Virtual Course: Promoting Democratic Participation in Educational Settings

General Program

Introduction

The regional context serves as a critical framework for fostering meaningful citizen participation, enabling the pursuit of innovative and collaborative solutions to shared challenges. Within this framework, educational institutions occupy a privileged position as spaces for cultivating skills and practices among young people, empowering them to engage actively, responsibly, and constructively in the societies to which they belong.

This course explores how education can foster democratic values and active citizenship. It emphasizes that democracy isn't just learned in class—it is experienced daily. By rethinking citizenship education, educators can better prepare students to engage thoughtfully with social, political, and cultural issues, respecting rights, freedoms, and responsibilities for all.

The goal is to highlight education's role in nurturing informed, responsible citizens. The course aims to strengthen teachers' capacity to inspire democratic participation within their schools and communities.

Who is this for?

This course is designed for teachers, school administrators, and education managers working in secondary schools across the English-speaking countries region.

Specific objectives

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Recognize schools as key spaces for student participation, empowering learners to influence decisions in their personal and community lives.
- Use tools to encourage students to think critically about information, freedom of expression, and responsible communication.
- Promote understanding and advocacy for human rights through engaging activities that connect students with meaningful experiences.
- Foster student engagement, teamwork, and social projects that promote community development.
- Implement classroom practices that support the common good and build a culture of respect, tolerance, and democratic values.
- Review or design initiatives that promote student participation and active citizenship within their schools.

Course Content

This program consists of an introductory module, five thematic modules, and a final wrap-up, elaborated as follows:

- **Introductory Module:**
  Provides an overview of the course structure, objectives, important resources, and a **mandatory diagnostic assessment** to identify participants' prior knowledge and interests.

- **Module 1: "Be engaged"**
  Examines the types of organizations where young people engage today—such as schools, families, and communities—and how they learn to participate.

- **Module 2: "Be Informed"**
  Focuses on digital and social media as spaces for youth participation and free expression, highlighting critical literacy skills for fostering informed citizens.

- **Module 3: "Know Your Rights and Respect Others' Rights"**
  Details the fundamental rights and freedoms in the Americas, the role of schools in human rights education, and the challenges faced by young people.

- **Module 4: "Be Productive"**
  Addresses skills developed in school that prepare students for the labour market, including vocational training, financial literacy, and citizenship literacy.

- **Module 5: "Promote the Common Good"**
  Looks at social conditions that enable youth, families, and organizations to thrive through cooperation, participation, and shared values.

- **Final Module:**
  Participants must complete a final evaluation, a satisfaction survey, and submit a project proposal based on classroom or community initiatives aimed at strengthening citizenship.

Methodology

The course will be delivered via a virtual website creating an interactive space for communication, sharing, and collaborative learning. Each module includes diverse learning materials that encourage reflection, discussion, and practical application.

Assessment and Certificate of Participation

Evaluation is ongoing, based on tutor feedback and activity participation. Participants will be assessed on:

- Adherence to instructions and task requirements
- Logical coherence and clarity in their work
- Reflection on concepts through personal experiences
- Quality and relevance of online forum participation

- Proper presentation and citation standards

To earn a certificate, participants must complete all activities and submit a final project that involves designing or improving a classroom or community initiative that promotes active citizenship among youth

Assessment Structure

This section outlines the assessment activities, criteria, and weightings required for successful completion of the course.

Activities to develop by the participants		Minimum criteria	% of the total course
Questionnaires	Diagnostic assessment	All questionnaires account for 30% of the total course grade	
	Questionnaire 1 (modules 1, 2, and 3)		10%
	Questionnaire 2 (modules 4 and 5)		10%
	Post-training assessment (modules 1 to 5)		10%
Thematic Fora Participants are required to actively participate in thematic fora, engaging in discussions	Youth participation	Make at least one contribution or intervention in each forum on the specified topics. Assessment Weighting: All five fora contributions accounts for 30% of the total course grade	10%
	Participation and the common good		10%
	Participation and information		10%
Integration Activity	The final assessment comprises a comprehensive participatory project or proposal	Participants must develop a participatory project proposal with the following components: 1. Identification of a topic or problem which is relevant to their school/community/region to be addressed with students 2. Rationale of the project 3. Objectives 4. Target recipients 5. Place of implementation 6. Content outline 7. Learning activities 8. Articulations and digital networks (interviews, direct quotes, social media resources) 9. Monitoring and evaluation strategies	40%

		10. Long-term considerations	
		% total of the course	**100%**
		Participants must attain at least 70% to successfully pass the course	**70%**

To assess the completion of the proposed activities, a qualitative rating scale and a feedback report will be used.

It is important to clarify that participants must also complete the pre- and post-training evaluation, as well as the course satisfaction survey.

Duration: seven (7) weeks

Workload: 56 hours