



## Title

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN EU STUDIES AT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL THROUGH DIGITAL AND VIRTUALISATION TOOLS (EU PETR)

[553319-EPP-1-2014-1-BG-EPPJMO-PROJECT]

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## About

The project aims to foster collaboration between academics, teacher trainers, secondary and primary teachers, future teachers and librarians in exchanging existing good practices about study content and methodologies for teaching EU studies at school. New ones need to be trialled out with the support of technologies for virtualisation of communication channels.

The project is based on enhancing the quality and bringing about innovative changes in the pre- and in-service training of teachers with regard to EU studies through implementing ICT in teaching EU studies at primary and secondary schools in Bulgaria.

The envisaged major impacts of the project are:

- improved teaching quality and learning capacity,
- enhanced interest in EU matters at primary and schools and at a whole-university level,
- in-depth knowledge about the EU achieved via networking and online collaboration between primary and secondary teachers, teacher trainers, academics and librarians,
- involvement of librarians in storing and managing information collections about EU studies via relevant ICT tools.

Current research and past experience (the Jean Monnet project of the EU Studies Department of the Faculty of Philosophy “Learning by Doing Europe”) show both primary and secondary school teachers are motivated to teach about Europe but they need support by up-to-date materials and methodologies relevant to their students’ age groups and the peculiarities of the subject under which they will be incorporated.

A post-graduate distance-learning course “European Dimensions of Bulgarian secondary Education” was developed and run in 2012 as part of the efforts of Sofia University to support in-service teachers to develop within the national upgrading qualification framework for teachers. Enhancing further the EU strand in in-service training will inspire teachers to explore their own teaching and suggest innovative changes about EU studies at the highest levels of professional qualification. Using ICT will guarantee the quality of education process. Forming highly qualified teams of specialists applying new teaching approaches will lead to generating new practices or refining and enriching existing ones.

The project is managed by the Faculty of Philosophy in collaboration with key academics from other faculties and university structures such as the Faculty of Pedagogy and the Department of In-service Teacher Training.



### Work Programme

The work programme revolves around seven main work packages and exploits the potential for community learning, exchange of ideas and practices, and dissemination by use of online tools and channels supporting and maximising the effects of face-to-face communication and training.

(I) Work package includes preparation of the virtual platform and a set of ICT tools which will be used to teach about the EU at the target educational levels. The product will use virtualization technologies to grant access to resources and shared activities generated in the course of the project. The interactive online platform will support three functionalities: (a) a virtual repository, (b) a virtual classroom for lectures and discussions; (c) a module for transmitting events via the Internet (Live).

(II) Work package deals with the preparation and delivery of in-service and a pre-service training modules focused on theoretical and practical aspects of teaching EU topics at primary and secondary schools. The in-service training module will be part of the existing one-year post-graduate upgrading course for teachers across subjects and education levels (35 people).

The pre-service module will be aimed at BA or MA students preparing to become teachers of different school subjects or primary teachers and will be offered as part of the so-called pedagogical specialisation of future teachers. The module will have a particular focus on the affordances of the school subjects in question (35 students).

Both modules will make use of the virtual platform developed in Work package I. and will allow an interactive learning mode and active sharing and exchange of ideas and good practices.

(III) Work package includes three rounds of face-to-face workshops and online webinars for secondary teachers and school librarians in Western, Central and Eastern Bulgaria (102 people).

(IV) Work package includes three rounds of face-to-face workshops and online webinars for primary teachers and librarians (102 people) in Western, Central and Eastern Bulgaria. Selected participants trained during WP III will also contribute.

(V) Work Package includes two rounds of face-to-face workshops and online webinars for pedagogical leaders and experts at the Regional Inspectorates of Education divided into Western and Eastern Bulgaria. The best representatives of the community of trained teachers under the previous work packages will also contribute (56 people).

(VI) Work package envisages research into the effect of teaching EU topics at primary and secondary level. The research will have a quantitative and a qualitative dimension. Specially designed pre- and post-questionnaires will measure the presence of change in the way the researched aspect has influenced the teachers and pupils.

(VII) Work package is about disseminating the project results by means of an end-of-project national conference (62 people) and by exploiting the potential of the virtual community of Teacher.bg throughout the project.

### Specific Activities

#### → TEACHING/TRAINING

The EU and You in Action: A new DL Module within an existing one-year in-service post-graduate upgrading course

The EU and You – Issues and Options: A new module for BA and MA students dwelling on EU educational policies, teaching and learning about the EU at primary and secondary level



### → DELIVERABLES

Development of a video repository module

Development of a Virtual Room module

Development of a Live Stream Module

Development of an Integrator module

Video and Text Database

### → RESEARCH

The effects of teaching about EU and European integration in primary school of using the learning tools developed under the project on a primary and on a secondary level

Developing students' attitudes towards the EU and European integration through teaching about the EU

### → EVENTS

Trainings, seminars and accompanying webinars

*The EU and You* (Primary School Level)

*The EU and You* (Secondary School Level)

*Implementing EU topics at schools* (school authorities – head teachers, school principals, experts from the Regional Inspectorates of the Ministry of Education).

### ➔ DISSEMINATION

On-going dissemination through releases on relevant websites of Sofia University

Involvement of the Teacher.bg online platform for teacher training and exchange of best practices

A special publicly available online journal of the project activities

A series of academic papers in reputable online and print-based academic publications

A national conference on implementing EU topics at schools

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