part of the current teaching "Cittadinanza e Costituzione" (Citizenship and Constitution), as foreseen by two specific legal instruments (L. 169/2008 and C.M. no. 86/2010). The project was conceived and carried out by the Human Rights Centre (HRC) of the University of Padua in close co-operation with the National Agency for the Development of School Autonomy (ANSAS, ex Indire, Florence), the Italian Ministry of Education, the UNESCO Chair "Human Rights, Democracy and Peace" and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence of the University of Padua.

**Project deliverables**

The project deliverables have been produced as a result of the two national Seminars that were organised as key activities of the project. They were attended by 40 teachers/tutors and referents for "Citizenship and Constitution" selected by the different Regional School Offices (USR) of the Ministry of Education. The first Seminar (Event 1) "Learning EU at school: human rights, subsidiarity and multi-level governance in the European Union system and process" took place on 2-4 April 2012 at the University of Padua. The second Seminar (Event 2) "Curriculum development related to learning EU at school: preparing a training module" took place on 27-29 May 2012 in Sorrento (Naples).

- Deliverable n. 1 (Training materials): Each participant in the training course was given two dossiers for his/her personal, autonomous preparation, as well as other teaching materials (academic publications, documents of EU institutions and organs, and case-law). All materials have been included on the HRC and ANSAS website.
  - Deliverable n. 2 (Website): The content of the formative module "Learning EU at School" will be included in the ANSAS-ex Indire web site as well as in the web site of the HRC to be available to schools of any type and levels as a substantial part of the national program "Citizenship and Constitution".
- Deliverable n. 3 (Newsletter): Six issues of the Newsletter "Citizenship and Constitution: Learning the EU at School" are published on the HRC and ANSAS website.
- Deliverable n. 4 (trainees' contributions): With the aim of contributing to the development of the training module to learn EU at school, participants in the two national Seminars have elaborated conceptual maps and teaching objectives. These contributions have been collected in the dossier "Contributions of teachers/tutors prepared at the end of the training", which have been published on the HRC and ANSAS website.



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starting from the international and national provisions on human rights. The work carried out by individual trainees led to the elaboration of conceptual maps and teaching objectives that will be useful to the development of the training module to learn EU at school as substantial part of the teaching "Citizenship and Constitution". This will foster the inclusion of the teaching of the history, law and economy of European integration in each school's "Educational Policy Plan" (Piano di Offerta Formativa-POF). By way of the ANSAS website and mailing lists, and with the cooperation of the regional offices of the Ministry of Education, the material elaborated will be presented to all Italian schools, of any type and level, in order to carry out that part of education concerning Citizenship and Constitution.

### Project impact

The major impact of the project, conceived as a nationwide cultural-educational strategy, has been the enrichment of the base for sustainability of the ministerial program "Citizenship and Constitution" through updating and improving trainers' training in all Italian regions on the subject of citizens participation in the European integration system and processes. Given the strategic aspect of the undertaking in a lifelong learning perspective marked by the European dimension, its objectives went beyond strictly didactic ones, directly linking education and active citizenship to social cohesion. The project provided the opportunity to increase general awareness of the cultural and moral roots of Europe by providing teaching materials for curricular development. It helped the trainees to build up capacities to actively participate in educational and cultural processes in a context of multi-level democratic governance. A further impact is expressed in a changed approach to the teaching programming. The trainees final contributions clearly indicate a new way to organise their personal thinking

