An online tool for civic education

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What is PoliPedia?

- PoliPedia.eu is a web 2.0 tool and a wiki-based platform for educational purposes
  - new media and participatory (citizenship) education

The reaction of citizenship education to Web 2.0 is not dependent on new technologies, but on the approaches we shape deliberatively.
Web 2.0 adoption vs. active participation

- Passive users – consumers
- Lack of interest on political processes and participation
- Poor online searching competence, mostly relying on google
- Troubles finding adequate search words (colloquial language)
- Difficulties to navigate through documents or to identify important information
Intentions of PoliPedia:

• Stimulation of the interest in politics and creation of a space for participatory experiences

• Bridging the information gap – information quality

• Enhancing media literacy
  → The internet is often used as pull medium, only a small segment shows high media literacy

• Development of learning arrangements and quality orientation

• Young people as ‘produsers’ and ‘prosumers’

• Consideration of young peoples perspectives and their experiences in everyday life
  → short–term engagement
  → rather issue–oriented
  → affinity towards unconventional kinds of participation
Polipedia – Youth in Action programme

... aims to inspire a sense of active citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future

1.3 Youth Democracy Projects

... should focus on such themes as European citizenship, active participation, cultural diversity, social inclusion, or the future of Europe
How does it work?

- 4 partners – 4 power groups
- Workshops – non formal education: Trainers – Youngsters
• **Topics:**

- EU democracy
- EU&Word
- Identity
- Multi-level citizenship

• **Wiki – PoliPedia entries are enhanced by:**

- Multimedia components
- Comments
- Tags

History of PoliPedia:

- **Starting point: Austrian Democracy Initiative** (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Innovative Demokratie) 2007

- **Creation of software and interface of Polipedia.at**

- **Implementing polipedia.at in schools – Best-practice example for the integration of participatory ICTs in formal education**
Advantages of PoliPedia

• Self-organised learning

• Usage of web 2.0 for creation of content

• Peer-to-Peer concept
  → Young people learn from each other (peer-to-peer)
  → User-generated-Content
  → 'Prosumers' ('Produsers')
Advantages of PoliPedia

• PoliPedia in the classroom:
  → Possibility to address current topics
  → Rigidity of formal curriculum
  → Active participatory culture
  → Meltdown of traditional power distance in schools

• Political education competences:
  → Competence to participate in political problem-solving
  → Competence to choose among methods for analyzing divergent political angles and articulating one’s own attitude with the help of new media
Future perspectives of PoliPedia

• **Software Update:** constantly advancing technology

• **Implementing PoliPedia in Slovenian schools:**
  → *train the trainer* – teaching seminars for teachers (Eurydice)
  → *PoliPedia-School* Award
  → developing content and multimedia perspective

• **Ongoing qualitative and quantitative content improvement** (widening the scope of topics and users)

• **Cooperation with other countries and projects** (Intercultural Glossary Project (IGP) for a wider wiki-based platform)