

Slovenia

Teaching and Learning about the EU: Results from the International Civic and Citizenship Survey

The International Civic and Citizenship Survey investigates how prepared young people are to undertake their roles as citizens. The survey contains a specific regional module for Europe which took place in 2009 in response to increasing interest in knowing more about young people's knowledge, attitudes and values about the EU. This module covers questions that are specific to the EU and which were asked to young people in EU Member States. The ICCS survey covers relatively young students. It surveys students enrolled in the grade that is equivalent to eight years of schooling.

The items below relate to the percentage of students in this country who answered correctly:

Student knowledge of the basic facts about the EU

Country of test is a Member of the EU	99%	What is one requirement for a country to be allowed to join the European Union?	33%
The European Union is an economic and political partnership between countries.	85%	Which of the following cities is a meeting place for the European Parliament?	83%
People get new political rights when their country joins the European Union	63%	Who votes to elect Members of the European Parliament <(MEPs)>?	26%
What is the flag of the European Union?	99%	What determines how much each member country contributes to the European Union?	35%
How many countries are member states of the European Union?	70%	Which of the following statements about the possible enlargement of the European Union are true?	74%

Student knowledge of EU laws and policies

The European Union decides what is taught in your school about the European Union	69%	The European Union has made laws to reduce pollution	80%
The European Union aims to promote peace, prosperity, and freedom within its borders	89%	The European Union pays money to farmers in European Union countries to use environmentally friendly farming methods	40%
All European Union countries have signed the European Convention on Human Rights	87%	What can all citizens of the European Union do by law?	26%

Student knowledge about the euro currency

The Euro is the official currency of all countries in Europe	62%	The Euro is the official currency in all European Union countries	37%
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Teacher confidence to teach about the EU

Percentage of Teachers Very or Quite Confident in Teaching about the EU	70%
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Section A: Prescriptive Measures

Legislation/decreecircular

Name Legislation	Description
Organisation and Financing of Education Act (1996, last rev. 2011)	Objective for school education in general (ISCED1, 2 and 3): "Education shall prepare pupils and students for the participation in processes of European cooperation".
Basic School Act (1996, last rev. 2011)	Basic education (primary education and lower secondary education) objective: "... education of pupils for general cultural and civilization values, which derive from European tradition".
Gimnazija Act (1996, last rev. 2007)	Gimnazije (upper secondary general education) objective: "... education of students for general cultural and civilization values, which derive from European tradition".

Curriculum

Background information	<p>Learning about EU may be organised though:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - particular learning topics within different subjects; - specific topics that connect two or more subjects; - specific teaching forms and methods. <p>Cross-curricular teaching and learning of EU spans across all levels and stages of education (from basic to upper secondary level) and covers one or more areas of the curricula that are organised around a central topic of "EU in schools". "EU in schools" is a common theme, particular topics are integrated into different subjects and learning activities.</p> <p>Connections are made across all grades and the whole curriculum. The notion of the European dimension is most often recognised in the subjects of social sciences, civic education, history, geography.</p> <p>The contents of the EU theme are gathered in a common teaching reference book "EU in schools". This manual for teachers of all cycles comprises the following chapters: History of the EU; EU symbols and institutions and EU policies. Each chapter has an appendix with the recommendations of what to teach at which level or stage of education and with the examples of learning tasks for pupils and students at different grades. It is up to the school and teachers to decide about the level, extent and detail of the contents.</p>
Is there any mention that learning about the EU is cross-curricular?	<p>See above.</p> <p>No cross-curricular approach for the subjects further describes below.</p>
ISCED level concerned	Primary - ISCED 1 (compulsory education (<i>Osnovne sole</i>) is

	organised in a single structure 9-year basic school attended by pupils aged from 6 to 15 years old. ISCED 1 is offered for pupils aged 6-12 years old)	
Social sciences/civics/social studies	Compulsory subject?	Content
	Yes	EU citizenship & rights, EU institutions, EU policies, geography of the EU, history of the EU, home country and the EU, Symbols of the EU
Full description of EU content	The subject 'Social sciences' teaches students about a number of different topics related to the EU which include: Slovenia in EU, State, Democracy, Symbols; Rights of EU citizens; Economical and political links; organisation of EU. The objective set out in the syllabus is the development of civic competences, European identity, responsibilities and culture.	
All content compulsory?	Yes. Although, it is up to the school and teachers to decide about the level, extent and detail of the contents.	
Geography	Compulsory subject?	Content
	Yes	EU policies, Geography of the EU, Home country and the EU, Symbols of the EU
Full description of EU content	Contents of this subject include environmental politics in Europe and the population/demography of Europe (religious, ethnical).	
All content compulsory?	Yes. Although, it is up to the school and teachers to decide about the level, extent and detail of the contents.	
History	Compulsory subject?	Content
	Yes	EU policies, Geography of the EU, History of the EU, Home country and the EU
Full description of EU content	In History students learn about the history of Europe and this of the EU; forming cultural and political picture of Europe; origin of today's member States of the EU and other European countries; Western and Eastern European cultures; Connections with Europe and the world.	
All content compulsory?	Yes. Although, it is up to the school and teachers to decide about the level, extent and detail of the contents.	

ISCED level concerned	Lower Secondary - ISCED 2 (compulsory education (<i>Osnovne šole</i>) is organised in a single structure 9-year basic school attended by pupils aged from 6 to 15 years old. ISCED 2 is offered for pupils aged 12-15 years old)	
Civic and patriotic education and ethics	Compulsory subject?	Content
	Yes	EU citizenship & rights, EU institutions, EU policies, geography of the EU, history of the EU, home country and the EU, symbols of the EU
Full description of EU content	Civic and patriotic education and ethics: Political system of EU, Democratic decision-making and institutions in Slovenia and EU, EU citizenship, Establishment of EU, development and enlargement process Slovenia, EU and the World (Slovenia as a member of EU; Impact of the membership in EU in individual's life; EU institutions/ Parliament, Council, Commission; Slovene representatives in EU bodies.	
All content compulsory?	Yes. It is up to the school and teachers to decide about the level, extent and detail of the contents.	
Geography	Compulsory subject?	Content
	Yes	EU citizenship & rights, EU policies, Geography of the EU, History of the EU, Home country and the EU
Full description of EU content	Contents, e.g.: Environmental politics in Europe, Population in Europe (religious, ethnical); The meaning of being European member State for the national policy and economics. Development of civic competences (including European citizenship, European identity, benefits) – objective set out in the syllabus.	
All content compulsory?	Yes. It is up to the school and teachers to decide about the level, extent and detail of the contents.	
History	Compulsory subject?	Content
	Yes	EU citizenship & rights, EU institutions, EU policies, Geography of the EU, History of the EU, Home country and the EU
Full description of EU content	History of Europe; Forming cultural and political picture of Europe; Origin of today's countries of Europe; Western and Eastern European cultures; Religious picture of Europe; Connections with Europe and the World; National, European and global economy. One of the teaching objectives that are set out in the syllabus: development of civic competences (including European citizenship, awareness of European cultural	

	influences, affiliation to Europe).	
All content compulsory?	Yes. It is up to the school and teachers to decide about the level, extent and detail of the contents.	
ISCED level concerned	Upper Secondary - ISCED 3 (students aged 15-19 years old)	
Citizenship culture	Compulsory subject?	Content
	Yes	EU citizenship & rights, EU institutions, EU policies, geography of the EU, history of the EU, home country and the EU, symbols of the EU
Full description of EU content	EU and connectedness, with the World; EU integration and globalization processes	
All content compulsory?	Yes It is up to the school and teachers to decide about the level, extent and detail of the contents.	
Sociology	Compulsory subject?	Content
	Yes	EU citizenship & rights, EU institutions, EU policies, Geography of the EU, History of the EU, Home country and the EU
Full description of EU content	Slovenia has three types of upper secondary education, general, technical and vocational. All types of upper secondary education teach this subject and the following topics related to learning about the EU: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political system of EU - Institutional structure of EU - European citizenship 	
All content compulsory?	Yes. It is up to the school and teachers to decide about the level, extent and detail of the contents.	
History	Compulsory subject?	Content
	Yes	EU policies, Geography of the EU, History of the EU, Home country and the EU
Full description of EU content	Slovenia has three types of upper secondary education, general, technical and vocational. General and technical upper secondary education teach this subject and the following topics related to learning about the EU: <p>History, historical experience and cultural heritage of wider European area; European identity. EEC and beginnings of European integration; EU and widening process; process of</p>	

	joining Slovenia to EU.	
All content compulsory?	Yes. It is up to the school and teachers to decide about the level, extent and detail of the contents.	
Geography	Compulsory subject?	Content
	Yes	EU institutions, EU policies, Geography of the EU, History of the EU, Home country and the EU,
Full description of EU content	Slovenia has three types of upper secondary education, general, technical and vocational. General and technical upper secondary education teach this subject and the following topics related to learning about the EU: Beginning, establishment, aims, development and widening of EU; Challenges of multicultural societies of EU; Meaning of the common agricultural politics in EU; EU and its institutions and bodies	
All content compulsory?	Yes. It is up to the school and teachers to decide about the level, extent and detail of the contents.	
European studies	Compulsory subject?	Content
	No	EU citizenship & rights, EU institutions, EU policies, Geography of the EU, History of the EU, Home country and the EU, Symbols of the EU
Full description of EU content	Slovenia has three types of upper secondary education, general, technical and vocational. Only general upper secondary education teaches this subject and the following topics related to learning about the EU: Students gain knowledge and develop skills to critically evaluate European integration processes, human and civil rights issues, the role and the activities of European institutions, as well as other relevant social and cultural issues in Europe and the nature of European inclusion into world currents.	
All content compulsory?	Yes. It is up to the school and teachers to decide about the level, extent and detail of the contents.	
History of Economy	Compulsory subject?	Content
	No	EU institutions, EU policies, Geography of the EU, History of the EU, Home country and the EU,
Full description of EU content	Slovenia has three types of upper secondary education, general, technical and vocational. Only general upper secondary education teaches this subject and the following topics related to learning about the EU: Strong emphasis on European economic cooperation. One of	

	the expected Learning objectives: students understand / can explain the role and key activities of EU and its institutions in foster European economy
All content compulsory?	Yes. It is up to the school and teachers to decide about the level, extent and detail of the contents.

National Level Assessment

ISCED level concerned	End of basic education - lower secondary (ISCED 2)
Subjects of assessment where elements of the EU are assessed	The aim of basic school examinations is the evaluation of schools and the education system as a whole. The compulsory examination subjects are Slovene language (Hungarian and Italian as minority languages) and mathematics. The third subject is chosen by the Minister among the core curriculum subjects. The third examination subject could be a subject that includes EU topics, e.g. civic and patriotic education and ethics, history, geography or it may not. The assessment of subjects with EU topics is not systematic.
Examples of assessment content	All the topics noted in the subject syllabus could be assessed. The information about the contents of examinations, including about EU, will be published after the examination in September 2012.
ISCED level concerned	<i>Matura</i> examination at the end of upper secondary education (ISCED 3)
Subjects of assessment where elements of the EU are assessed	Sociology is one of the examination subjects that is a choice for students. It is one of three possible subjects that students may choose for the <i>Matura</i> examination. Students choose one from among philosophy, psychology and sociology.
Examples of assessment content	Examination Catalogue for Sociology mentions the following in relation to assessing what students know about the EU: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Union: analysis of the meaning of national State vs. this of EU'; - Establishment of the EU: circumstances, basic features of its functioning; - Analysis and comparisons of demographic changes within the EU and Slovenia; - European integration processes in the context of globalisation.

Section B: Non-Prescriptive Measures

Teacher Training

Training Provider/Institution	University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Education
ISCED level concerned	ISCED 1, 2 and 3
Target group of teachers	ISCED 1 (general teachers) and ISCED 2 and 3 (specialised teachers)
Description of the teacher training	No specialised formal teacher training. The optional subjects for general teachers (ISCED 1) "Linguistic and Intercultural Education" relates to teaching about EU. The optional subjects for specialised teachers (ISCED 2 and 3) "Philosophy and Sociology of Education" relates to teaching about EU. The detailed content of these optional subjects is not publicly available though.
Source	http://www.pef.upr.si/
Training Provider/Institution	National Education Institute
ISCED level concerned	ISCED 1, ISCED 2 & ISCED 3
Target group of teachers	Teacher Certification Examinations for those entering the teaching profession
Description of the teacher training	Teaching about EU is a part of the Teacher Certification Examination (compulsory State Examination, which is obligatory for those who enter the teaching profession for the first time). The content covers the following topics: Membership of Slovenia in EU; Symbols of EU; EU Citizenship; Functions and Jurisdiction; Support in Education; Institutions and Bodies; Legal system in relation to the national legislation; EU legislative sources.
Source	http://www.mizks.gov.si/fileadmin/mizks.gov.si/pageuploads/podrocje/kadri/doc/strokovni_izpit_institucije_EU2.doc
Training Provider/Institution	National Education Institute
ISCED level concerned	ISCED 1, ISCED 2 & ISCED 3
Target group of teachers	Programme of training in the framework of continuing professional development 'Teaching about EU and active citizenship'.
Description of the teacher training	Specialized training in the framework of CPD: examples of lectures: Globalization and its challenges; The State and its citizens; Globalization and new citizenship; European international perspective and experiences, etc.

Source

<http://www.zrss.si/default.asp?link=ang>

<http://lim1.mss.edus.si/katis/reporti/katalog/KATALOG1112.PDF>

Initiatives

Name of the initiative	Strategy for the Development of Civic Education in the Republic of Slovenia
Level of the initiative	National
Target group	Pupils and students of basic and upper secondary schools, adult students, teachers and schools researchers, experts, higher education teachers, education policy-makers.
Form of the initiative	Student learning/engagement, teachers' learning
Description of the initiative	<p>The Strategy has been commissioned by the previous government to researchers. The document has been delivered shortly before premature elections were carried out. The new government has not taken any decisions on this yet. On the whole, the document aims to develop citizenship education in three main areas: institutional support; curricular contents; teaching methods, materials and training of teachers. In terms of contents, the Strategy suggests that the current curricular subjects and contents should be upgraded. The existing compulsory subject Citizenship and Patriotic education and Ethics (ISCED 2) should be improved particularly from the European perspective (supplemented by European citizenship; strengthened European identity and intercultural education; political system and globalisation in EU). It is proposed that the current optional content of Citizenship culture (Gimnazije, ISCED 3) should become a single compulsory specialised subject. Its contents should also become subject to formal assessment procedures. Education and training of teachers for teaching citizenship education (including about EU) is not provided systematically. The Strategy proposes a creation of specialised module in initial education of teachers (150 hours). Such module should comprise the following components: Democracy and Life in Community; Political System in Slovenia; Globalization and EU; Contemporary Challenges of Humanity; Didactics for Teachers of Citizenship Education. Another proposal refers to in-service training model (30 hours).</p>
Sources	<p>www.drzavljanska-vzgoja.org</p> <p>Executive summaries of studies about citizenship education are available in English at: http://www.drzavljanska-vzgoja.org/1/Novice/Novica/smid/425/ArticleID/97/reftab/40/t/Executive-summaries-of-the-research-studies-conducted-within-the-project-Citizenship-in-a-New-Age.aspx</p> <p>Contact person: mitja.sardoc@guest.arnes.si</p>
Name of the initiative	EU-PIKA (Politics, Institutions, Cooperation, Actions)
Level of the initiative	National

Target group	Students, pupils, wider public
Form of the initiative	Student learning/engagement
Description of the initiative	<p>Project, conducted by the International Faculty of Social and Business studies.</p> <p>It is co financed by the European Commission (Jean Monnet). The Project EU-PIKA aims at informing pupils, students and wider public about EU. In the framework of the Project, a large number of events are planned (round tables, camps for upper secondary school students, workshops for basic school students, training of teachers of all levels of education, thematic workshops for HE students). Currently, a three-day camping trip for upper secondary students is being organised (March 2012), which is called EU-KAMP and is free of charge.</p>
Sources	<p>http://www.eupika.mfdps.si/si/</p> <p>Contact person (Project leader): Nada Trunk Širca nada.trunk-sirca@mfdps.si</p>
Name of the initiative	EU in Schools
Level of the initiative	National
Target group	Teachers
Form of the initiative	Manual for teachers
Description of the initiative	<p>This Manual for teachers of all cycles, with the title EU in Schools (September 2010), comprises the following chapters: History of EU, Symbols and Institutions of EU, Politics of EU, Possibilities offered to young people (Youth policy, Participation of young people in decision-making processes, Youth in Action, How EU widen access to education, EU incentives for the employment of Youth), Life in EU (cultural and linguistic diversity; Minorities; European identity; EU citizenship, Study and Work; Health Insurance; Consumers rights; Travelling; Culture), Members of EU.</p> <p>Each chapter has an appendix with the recommendations of what to teach at which level or stage of education and with the examples of learning tasks for pupils and students. The National Education Research Institute is currently organizing workshops on the use of this Manual.</p>
Sources	<p>http://arhiv.mm.gov.si/vlada/temp/EU/EUvSOLI_300.pdf</p> <p>Contact person in NERI: eva.klemencic@pei.si</p>
Name of the initiative	EU-Assistant
Level of the initiative	National
Target group	Other: wider public
Form of the initiative	E-data base

Description of the initiative

EU-Assistant is an electronic data base of questions about EU. It is accessible via Government's web portal. EU-Assistant offers answers to the following EU topics: e.g., EU institutions, Euro, banking business, Taxes, Human Rights, Membership in EU, Customs, Economy, Intellectual Property, Education, Assistance to Persons with special needs, EU Languages, EU Cultures, Employment, and others. Currently, there are around 700 answers in the data base.

Sources

matjaz.kek[[@](mailto:matjaz.kek@gov.si)]gov.si <http://www.evropa.gov.si/si/vsebina/kontakt/>