

## GrafStat - Software for Empirical Studies in Civic Education

GrafStat (=graphs and statistics) is a comprehensive programme for statistical survey projects, which by now has proven its usefulness in German political education for more than 20 years. GrafStat is used in many schools and educational facilities, both in class projects and for the evaluation of events and organisations. Especially novices in statistics are well supported in conducting professional and high-quality surveys. The software GrafStat

- supports the development and, respectively, modification and design of questionnaires
- provides different modes of feeding data
- enables manifold versions of evaluating data in a very simple way
- offers a wide spectrum of possibilities to graphically present results at exhibitions, on website presentations, and in reports
- supports the realisation and presentation of surveys on the internet

## GrafStat International - "Youth and Europe" in four Languages

On this CD-ROM, the GrafStat software is being published for the first time in English, French, and Polish.

The CD-ROM offers a number of highly usable examples of how the software GrafStat enables the conduct of high-quality surveys both evaluating international youth group encounters and youth projects, as well as exploring the topic "Youth and Europe".

The CD contains everything further education trainers need in order to implement the project: general advice on the usage of GrafStat and the methods of the survey in all four languages; the software including documentation; carefully elaborated sample questionnaires as well as practically relevant didactic materials for lessons exploring the theme "Youth and Europe".

(Order no.: 1885 at [www.bpb.de](http://www.bpb.de))



## Youth and Europe – Unit Concerning the European Elections 2009

"Youth and Europe" is a heading of a unit focusing on European policies which integrates a classical teaching unit into an activating practical research project.

Main idea: Young people interview young people about their opinions about Europe and the EU and how they view the future of Europe.

Referring to typical problems of European policies, pupils obtain knowledge about the development of the European Union, European institutions and the political process.

Pupils should be able to recognize that the EU has got a direct influence on their life and that this influence will be even stronger in the future. Furthermore common prejudices about the EU are to be examined and discussed.

The modules of the unit often refer directly to the distributed sample questionnaire for the survey.

The materials of the teaching unit are available in German only.

However, the suggested comparative survey of young people's attitudes towards Europe and the EU can also be flexibly integrated into your lessons, independent of the teaching unit.

The questionnaire is partly based on questions in the Eurobarometer and available in several languages.

The aim is to enable cooperation between schools, classes and out-of-school educational agencies in different European countries.

Surveys should be conducted in different European countries. The results are shared, and students then have a data basis for an international comparison of young people's visions of the future of Europe.

Joint future workshops to develop new perspectives for the future of the EU can be initialised between partner schools on the basis of the results of the survey.

[www.bpb.de/grafstat](http://www.bpb.de/grafstat)

>> **more information on reverse side**

## GrafStat in Teaching

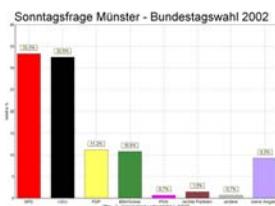
GrafStat is a powerful tool for participatory political education in schools and youth as well as adult learning facilities. It helps to integrate sociological research methods and computers as important tools into civic education classes.

### Youths as Social Researchers

The didactic profile of these specially for this purpose designed projects is arranged consistently in such a way as to address teenagers not so much as learners, but rather as persons who are interested in gaining insights, clarifying empirical facts, coming to decisions and representing those in public.

### Introduction to Methods and Techniques of Empirical Social Research

Objective target of the present projects is to convey the methodological knowledge and skills



in empirical social research to young people needed for this purpose in an elementary way. In this manner, problem orientation, acquisition of hypotheses,

techniques of data collection, evaluation and interpretation are introduced. Charts and graphs do not mark the beginning of an instruction, but are compiled independently in a sociological process of understanding and discussion.

### Computers as Tools

To use a computer as a tool of preparing, conducting and evaluating empirical surveys as well as presenting results, is one of the most useful possible applications of new technologies and techniques in civic education. By means of the software GrafStat this application becomes a possibility for anyone.

### Evaluation of Political Education



The interest in evaluation in educational sciences has increasingly gained importance. This also applies to offers of political education. In continuation of the successful concept of GrafStat, social science teachers can carry out their own polls and self evaluations in their institutions.



### European Football Championship and National Consciousness

During the European Football Championship 2008, the issue of national identity and the role of football is again an exciting subject in social science lessons. During the Football World Championship 2006, the "new national feeling" of German football fans had been discussed as often as the sportive events themselves, and even in foreign countries the image of Germans has changed.

Young people, especially those who are interested in football beyond the big matches, will seize the opportunity with the help of this teaching sequence and on the occasion of the exciting event of the European Football Championship to investigate issues of national consciousness of young people and the role of football in our global society. A purposeful selection of the materials offers innumerable possibilities to integrate the different nationalities and the different countries of origin of the pupils in class into the course of the lessons.

[www.bpb.de/grafstat/fussball-nation](http://www.bpb.de/grafstat/fussball-nation)



### Election Analysis and Election Prognosis

Pupils take the role of election investigators and election reporters. With their own prognoses they actively take part

in the election. Even if there are no up-coming elections, students can devise their own on site polls with the help of the material – for example, a youth-politics-barometer. A collection of electoral posters and electoral videos of the parties from 1949 until today and interactive online games offer further access to the issue of "elections in democracies".



For the European elections and elections of the German *Bundestag* 2009, a new edition of the established teaching sequences of the project "Research with GrafStat" is being worked on.

[www.bpb.de/grafstat/wahlen](http://www.bpb.de/grafstat/wahlen)

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