



Bring the EU to school

Report on Jean Monnet Cluster Meeting
for schools held on 6 and 7 June 2024

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Jean Monnet

Erasmus+

The publication has been prepared by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), Unit A1. Special appreciations are given to the people who have contributed to it: Jlenia Destito, Stephanie Kunisch and Amalia Vasiliu.

More information on the European Union is available on the Internet (<http://europa.eu>).

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2024

PDF ISBN 978-92-9488-857-0 doi: 10.2797/6783185 EC-01-24-048-EN-N

© European Education and Culture Executive Agency, 2024

The Commission's reuse policy is implemented by Commission Decision 2011/833/EU of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39 – <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2011/833/oj>).

Unless otherwise noted, the reuse of this document is authorised under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) licence (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). This means that reuse is allowed, provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated.

For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective rightholders. The EU does not own the copyright in relation to any images which do not carry the copyright indicator © European Union.

CREDITS

Cover image: © European Union, 2024 (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) — image source: iStockphoto.com

Foreword

The Jean Monnet cluster meeting has been a valuable platform for schoolteachers to network and reflect on the impact of the Jean Monnet projects for schools both on pupils and their communities.

In a world that is increasingly interconnected, learning about the European Union (EU) is more relevant than ever. The EU is a unique political, social, and economic partnership that shapes the lives of over 447 million people across 27 countries. Understanding the EU means understanding how European countries work together to maintain peace, promote prosperity, and tackle some of the most pressing challenges of our time, from climate change to migration and technological transformation. Schoolteachers thus play a pivotal role in helping students strengthen their awareness about the EU.

Why should students learn about the EU in school? Simply put, the EU is an example of how countries with different cultures, languages, and histories can unite under shared values to create a stronger community. Studying the EU provides students with a deeper understanding of concepts like democracy, human rights, and global cooperation. Moreover, the EU plays a significant role worldwide in the definition and implementation of policies that affect trade, environmental standards, digital developments, and more. For students, understanding the EU equips them with the knowledge to engage as informed citizens, capable of navigating and contributing to a global society.

Sophie Beernaerts
EACEA DIRECTOR



Table of contents

Background	5
Youth and democracy	6
Teachers' engagement	7
Democratic communities	8
Learning activities	9

01.

Background

For 35 years, the Jean Monnet Actions have been successfully advancing knowledge about the EU worldwide, with a primary focus on higher education. However, to meet the growing need for European citizens to understand how the EU impacts their daily lives, the scope of the Jean Monnet Actions was expanded under the Erasmus+ 2021-2027 programme. This broadened focus now includes schools and students from primary and secondary education, and vocational training. Integrating an EU dimension into education is essential to help citizens better understand and connect with the EU.

To support this goal, the European Commission established the Jean Monnet Learning EU Initiative, which supports schools and teachers in creating tailored approaches to incorporating EU-related education into their classrooms. Launched in 2022, the European Year of Youth, this initiative aims to foster active citizenship.

The new Jean Monnet for Schools activities, which include support for teacher training and the creation of networks among schools engaged in EU education, will help prepare young people to shape the future of the European Union.

The first Jean Monnet Cluster Meeting for schools took place on 6 and 7 June 2024 in Brussels and was organised by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). The event focused on EU Citizenship and Democracy and gathered 21 beneficiaries from Jean Monnet projects for schools, including both Learning EU Initiatives and Networks for Schools, from over eight European Member States.

This report aims to summarise the discussions held among participants on the main topics covered at the meeting.

The agenda, the list of projects involved and a list with useful links are included as annexes.

02.

Youth and democracy

The impact on pupils and students has been very encouraging. Before the activities, many lacked knowledge and interest. The EU was perceived as distant and irrelevant to their daily lives.

However, after gaining knowledge and understanding on how the EU works, its values and how it can influence their environment and future, pupils experienced a transformation.

They felt empowered to engage in democratic activities, such as the European elections, and to act as ambassadors, seeking for opportunities of involvement in activities linked to EU policies.

Everyone was so passionate about promoting the EU and had such different ideas how to do so.



03. Teachers' engagement

Teachers launching these activities in their schools are generally passionate about the EU and recognise the importance of raising awareness and make future generations fit for the challenges to come.

Despite the challenge of integrating these activities into an already packed curricula, they manage not only to involve the pupils,

but also other teachers and often the entire school community.

They are very creative in integrating the EU in different subjects - even STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) - and are laying the foundations for recognising EU-related education as an integral part of national curricula.

It was an excellent way for us teachers to see our work valued and appreciated, especially for the ones among us who have been in charge of all aspects regarding the project, i.e. from the writing/designing of the call, to the drafting of the grant agreement, to the implementation of the activities planned, to communicating the project within our institution, etc.

”



04.

Democratic communities

The shift in attitudes and mindsets, nurtured by the teachers and blossoming among pupils, extends beyond the school, into the families and adjacent communities.

Through this multiplier effect, EU education is extended beyond the classroom, potentially impacting many lives and fostering intergenerational exchange.

It will take a bit of time to see the effects but the seeds have been sown.

I really hope that the group of pioneers” that has been created through these initiatives can remain connected and contribute to shaping the future of Jean Monnet actions.



05.

Learning activities

The range of activities is vast: field trips to Brussels, Strasbourg or Frankfurt, debates, podcasts, ceremonies - just to name a few.

Teachers often use gamification techniques, such as role play and simulation to transmit information in a more informal, fun way.

And there's a feeling of empowerment among children when they bring EU topics to their families and communities, facilitating their learning and retainment of information.

The most valuable aspect of the Jean Monnet Cluster Meeting was the opportunity to directly engage with peers and experts who are also working on enhancing EU education. The discussions around best practices and common challenges were particularly beneficial. These conversations not only offered immediate solutions and ideas but also sparked long-term strategies for our project, especially in areas like student engagement and digital integration.



06. Conclusions

Although Jean Monnet for schools is still in its early stages, the Cluster meeting showed encouraging signs of added value of the European support to schools. The Jean Monnet actions have already made a significant impact on education in the concerned communities, despite some challenges such as increased teacher workload, language barriers and some initial scepticism from students.

Jean Monnet for schools has raised awareness of the EU and strengthened a sense of European identity among students and educators. They have promoted the inclusion of EU-related topics across various subjects, leading to more innovative and interdisciplinary teaching methods. This has made the EU more relatable and meaningful to students, helping them understand its impact on their lives and encouraging active participation in civic matters.

These projects have enabled teachers to play a more active role in promoting EU-related education in their schools and local communities and laid the foundation for a network of educators dedicated to teaching EU subjects.

I would definitely be interested in joining another Jean Monnet Cluster Meeting. This one was super helpful—great insights, awesome networking, and really practical ideas that we have already started to use. Being part of future meetings would keep the momentum going and help us stay connected with new and evolving educational strategies. It's a fantastic way to keep our project fresh and aligned with the latest in EU education.



Annexes

Annex I: List of useful links

1. Ideas of learning resources

- Learning materials [Learning materials - European Union \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Games and quizzes [Play games - European Union \(europa.eu\)](#)
- EU Timeline [EU Timeline - European Union \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Network with other teachers [Network with other teachers - European Union \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Exchanges and scholarships [Work and study - European Union \(europa.eu\)](#)
- News and competitions [News and competitions - European Union \(europa.eu\)](#)
- EU Citizenship guide [Guide to EU citizenship - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Interactive websites [What Europe does for me \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Videos [Infographics and explainers](#)
- Training and learning resources [for educators](#)
- Network of seven resource centres working on European priority areas within the youth field [SALTO-YOUTH](#)
- Manuals Compass: [Manual for Human Rights Education with Young People](#)

2. Opportunities for students

- Multi-lingual websites [The European Youth Portal](#)
- Volunteering opportunities [The European Solidarity Corps \(ESC\)](#)
- DiscoverEU, action of the Erasmus+ programme [DiscoverEU | European Youth Portal \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Young European Ambassadors [Young European Ambassadors in EU - EU NEIGHBOURS east](#)

3. Jean Monnet Opportunities

- Teacher trainings [Jean Monnet teacher training - Erasmus+ \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Networks [Jean Monnet Networks in other fields of education and training - Erasmus+ \(europa.eu\)](#)

Annex II: Agenda

Day 1: Thursday 6 June 2024 (afternoon)

Time (CEST)	Session	Location
14:00 – 14:30	Registration at the North Light Building (30 minutes)	Building reception
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee reception (30 mins)	
15:00 – 15:30	Welcome session with Director of EACEA (30 mins)	
15:30 – 16:00	Participants' Introduction (30 mins)	North Light Building 1 st Floor (room 209)
16:00 – 18:00	Open space session (120 mins), incl. coffee break	
18:00 – 18:15	Day 1 wrap-Up (15 mins)	
18:15 – 19:30	Free time in Brussels (75 mins)	/
19:30 – 21:30	Networking dinner at Grand Canal	Quai des Péniches 44/46
21:30	END OF DAY 1	/

Day 2: Friday 7 June 2024 (morning)

Time (CEST)	Session	Location
09:00	Meeting time at the North Light Building	Building reception
09:00 – 09:30	Coffee reception (30 mins)	
09:30 – 09:40	Reflections on day 1 of the Cluster Meeting (10 mins)	
09:40 – 11:00	Project impact session (80 mins)	
11:00 – 11:20	Coffee break + project conclusions (20 mins)	
11:20 – 11:40	Presentation on Learning EU Initiatives (20 mins)	North Light Building
11:40 – 11:55	The future of Jean Monnet Actions (15 mins)	13 th Floor (room 018)
11:55 – 12:20	Resources and opportunities for schools (25 mins)	
12:20 – 12:50	Cluster Meeting feedback session (30 mins)	
12:50 – 13:00	Day 2 wrap-up and closing words (10 mins)	
13:00 – 14:30	Participants' lunch (90 mins)	
14:30	END OF CLUSTER MEETING	/

Annex III: Projects List¹

Country - School	Project Name
Italy – ITT Marconi	GrowingEU – Teaching the European Union at technical Secondary Schools through the impact of its policies and actions on society's growth
Italy – UWC Adriatic	EETIBS – Educate on European topics at IB Schools
Sweden – Nyströmska skolan	UEEU – U EVOLVE EU
Netherlands – Stichting voor Algemeen Bijzonder Voortgezet Onderwijs in Flevoland	EU4ALL – Let's Make Available EU Topics For Everybody
Italy – Casa Primaria di Brescia Ordine delle Canossiane	EUAMI – European Values and Migration
France – Lycée Martin Nadaud	CEEILP – Classe EUROPA: enseigner l'UE en lycée professionnel
Portugal – Associação de Ensino e Formação	Euro4VET – European network for better EU skills in VET providers
Spain – IES Manuel de Falla	EUM – EUducation Matters
Romania – Colegiul Tehnic Emanuil Ungureanu	EUPress – EUpres. Knowing and Communicating Europe
Sweden – Nyströmska skolan	UEEU – U EVOLVE EU
Greece – 2nd Geniko Lykeio of Arta	EUValues – European Values
Italy – APRO Formazione S.C.A.R.L	EoT – Europeans of Tomorrow
Italy – IIS Da Vinci – Fascetti Pisa	EUdemos
Romania – Liceul Teoretic "Avram Iancu" Brad	SchoolsEU – ALL together on ONE blue flag - EU Squared Schools
Greece – First Geniko Lykeio Kilkis	IDEAS – Inclusion and Democracy in Europe achieved in Secondary education
Italy – Istituto Istruzione Secondaria Superiore Vittoria Colonna	NGEU – Native Generation EU
Italy – UWC Adriatic	EETIBS – Educate on European topics at IB Schools
Romania – Liceul Teoretic George Moroianu Sacele	ICEC – I'm citizen, European citizen !
Italy – Liceo Statale Angela Veronese	EaY – EU & YOU

¹ More information about the projects can be found here: [EU Funded projects | EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

