

Citizenship Education in Europe

Food for thought and some recommendations



A franco-polish-bulgarian-turkish contribution to the debate



A) The puzzle

Identity

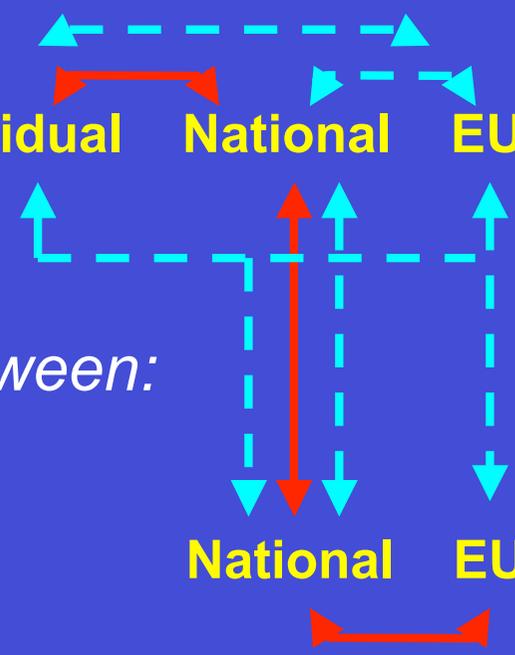
Individual National EU

i) How are the relationships between:

Citizenship

National EU

LEVELS



ii) Which kind of (future) citizenship education is thus needed?

Objectives:

- Contributing to the creation of a European public space
- Making democracy in the EU work

Expected results:

- Bringing the citizens back
- Overcoming current and future tensions

B) How to develop citizenship education for an integrated Europe?

Two possibilities:

a) Top-down approach

A central actors would try to define what is European and develop instruments to forge a EU identity (model of nation state building) with help of single curricula and „official truth“.

 **We reject this option!!!**

b) Bottom-up approach

Cross-national network of inter-related and co-operating national citizenship education actors

C) Suggested instruments

1) **Activating pre-existing knowledge and disseminating new one**

- On civickness
- Factual knowledge on the EU (how it works, which chances it represents for citizens)
- Knowing and better understanding the other member states in the Union with their specificities

2) Raising awareness for and developing consciousness on Europeanness

a) What are our common denominators?

Confronting collective memories (individual and national level)

b) In what do we believe, what do we want to achieve together?

c) Looking for incompatibilities in terms of norms and principles (horizontal and vertical)

3) Making European citizenship education practical and appropriate

Possible paths to follow:

- a) Exchanging stories about civic battles and challenges
- b) Thinking together about how to make use of EU rights and opportunities in order to become active and better national and EU citizens

Conclusion

A deliberative process of problem solving is possible:

Take our example!!!

