

The Erasmus+ project with the title **“The Image of the EU in the Post-truth Era”** is a multilateral partnership, involving four countries: Spain, Croatia, Switzerland and Germany. This is a common project, which will be run as a cross curricular project.

The students involved in the project are mainly aged 14 to 17. They are the main target group during the project duration. At the same time and after the completion of the project a great number of pupils will profit.

It is about developing media competencies in the post-truth era and is thematically tied to the representation of the EU in the media in the view of the upcoming European Elections in 2019. By means of a critical, fact-based analysis of the EU the development of media competencies will be facilitated.

Developing different media competencies at school will help students in identifying trustworthy sources and verifying news. It will also encourage the students to think about the consequences of fake news and media manipulation. Even though all participating schools have been developing media curricula for years, they have all realized that there is a special need at the moment to analyse and work on the problem of misuse of media for means of manipulation or misguidance.

Main objectives of the project:

- The students are to acquire skills and knowledge that enable them to act appropriately, autonomously, creatively and in a socially responsible manner in a media-based world.
- Importantly, the students should analyse the EU in critical fashion specially during the election campaign and recognize the importance of active participation in the political process in the EU.

The facilitation of media competencies will be reached in an activity-oriented way using a kind of spiral approach starting with the basic facts. Then more and more details will be introduced.

During the first meeting in Brühl the students will use the Internet to revise news about different European topics and to gain an understanding of how complex it is to verify them. At the end of the first meeting, the students will visit some of the traditional media outlets in the area, thereby obtaining an insight into ways of doing research and documentation.

Examining the characteristics of news production in social networks and its potential for misuse for the purpose of manipulation and misguidance will be an emphasis of the second meeting.

The third meeting has its main focus on the production of the students' own media.

There will be a Facebook page and a web-based international school newspaper which contain reports about the European election and other European topics from the participating countries. Besides, a film about the European election will be produced. These media will be the students' action- and product-oriented implementation of what they have learned during the project. The students should be able to generate reports based on verified facts as well as obtaining a critical, but informed position. In addition, they will have acquired media design competencies.

Overall, we are hoping to draw more attention to the European Elections in the school community and also provide guidance on a well-founded individual vote of the students, teachers, parents and local people. Another expectation is that well-balanced media coverage will help to create an overall more positive perception of the EU.

The Facebook page and the newspaper as well as eTwinning will also serve as a medium of communication between the schools in the aftermath of the project.

In each school community the project is incorporated into the schools' program and curriculum. That way we can achieve a long-term awareness for our topic. Furthermore, our teaching material and the results of the project will be a basis for further work.

New teaching material will have been developed (Research and documentation, manipulation in social media and verifying facts), because these topics have not been the focus of current media education so far. This newly developed teaching material, as a product of our project, will undoubtedly be an important component of the future media curriculum of each participating school.