

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE: “EUROPE MEETS SCHOOL” - INTERCULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

COURSE INFORMATION

Program	Empowering Community Engagement: Soft Skills Micro-Courses for Students and Staff
University	Justus Liebig University Giessen
Department	Centre for Competence Development
Course name	“Europe meets school” – intercultural and educational project
Course code	ECE2.4
Credits/hours	2 ECTS/60 hours
Language of instruction	German/English (upon request)
Course dates	Academic year 2026/27
Course schedule	TBD
Mode of instruction	On-campus/In -person
Target audience	Students, faculty, staff
Course coordinator	Centre for Competence Development
Course instructor	N.N.; Stefanie Plitt
Contact details	N.N.; stefanie.plitt@uni-giessen.de

SHORT DESCRIPTION

The project seminar is designed as a challenge-based learning format that focuses on the planning and implementation of intercultural school projects in close cooperation with local schools as community partners. Mixed teams of ERASMUS exchange students and local students work on authentic educational challenges identified together with schools. The course promotes the European idea in schools while encouraging critical reflection on different education systems across Europe. Participants acquire didactic and methodological skills, develop creative teaching materials and lesson units, and strengthen competencies in project management, conceptual development, and presentation. By engaging directly with schools, the course embeds curricular community engagement through reciprocal collaboration: schools benefit from co-created teaching materials and intercultural input, while students apply academic knowledge to real-world contexts and reflect critically on societal and educational challenges. Exchange students gain practical language experience and present their home countries, supported by local students in organizing and conducting projects at German schools. The seminar is mainly held in German, with the option to include English where necessary to facilitate communication.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students...

- **Understand the “Europe meets School” programme as a form of curricular community engagement** and are able to identify and critically compare key characteristics of European education systems in relation to societal and educational challenges.
 - **Apply challenge-based learning principles** to collaboratively identify real-world challenges in cooperation with local schools and translate them into the design of an intercultural school project that responds to community needs.
 - **Develop and implement co-created educational solutions** by planning, organising, and carrying out an intercultural school project together with school partners, thereby gaining intercultural, didactic, and methodological experience.
 - **Strengthen project-based and reflective competences**, including project management, conceptual development, and presentation skills, through iterative feedback loops, interim reflection phases, and a final reflective evaluation of both learning outcomes and community impact.
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- **Enhance communicative and social competences in a foreign language** through teamwork in international groups, interaction with community partners, and reflective discussion of intercultural experiences.
 - **Exchange students additionally acquire practical language and civic engagement experience** by working directly in German schools, engaging with local educational contexts, and contributing perspectives from their home countries as part of a reciprocal learning process.
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COURSE CONTENTS

- Introduction to the programme and to European education systems
 - Pedagogical project training
 - Intercultural project training
 - Planning and implementation of a coordination meeting
 - School visits and interim meetings for the implementation of the projects
 - Planning and implementation of the final event
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TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course follows a challenge-based learning methodology that combines cooperative group work, independent student learning, and active engagement with community partners. Students work in mixed international teams to identify real-world educational challenges in collaboration with local schools and to develop, test, and implement intercultural project solutions. Teaching activities include facilitated group work, guided research and concept development, and iterative feedback and reflection phases that support students in translating academic knowledge into practice. The presentation and implementation of student projects in schools constitute a central learning activity, fostering authentic communication situations and strengthening presentation and communication skills. Throughout the course, structured reflection phases encourage critical engagement with intercultural experiences, teamwork processes, and the societal relevance of the projects, thereby reinforcing both academic learning and community engagement outcomes.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assessment type	Assessment criteria	Overall weight
short project report	Use the draft which you will get in the seminar to write your project report	20%
presentation on final event	Interactive presentation on the final event	30%
interactive project at school	Planning and organizing a school project (3-5 lessons)	50%

STUDENT WORKLOAD (in hours)

Contact hours	Independent learning	Overall
20 hours	40 hours (incl. concept paper, school visits, presentation, final report)	60 hours

READING LIST / RELEVANT REFERENCES

Book

Grieser-Kindel, C., & Henseler, R. (2025). *Method Guide 3: 21 Methoden für den digital gestützten Englischunterricht (Klassen 5–13)*. Westermann.

Website / Grey literature

Europa macht Schule e. V. (n.d.). *Teaching and project materials* (documents provided in cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service). <https://www.europamachtschule.de>

