



CIVICO Fostering Civic Competence Amongst Students

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1. CIVICO objectives

The main objective of the CIVICO project is **to foster civic competences amongst European students** aged 14 and over.

The development of Civic Competence is actually one of the key competence for lifelong learning included into the Recommendation of the European Parliament: it is seen as a fundamental skill that all the European people should possess in order to become an active and awareness citizen. Schools, and other educative institution, are called to insert the teaching of civic competence into their curricula.

In particular, Civic competence, embraces several important themes that CIVICO project intend to analyze and promote, those themes are tightly bond with the main issue and are the concept of “democracy, justice, equality, citizenship and civil rights” at the local, regional, national, European and international levels.

The instrument used to reach the main objectives of the CIVICO project is **a Guide on Civic Competences**, a practical guide, made of **50 lessons plan** written by the partners of the project. The guide is addressed to European teachers and it touches all of the principal topics above mentioned and more (e.g. the protection of the environment) considered fundamental by the partner to include into the civic competences promotion.

In order to produce a high quality guide a **pilot** is also provided. The version 1 of the “Guide on Civic Competence” have been piloted in the schools distributed in the Countries of the project's partners. Around 50 teachers, 10 headteachers and approximately 400 students have been involved into the pilot. They basically test the lessons plan and answer to a brief questionnaire (one written exclusively for the teachers and one exclusively for the students) focused on prove the lessons plan's quality, the relevance of the topics discussed and the user-friendliness.

After the pilot, the definitive version of the “Guide on civic competence” - available in the 5 languages of the partners -, is ready to be **disseminate** and **exploitate**. Those two fundamental steps and aims of CIVICO will be the main tasks of the 2nd project's life year: all the partners' activities will be concentrate on the spreading the guide and its content trough much many stakeholders as possible. First of all the Guide and the other products of the Civico Project will be translated in 5 more languages (Portuguese, Spanish, French, Swedish and German) and more than 1500 teachers and other stakeholders (schools, headteachers, associations, researchers, Universities, politicians, volunteers, third sector associations, ...) plus 3000 students will be informed about the Guide.

Due to the strong activities of the project, teachers will be able to use the active didactic of the Guide's lessons plan as usual tools during their school activities and the students that will benefit of the Guide (as a second addressee) will be enjoy a fresh way of learning civic competence and could understand and make believe the important issue related: they will have an additional chance to become a better, more active and more consciousness citizens.

2. Project approach

The CIVICO's general approach can be summaries as follow:

after a **discussion** carry out by the partnership to find a shared Civic Competence definition and a high quality lessons plan template, all the partners, in the name of their experience on educational methodologies, wrote 10 **lessons plan** each. The lessons plan are based on active didactic (they comprehend games, role play, simulations practical exercise) and of course the themes of the lessons are all the main topics related to civic competences. The lessons plan have been collected in the “**Version 1 of the Guide on Civic Competence**” – **translated** into the partners' languages and distribute to the schools partners in order to start the **pilot phase**. A “**Guideline of the pilot**” has been written too and distribute to the partner in order to assure a much scientific pilot as possible and to properly evaluate the lessons plan so to produce a high quality and versatile Guide on fostering Civic Competence which will not forget the cultural differences of the countries involved. The lessons plan are evaluated by the teachers and the students involved into the pilot thanks to **two feedback questionnaires** (one for the teachers and one for the students) exclusively written for this project.

After the piloting phase, the definitive version of the guide has been written, translated in all the partners' languages uploaded on the CIVICO web site and promoted amongst secondary schools of the geographical area of the partners and other stakeholders. To assure a more widely dissemination and exploitation of the Guide it will also translated into 5 other languages: French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Swedish as well as the web site contents.

The added value of the present approach is clear in the **pedagogical methodology and pedagogical materials of the guides**. The guide can be used in different context in the EU countries, because of its trans-cultural nature.



The **dissemination** strategies intends to promote the project's products, the partners' institution, the partnership, the project itself, to improve the visibility and spread information to a large European audience. The tools used to reach the said strategies, are well detailed into the project's "**Dissemination plan**": the dissemination action is served by the following instruments: **e/mailing** and **Internet advertising, press campaigns**, account of project results (**publications**), a dedicated **web-site** and a **Facebook** page **printed materials, seminars, conferences**, face to face **meetings, info days**.

An important **exploitation** strategy is also provided with the aim of spread and utilize the CIVICO's products and results. Also in this case an "**Exploitation plans**" will guide the partners in this significant phase suggesting some tools to be used: a **copyright and commercialization agreement**, the Guide on civic competence in electronic format translated in **10 languages** and downloadable by the project website, **workshops** in 35 new schools on the use of the Guide, a virtual **helpdesk** supporting the teachers on the use of the guide on the web site www.civicoproject.eu

A **post project exploitation plan** is foreseen too in order to go forward with the spreading of the CIVICO's guide. The partners will be better think and organize the post project exploitation plan at the end of the project's life in order to apply the results if the CIVICO's exploitation phase and to draw a future plan that foreseen to continue to manage the website and the virtual resource centre (a good idea could be to provide a FAQ section) and to download the Guide for a longer period after the formal end of the project with a minimum impact in term of cost and time on the partners.

3. The partnership

The consortium that undertake CIVICO Project is composed by universities, secondary schools and training and research organizations involved in education and teacher training.

They are active in several formal and informal European networks dedicated to education and career guidance and are constantly working for improving pedagogical methods and developing effective pedagogical materials.

The partner schools have an important but restricted role (to organize pilot with their students and evaluate the materials) they officially participate only in the Workpage dedicated to the pilot but they are also available to be called to help into other CIVICO's activities. The teachers and the students from the schools partners could be an interesting speaker into the final conferences too.

As said the project's aim is to foster civic competences amongst students trough writing, piloting and exploiting a Guide. A multi-country partnership offers a qualified product due to the partners' differences in terms of culture, school's educative systems and methodologies. Those differences will join together and enriched mutually to build good products and really interesting experiences for the people involved (students, teachers and experts).

The geographical area covered by the project is UK, Italy, Bulgarian Poland and Denmark. It is a large and vary area that offers different point of views of the subject considered by the project. Some examples of those diversity are clear into the difficulties that the partners face to find a Civic Competence definition that would have suite all of them, and a lesson plan model that could be used in all the schools all over the European Countries, therefore the results (the Guide) will be a model of transnational, multicultural and democratic tool.

The main partners of CIVICO project are:

Agenzia per lo Sviluppo Empolese Valdelsa (applicant), is an Agency located in Empoli – Italy. It is a private body providing guidance and Information on Lifelong Learning. Since 2003 ASEV has also established an Intercultural Centre (www.centronterculturale.it) that organizes Italian as a second languages courses, training of teachers in international issues, welcoming project for migrants, field research on immigration, mediation of intercultural conflicts.

Into CIVICO project ASEV is responsible for the general project management. It participates in all the other activities and is also responsible for the dissemination and the exploitation in its own country.

VIA University college is a public University located in Risskov – Denmark. It is the DK's largest University College and the 3rd largest educational institution. Overall classroom teaching aims is to create an exchange of ideas and knowledges, which overtime may benefit from.

Into CIVICO project VIA is responsible for Piloting. It participates in all other activities and it is also the responsible of dissemination and exploitation in its own country.

Spoleczna Wyzsza Szkola Przedsiębiorczosci i Zarządzania w Lod is a private University located in Lodz – Poland. It is also a centre of the in-service training of the teachers and have a lot of contacts with secondary schools on the regions. Since 2004 Academy is very active in the educational international projects.

Into CIVICO project SWS is responsible for the Guide development and for the CIVICO website content development. It also participates in all the other project's activities and is responsible of the dissemination and the exploitation in its own country.

Paideia Foundation is a private non profit, non governmental organization located in Sofia – Bulgaria. It has been establish in 1999 and aimed to support the modernization of Bulgaria Education. PF has a significant experience in: develop of educational resources for educational purposes; networking for educational courses; teacher's non formal training, EU lifelong learning programme for modern civic development, research and analysis.



Into CIVICO project PF is responsible for the general dissemination and exploitation and quality control. It also participates in all the other project's activities and is responsible of the dissemination and the exploitation in its own country.

The Schools Partners:

Istituto Fermi is a public Secondary school located in Empoli – Italy

Istituto Ferraris Brunelleschi is a public Secondary school located in Empoli – Italy

Hristo Botev is a public Secondary school located in Kubrat – Bulgaria

Elisaveta Bagryana No 51 is public Secondary school located in Sofia – Bulgaria

Spoleczny Zespol Szkol Policealnych is a private secondary school located in Lodz – Poland

Zespol Szkol Integracyinyck nr 1 is a public secondary school located in Lodz – Poland

Hasle Skole is a public secondary school located in Arhus V – Denmark

Sondervangskolen is a public secondary school located in Viby J – Denmark

4. Contribution to the EU policies

The Recommendation of the European Parliament and Council on key competences for Lifelong Learning (2006/962/EC) recommends **each Member State to ensure initial education to develop civic competence** in order to grow active and democratic citizen.

CIVICO project studies in dept and intend to pursue various objectives of the Lifelong Learning Programme: the Civic Competence the Project wants to develop in students is considered one of the main **important life skills** (COM-SpObj-b).

The "Guide on developing Civic competence" has been designed to help teachers **to facilitate active citizenship** of students (LLP-Obj-d) and it will develop **high quality content** (50 lessons plan for developing civic competence in students 14+) to be used by teachers, so contributing to improve quality of Lifelong Learning in Europe (LLP-Obj-a).

The CIVICO's Guide consists of lessons plan based on **active didactic**, so to improve the pedagogical approach of teachers using it (COM-OpObj-6) furthermore it will helps teachers to support the acquisition **of key competence n. 6 - Social and civic competences - in students**. As the Guide is based on active didactic, **motivation of students** will be better enhanced (COM-MulPrj-2).

References

[1] From "Key Competences for Lifelong Learning European Reference Framework" European Commission