



So what is there to discover in this T-Kit? There are two main elements – firstly, an exploration of the concept and practice of European Citizenship itself, and then of education for European Citizenship, both in theory and in practice. And all of this linked back into youth work in Europe.

To start with, we try to provide a coherent background picture to inform any work done in the area of European Citizenship. This includes:

- an overview of the historical development of citizenship in Europe, from the Greeks through to the Enlightenment, including some explanation of key concepts, including the Nation State and Human Rights, and a time-line of the development of citizenship in Europe since the 1940s;
- a critical look at contemporary approaches to the topic, exploring the tensions between citizenship seen as a status and citizenship more as identity and values, taking a look at post-modern approaches, and comparing how the European Union and Council of Europe see the topic;
- and a crystal-ball exploration of the future based on current trends – how might globalisation, environmental crises, new technologies, and the enlargement of the EU impact on the way European Citizenship develops?

We then outline our approach, which is based on a concept of European Citizenship that is dynamic, complex and integral. See below for more about this, as it also shapes the way we have devised and written this T-Kit.

Following this, we move to the educational side, with a look at contemporary approaches to education for European Citizenship – how different people and institutions attempt to engage the inhabitants of Europe – and we make a connection between those approaches and the approach that we have chosen to take, making explicit the connection between ideas and practice. The main schools of thought we dissect are the individualist and communitarian approaches, which represent complementary perspectives on the topic. Then we take an engaging look at how the European Union and Council of Europe are attempting education for European Citizenship.

Next, we come to the section on practice. We decided to present this in a way that is not usual for textbooks on practice. As all practice happens in context, we have not only given you an outline of the methods, the timing, materials and steps. Instead, we have told the story of practices in specific contexts, with some reflection on why they were successful on that occasion. There are a wide variety of stories, from all corners of Europe, on a wide diversity of topics connected to European Citizenship, and carried out by very different types of organisation.

To help you to decide whether a certain practice and the methods used are appropriate for you, and how you might adapt them, or develop your own project or activity, we have provided an Educational Framework, suggesting the kind of questions we think you should be asking yourself, and issues it could be helpful to consider. We base this on the idea of responsive practice, where the programme one develops is tailored specifically to meet the needs of the target group, and where its implementation is flexible enough to take into account any new needs as they emerge.

Please do read the background texts, and resist the temptation to jump straight to the sections on practice. The publication has been written as an integrated text, and it is important that the wider context is understood before thinking about methods.

Finally, we have a resources section at the back, with a bibliography, and web-links to further resources.



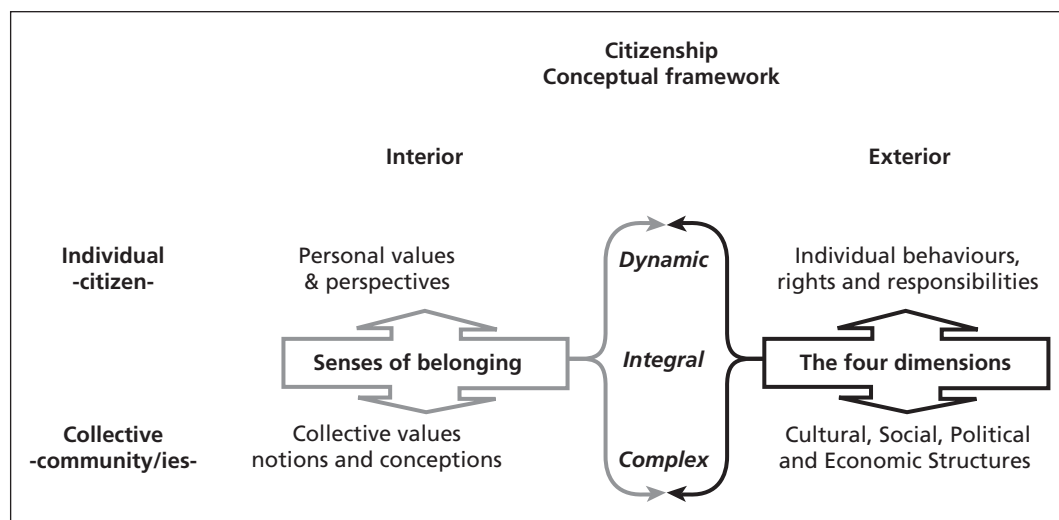
There are also some transversal elements to the T-Kit. At different points you will see Questions **in a box, marked by a question mark**, which are designed to stimulate your reflection in relation to the topic that is being discussed at that point. Sometimes when we are reading we enter a kind of trance state – these questions should help prevent that, and keep you thinking critically about what you are reading – a kind of Brechtian theatre technique in written form!

There are also a number of Training Activities **symbolised by an “under construction” sign**, – these are ideas that you could use during training courses or workshops to explore the topic that is being discussed – adapt them as appropriate. You could also use some of the Questions to stimulate reflection in groups that you work with. Remember – stay awake and aware as you read, or before you know it, you will be believing what we write!

Our Approach to the T-Kit

Before you set off on your journey through this T-Kit, we think it is important for you to know something about our approach to the topic and the publication. Dynamic, complex and integral are the three key terms of this approach. We believe in an approach to European Citizenship that embraces these concepts, and we have therefore produced this T-Kit in line with them.

What that means in practice is that we have tried to provide an overall picture of the development of European Citizenship and education in this area, without passing judgement on different concepts, but by showing how they fit into the bigger picture. The map we have used to locate and identify these different approaches is our conceptual framework. This can be summarised in the graphic below, which is developed in detail in the section Our Conceptual Framework.



These four quadrants, and the dynamics between them, make up our map. This also represents our values, in terms of how we believe education for European Citizenship should be approached – by addressing, in the whole, all of these areas. This does not mean that one project needs to address all of them, but it means that we should choose consciously which area we are going to work in, and be aware of which areas we are leaving out, if we choose to do so. Different people, at different times, need different approaches, and different areas to be addressed. With the help of this map, we feel it is easier to consciously choose where to focus.

So enjoy the exploration. Whether you choose to take the map with you, or leave it behind to have a look at later – bon voyage!