

**ACTIVIDAD DE IMPLEMENTACIÓN DE LA MOVILIDAD Erasmus+ ESCOLAR,
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HOW TO TEACH OUR STUDENTS ABOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION



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1. INTRODUCTION AND REASONS.

Explaining the European Union to our students can be a very difficult task these days, as they seem uninterested because they perceive it as something very distant and unrelated to their daily lives. Therefore, we must motivate them with fun and diverse activities in a positive classroom environment to capture their attention.

With this teaching unit, designed for three sessions and aimed at first-year secondary school students, they will not only become familiar with the different organizations and countries belonging to the EU but also with its most relevant programmes, learning how to take advantage of and understand them.

The European Union (EU) emerged as a result of the voluntary union of a few independent states with the aim of creating a new international organization. Initially, it was thought to be solely an economic cooperation that would allow them to become increasingly interconnected and prevent future wars on the continent. But over time, it evolved into a much more significant union.

However, there is still a widespread lack of information about how the EU actually works, even though it affects our daily lives in many different ways. Therefore, this didactic unit will help young students understand the values of the Union through creative and interactive tools and address these misinformation issues.

By the end of the activities, participants will have a better understanding of what the EU is, what it does, and how it benefits us all.

2. PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES.

We will begin the session with some Kahoot warm-up activities about EU country flags, for example, as students tend to enjoy these type of online games and know a lot about the topic from the Olympics and various European football championships.

Links:



<https://create.kahoot.it/details/edd05120-b906-457b-91c0-99793bccad3d>

(about flags from different European Union countries)

<https://create.kahoot.it/details/8724ebb8-5fce-4643-ba40-578955a7f752>

(about the EURO 2024, football and countries)

<https://create.kahoot.it/details/c406aaf3-9cee-4cd8-9822-5f933dfd4f59>

(about popular facts of European countries and cities)

Next, once we have captured their attention with the Kahoots, we will move on to an oral brainstorming activity in small groups of four or five students. With this group work technique, we seek to elicit novel ideas and original points of view through the free and massive generation of ideas about what the EU means to them and what comes to mind when they hear these acronym. The goal is to combine the ideas of all group members to arrive at a logical and accurate one. The best ideas are then selected, which will be written on the board by the spokesperson for each group.

To conclude the first session, we would ask the students a series of questions (a questionnaire) in English to develop their oral expression in this language:

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS WITH YOUR OWN WORDS:

- Which countries have you already visited? And which ones are part of the EU? Locate them in a blind map on the board.
- What do you know about the Erasmus+ programme?
- What is the UEFA competition?
- What is the EUROVISION contest?
- Do you know the EU motto?
- Is there a hymn or not? What do you think?

3. LEARNING ACTIVITIES.

Next, students should create a timeline with the different flag proposals over the years and explain how the current flag came about. To do this, they can use their mobile phones or tablets, as well as a poster board and coloured markers.

We will continue by watching the following explanatory videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/-4uxSzTcnpE> (Spanish)

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/jkkUu5NjAi4> (Spanish)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5gRL_mW9nk (English)

https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/video/the-european-flag-a-symbol-of-fundamental-values_N01_AFPS_230421_FLAG (English)

Then, we will change the topic and talk about stereotypes of EU member countries. We would like to know their opinions and views. What they think makes us different, and what makes us similar? What connects us despite our differences? What do they know about our "friend" countries? We will create a short debate, always respecting other cultures, languages, and religions.

And from there, we will move on to talk about our school's Erasmus+ School programme. We will watch some videos from students from our high school who have completed Erasmus exchanges, in which they explain their experiences. We will discuss them and encourage their interest and possible future participation. We will also share the programme social media channels so they can stay up-to-date with the latest news and calls for applications.

Finally, we will watch the following explanatory videos and answer any questions or clarifications:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-PgX74VfsU> (in Spanish)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykwdEaRQXW> (in English)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QILF3xDs2c0> (in English)

4. ARTS & CRAFT

This session is designed to create a craft, to enjoy what students have learned in a more fun and creative way. We will watch the following video and then they will make their own European Union flag. Students will have been previously informed about the necessary materials:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/7df13Rz6X7k>

4. ASSESSMENT

A fun, quick, and reliable way to conduct an assessment at the end of the sessions will be a 20-question Kahoot to review what they have learned about Europe and the European Union. There are questions related to the symbols and history of the EU, European geography, flags, and more.

Links:

<https://create.kahoot.it/share/europa-y-la-union-europea/f0be33f9-f4c5-4790-9941-da2f3ff6c7f0> (Spanish)

<https://create.kahoot.it/details/5f82d213-937c-482c-a9f4-1d15d673f275>
(English)

