

Project and Open Call for Good Practices description

1. Overview

👉 **What are we looking for?** We are looking for **inspirational examples** of how schools can work with artists and cultural organisations to enhance pupils' civic engagement, democratic attitudes and their readiness to engage in civic and democratic life through the power of participatory artistic and cultural experiences within and around schools.

We are looking for good examples of such work that was/is implemented:

- Within and around primary schools (upper years, age of pupils >10) and (especially) in secondary schools (ISCED 1-3), general or vocational.
- Within and around formal, non-formal and/or informal education environments.

This request is the first step of the European Union's 2-year project started in June 2025:

Culture and Democracy Study and Peer Learning

School/Culture Collaborations for Civic Engagement and Critical Citizenship Education - How schools, artists and cultural organisations can work together to enhance young people's democratic attitudes and their readiness to engage in civic and democratic life.

The project will generate knowledge and concrete guidance for policy and practice on this topic.

Your contribution could get high recognition. It could also help inspire policy and practice in the EU and world-wide. More about the project in Section 2 below.

👉 **Who can contribute?** We welcome inspirational examples **from EU Member States and the rest of the world**:

- Schools and their networks
- Individual teachers and trainers and their networks
- Institutions training or employing teacher educators and artist educators
- Other education and training organisations and their networks
- Cultural organisations, foundations, funds and their networks
- Individual artists and their networks
- Civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, other non-profit organisations and networks facilitating collaborations between educational organisations and artists/ cultural organisations for youth civic engagement.

👉 **How to participate?** Submit a description of your good practice example via this online [form](#). The Open Call will be open **until 31 October 2025**.

The form can be filled in any of the EU-27 official languages. Please select your language under "Languages" section of the menu on the right-hand side of the screen.



👉 **Why participate?** Your contribution could make a difference! Selected good practice examples will be **included in the Compendium of Best Practices to be published by the European Commission** and **presented to policy makers at the project events** (e.g. trainings for policy makers, final conference). Your example could inform and inspire policy and practice across the EU Member States and around the world.

👉 **Which culture and art forms and sectors are eligible?** We look forward to receiving good practice examples of cooperation between schools and artists/cultural organisations in fields that include (the list is indicative):

- architecture
- archives
- libraries and museums
- artistic crafts
- audiovisual (including film, radio, television, video games and multimedia)
- tangible and intangible cultural heritage
- design (including fashion design)
- festivals
- music
- fairs
- gallery exhibitions
- literature
- storytelling
- performing arts (including theatre and dance)
- books and publishing
- visual arts.

Please note: This call is not about examples of school/culture collaborations in general. It is about good examples of collaborations between schools, artists and cultural organisations **that aim specifically to enhance young people's democratic attitudes and their readiness to engage in civic and democratic life through participatory artistic and cultural experiences.**

👉 **What does “Citizenship Competence” mean?** Based on the definitions provided in the [Council Recommendation on key competences for lifelong learning](#), the [Council of Europe Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture](#) and the [Assessment Framework of the International Civic and Citizenship Education Study](#), the following knowledge, skills, attitudes and values are covered by the citizenship competence:

Knowledge	Roles and identities:	National and international institutions and systems:	European concepts and phenomena:	Other:
	• Self-understanding and civic self-image • Citizens' roles • Civic connectedness • Diversity and national cultural identities	• Political systems • Legal systems • Economic systems • Social and political movements	• European common values • European integration • Contribution of national	• Contemporary events • Culture • History • Religions • Environment and sustainability • Media

		Civil society	cultural identities to European identity	
Skills	Analytical: - Analytical and critical thinking - Integrated problem solving - Interpreting information, relating, integrating, generalising - Argument and solution development - Predicting	Interpersonal: - Listening and observing - Empathy - Flexibility and adaptability - Linguistic, communicative and plurilingual skills - Co-operation skills - Conflict-resolution skills	Participatory: - Community participation - Decision making - Influencing	
Attitudes and values	Valuing of: - Human dignity and human rights - Democracy - Justice - Fairness - Freedom - Equity - Sustainability - Solidarity - Peace and non-violence - The rule of law	Support for: - Social and cultural diversity - Social cohesion - Gender equality - Equal rights for: - Immigrants and non-immigrants - All ethnic groups in society - Sustainable lifestyles (incl. willingness to take responsibility for the environment) - Freedom of movement for European citizens within Europe	Readiness to: - Respect the privacy of others - Take responsibility - Be self-efficient - Tolerate ambiguity	

Any activities aimed at providing young people with knowledge, skills and/or attitudes and values such as those listed above are considered as contributing to developing their citizenship competence and fall within the remit of this Open Call for Good Practices.

2. About the Project

“Culture and Democracy Study and Peer Learning – School/Culture Collaborations for Civic Engagement and Critical Citizenship Education” is a 2-year project (2025-2027) of the European Commission’s [Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture](#). Following an open Call for Tenders, the project is implemented by external contractors: [Visionary Analytics](#) in cooperation with [KEA European Affairs](#).

Project Objectives

1. Collect specific examples and knowledge on how to design and implement effective synergies between schools and cultural professionals and to deliver impactful, long-term arts and civic education programmes that are designed to enhance young people’s democratic attitudes and their readiness to engage in civic and democratic life through engaging, participatory artistic and cultural experiences within and around schools.
2. Share this knowledge and good practice examples with policy makers, educators, creative professionals, cultural organisations and other key stakeholders around the EU in an organised way that could impact policy and practice.

The project will produce the following deliverables:

- **A literature review report** that will review and summarise existing knowledge and evidence on the design and implementation of collaborations between schools, cultural organisations and artists aiming to enhance young people’s democratic attitudes and their readiness to engage in civic and democratic life.
- **A compendium of best practice examples** that will provide user-friendly factsheets on a number of selected good practice examples.
- **A report “Key lessons from best practices for policy and practice”** which will distil lessons for policy makers and practitioners from the analysis of the good practice examples.
- **A series of onsite and online workshops** for policy makers in the fields of education and culture, and a final conference.
- **A Handbook for Policy Makers and Practitioners** which will provide guidance on the design, implementation, and strategic use of school-culture collaborations and programmes aiming to enhance young people’s democratic attitudes and their readiness to engage in civic and democratic life.

For more information about the project and the Open Call, please contact us at citizeneduc@visionary.it.

We look forward to receiving your contributions!