

# Citizenship Education in Europe

## Food for thought and some recommendations



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



# A) The puzzle

**Identity**

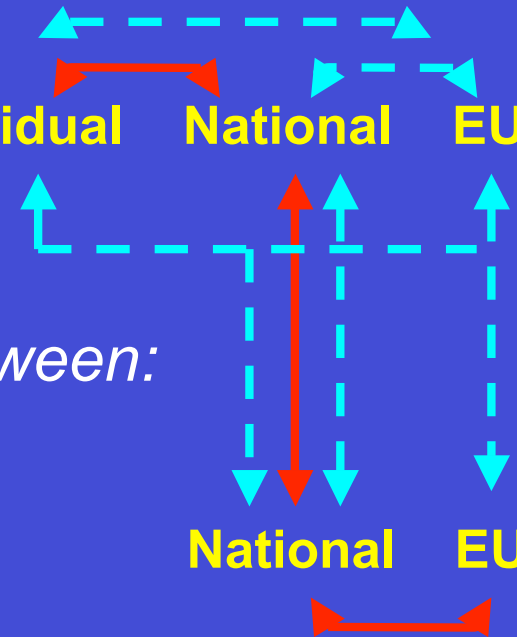
Individual National EU

*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!!!

