

EMPOWERING
Young People -
CONNECTING
EUROPE



RE- SHAPING OUR LIFE IN OUR REGION

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

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

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 realize innovative trainings and international creative educational programs that promote the dialog between cultures, active citizenship and commitment to sustainable development.



TARGET GROUP:

- teachers of general and vocational education schools and students in the age group of 16-17 (one project team consists of 2 teachers, 1 school principal and 4 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)
- external partners: (NGO's, companies, cultural institutions/artists, teacher training institutions)



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 and mistakes are considered as a source of learning.

We believe that the projects and co-operations 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
- Discover, because life is an experiment
- Respond to individual interests
- Curiosity

Approaches to emphasize:

- Develop 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 nonverbal language of arts to create freedom of communication opening up new paths for understanding each other
- Team work necessitating team building and providing a foundation to effective cooperation
- Using social media to break down barriers of cultural differences
- Community work – we encourage initiatives where different generations can cooperate and learn from each other
- We support plans, where the project work is also taken outside school and addresses larger groups of society
- We prefer experimenting and learning as discovery process in contrast to frontal information exchange

ACTIVITIES

Project Duration: 2012 May 2013 December

Timing:

2012 May:	Regional Kick Off Workshop
2012 June:	Regional workshop – Training of teachers
2012 September – December:	cluster events
2013 January – June:	Regional school based project with external partners
2013 July:	Closing event (presentation of the project's results)
2013 September – December:	Developing a "Danube Region Project Portfolio" and an innovative teacher's guide

BACKGROUND/ DANUBE STRATEGY

Covering a fifth of the EU (100 million inhabitants), the Danube Region is 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 of which 8 are Member States (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Romania) and 6 are non-EU countries (Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Ukraine and Moldova). Organizations representing civil society and private companies are also involved in the implementation of actions and projects, and achievement of precise targets.

It is based on a new working method based on 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 their objectives, with the Commission playing a leading role in co-ordination.

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



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