

EMPOWERING
Young People -
CONNECTING
EUROPE



RE- SHAPING LIFE IN OUR REGION

**THIS PROJECT SUPPORTS INNOVATIVE SCHOOL-BASED
PROJECTS THAT HELP YOUNG PEOPLE**

- in understanding and accepting other cultures through cross-cultural interaction in the Danube Region.
- in promoting active citizenship through intercultural awareness.
- in supporting participation in civil society in their home countries, in the Danube region and in Europe.
- in committing themselves to sustainable development.

 www.empoweringyoungpeople.net

ABOUT



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The project invites secondary schools of the Danube Region to a creative joint venture of thinking and acting together.

By involving external partners, our aim is to implement innovative training courses and international, creative, educational programmes that promote dialogue between cultures, active citizenship and commitment to sustainable development.



TARGET GROUP:

- Teachers at schools of general and vocational education and students in the age group of 16-17 (one project team consists of two teachers, one school principal and four students) in the Danube region (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany (South)), Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine (Western Part))

- External partners: (NGOs, private companies, cultural institutions/artists, teacher training institutions)

Empowering Young People – Connecting Europe is a pilot project within Priority Area 9 “To Invest in People and Skills” of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR). The project is implemented by KulturKontakt Austria and financed by the European Union and the Austrian Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture.

APPROACHES

The project prefers methods that are based on discovery, because life is an experiment. Learning happens through personal interest and personal experiences, out of inquisitiveness. Our philosophy is to support innovative projects that are founded in trust; mistakes are considered a source of learning. We believe that the individual projects and partnerships started in the course of the project will live on after the project has ended.

The following Guiding Principles (principles of learning) shape the work process:

- Trust
- Learning from mistakes
- Discovery, because life is an experiment
- Responding to individual interests
- Curiosity

Approaches to emphasize:

- Development of better self-expression to aid appreciation of others
- Versatile ways of presentation
- Exhibitions: we welcome projects that can be disseminated to a larger audience
- We promote the nonverbal languages of the arts to create freedom of communication, thereby opening up new paths to understanding each other.
- Teamwork, necessitating team building and providing a foundation for effective cooperation
- Using social media to close the gaps between cultural differences
- Community work: we encourage initiatives in which different generations can cooperate and learn from each other
- We support plans for taking project work outside the schools and addressing larger groups of society.
- We prefer experimenting and learning as a discovery process, as opposed to a frontal transfer of information.



ACTIVITIES

Project Duration: 2012 May 2013 December

Timing:

2012 May:	Regional Kickoff Workshop
2012 July:	Regional workshop – Training of teachers
2012 September – October:	Four cluster events
2013 January – June:	Regional school-based projects with external partners
2013 June:	Closing event (presentation of project results)
2013 September – December:	Development of a "Danube Region Project Portfolio" and innovative teacher's guide



BACKGROUND/ DANUBE STRATEGY

Covering a fifth of the EU (100 million inhabitants), the Danube Region is a key to the well-being of the EU as a whole. Many of the region's challenges know no borders: flooding, transport and energy links, environmental protection and security, education policy and labour market issues all require a united approach.

The strategy concerns mainly 14 countries, eight of which are Member States (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania) and six of which are non-EU countries (Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Ukraine and Moldova). Organizations representing civil society as well as private companies are also involved in the implementation of initiatives and projects and the achievement of precise targets.

The strategy is based on a new working method that takes a "macro-regional" approach, following in the footsteps of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The novelty of the method is the way it brings countries together to cooperate on setting goals, aligning funding and working together to achieve joint objectives, with the Commission playing a leading role in co-ordination.

<http://www.peopleandskills-danuberegion.eu/>



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