

Teacher Trainings for Civic Education on the European Union

Today, politics cannot be adequately understood or influenced without **considering the European dimension**. The political decisions made by the European Union (EU) increasingly shape the lives of its citizens, while citizens are able to influence these outcomes via European participation procedures. For this reason, a **contemporary, target-group-specific civic education** on the European Union is needed, which fosters EU-related political competences.

Given the complexity and dynamics of European integration, widespread European prejudices, and a perceived detachment of the EU from everyday life, civics teachers face numerous **challenges** in providing students a civic education on Europe. This is where „Fit4EU“ comes in. Our project offers **civics teachers multi-module trainings** on how to approach the topic in school. The training is action-oriented and designed to empower teachers to teach the EU in a student-oriented, methodologically diverse, and engaging manner.



The Approach

The Fit4EU teacher trainings are developed for teachers who teach civic education at the primary or secondary levels. We offer four different training strands to choose from depending on the target group your students belong to. During the training, teachers deepen their understanding about the EU, acquire skills to successfully convey that knowledge in the classroom and are introduced to innovative teaching approaches. The training offers lectures given by experts, as well as the opportunity to converse with members of the European Parliament. In addition to practicing the training's learning material, you will also have the option to network with other teachers.

Goals

- Gain a deeper and up-to-date understanding of the EU
- Expand didactic knowledge for practical use
- Learn various approaches of a methodically diverse, target-group-specific civic education on Europe
- Exchange experiences with other civics teachers
- Obtain an official certificate of completion

The four teacher training strands:



Teaching civic education on the EU in primary school

It is often assumed that primary school children are too young for politics and civic education. However, by introducing our interactive and playful teaching methods in the classroom, you'll be able to effectively teach on the EU to target groups, providing them with a good foundation of political competence at an early age.

(Note: this training is held in German language)



Teaching civic education on the EU in secondary and vocational school

This course shows teachers how to apply interactive, playful, and practical teaching approaches in the classroom without students needing to read heavy material. This way, the European Union can be taught to students who have not been reached by civic education so far.

(Note: this training is held in German language)



Teaching civic education on the EU at grammar and comprehensive school

Even at grammar and comprehensive schools, getting a civic education on Europe should not be reduced to reading textbooks. Our teacher training introduces you to approaches and methods to successfully convey the EU to students in a relevant, interactive, and academically sound manner.

(Note: this training is held in German language)



Engaging approaches for teaching civic education on the EU in English

With its English language teacher training strand, Fit4EU enables teachers to implement cognitively activating education about the European Union in civics classes and connects teachers across the EU.

(Note: this training is held in English language and is designed to include different target groups)



Training series – structure

Module One
one day
online

Module Two
two days
online
or on site

Applying theory to practice
application in class /
digital networking

Module Three
one day
online



NOTE:
details vary between each training course!

Teacher Training Program

Module One online

The European Union – How does it work again? Practical approaches to teaching a complex political system

- The EU as a *sui generis* system of governance – Refreshing and updating your knowledge
- Interactive approaches to understanding the European integration
- Guest lectures and follow up discussions by EU experts
- Behind the scenes: An open exchange with a member of the European Parliament

Module Two online or on site (see time schedule)

Teaching on the EU in class – Adequately addressing 'European complexities'

- Goals and approaches to teaching civic education on Europe
- Dealing with controversial issues when teaching civic education on the EU
- Applying innovative and action-oriented teaching methods, e.g. target-group-specific simulation games
- Presenting teaching and learning materials
- Workshop: European elections 2024

Applying theory to practice with the option to network

- Testing out innovative approaches and methods in the classroom
- Digital networking event (optional)

Module Three online

Internalize and Transfer

- Reflection on the implementation of methods in the classroom
- Exchanging challenges and best practices
- European Futures? Scenarios about the future of the EU





Info

All teacher trainings are developed and conducted by the Chair of Political Science and Civic Education at the University of Göttingen. Thanks to EU co-financing, teachers' participation is **free of charge**. However, due to the training concept and funding conditions, teachers participating must attend the entire teacher training. Partial participation is not possible.



To register, please visit the project's website
or contact us via: mail@fit4eu.org
Online soon: <https://fit4eu.org/en/>

Training series – time schedule

Training series		Module One	Module Two	Applying theory to practice	Module Three
	1a primary school	Sep 11, 2023 online	Sep 18 & 19, 2023 online		March 4, 2024 online
	1b primary school	Sep 11, 2023 online	Sep 21 & 22, 2023 in Göttingen		March 1, 2024 online
	2a secondary & vocational school	Nov 10, 2023 online	Nov 20 & 21, 2023 online		June 17, 2024 online
	2b secondary & vocational school	Nov 10, 2023 online	Nov 30 & Dec 01, 2023 in Dresden		June 14, 2024 online
	3a grammar & comprehensive school	Sep 15, 2023 online	Sep 28 & 29, 2023 online		March 11, 2024 online
	3b grammar & comprehensive school	Sep 15, 2023 online	Sep 25 & 26, 2023 in Kiel		March 8, 2024 online
	4 English language training strand	Nov 6, 2023 online	Nov 23 & 24, 2023 online	June 3, 2024 online	

Online events take place via Zoom!

The Team

Monika Oberle is professor of Political Science and Civic Education at the University of Göttingen. She is the head of the Fit4EU project. Her areas of expertise include teaching civic education on Europe as well as conducting empirical research on teaching and learning. She and her team have successfully implemented numerous teacher training courses on EU civic education.

Maggie Achleitner is a research assistant at the Chair of Political Science and Civic Education at the University of Göttingen. She recently worked as a junior lecturer at Leiden University where she taught Political Science and International Relations.

Felix Holländer is a research assistant at the Chair of Political Science and Civic Education at the University of Göttingen. He studied education at the Universities of Kiel and Oldenburg with a focus on teaching Mathematics, Political Science & Economics in secondary education. He also has experience teaching at a comprehensive school in Schleswig-Holstein.

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