



Theatre Art for Education, Personal Development and European Citizenship

Living together - advantage of European unity; interethnic relations - European gain

Living together in Europe is the feeling of belonging to this European economic, political and socio-cultural unity, as well as to promote our active participation in the European project. Living together is understood as a social ideal that is valued and desired, as well as a social reality that, in fact, exists in specific places and contexts like Europe. Living together implies generating a new synchronism for these elements, and that makes possible to establish common agreements, where many perspectives contribute to the values of the group, collective of countries that lives together.

The European construction project and the consequent deepening of integration have led to an increasing transfer by the Member States of important parcels of their sovereignty to common institutions that do not reproduce the traditional state mechanisms with regard to the Decision-making process as well as the classic division of powers we know so far. The European institutions are unique, both in their composition and in their functioning and mechanisms of representation; but it gives us new opportunities to live together as European citizens.

Living together in Europe implies an iteration with the democracy, citizenship and interculturality

Democracy cannot become effective without the existence of dialogue among a diversity of opinions and points of view: we support the idea that the greater the diversity of the points of view, more paths open to *personal choice* of citizens and, therefore, the more solid are the basic mechanisms upon which the democratic system is supported (**Giménez, 2003**). Thus, we can affirm that social diversity means, in these circumstances, a democratically enriching element generating sustainable human development (**Giménez, 2000**).

Democracy applied to European context means different ways in which conflicts are incorporated in collective values, based on the idea of constant debate, through peaceful channels of negotiation and assisted by values such as *mutual respect*.

- European citizenship: Any person who holds the nationality of an EU country is automatically also an EU citizen. EU citizenship is additional to and does not replace national citizenship. It is for each EU country to lay down the conditions for the acquisition and loss of nationality of that country.
- We look forward our students become active citizens in Europe.
- Citizenship of the Union is conferred directly on every EU citizen by the **Treaty on the Functioning of the EU**.

Benefits of being European citizen

The **Treaty** on the Functioning of the European Union entails the right:

- To non-discrimination on the basis of nationality when the Treaty applies
- To **move and reside** freely within the EU
- To **vote for and stand as a candidate** in European Parliament and municipal elections
- To be **protected by the diplomatic and consular authorities** of any other EU country
- To **petition** the European Parliament and **complain** to the European Ombudsman
- To **contact and receive a response** from any EU institution in one of the EU's official languages
- To access **European Parliament, European Commission** and **Council** documents under certain conditions

EU citizens also have the right to equal access to the **EU Civil Service**.

The Lisbon Treaty introduced a new form of public participation for European citizens, the **Citizens' Initiative**. This allows one million citizens who are nationals of a significant number of EU countries to call directly on the European Commission to bring forward an initiative of interest to them within the framework of its powers.

EU citizenship is regularly taken into consideration in the judgments of the **Court of the Justice**.

Do you or your family members need more information and advice? Please visit **Your Europe**.

Do you need help to solve a problem or want to file a complaint? Please visit **Your Rights**.

Do you need information specifically on Social Security Rights? Please visit **DG Employment, social affairs and inclusion**.

Over the past decades, the pronounced increase of international migration has led many nations to confront themselves with the pressing issue of how to ameliorate and make more harmonious the engagement among people with different cultural backgrounds. If we focus on the mutual relations between Spanish and African immigrants. The observation through different schools demonstrates that the support and valorisation of cultural diversity do not damage social cohesion, they may contribute to positive intergroup relations if they are well balanced by the adaptation of immigrants to the host country's culture and by the development of a sense of belonging with the new country. Spain hosts a growing number of immigrants. We have gone from being a society that sent emigrants to welcome people coming from Africa, America or Eastern Europe

Among the many consequences of this phenomenon is the one that takes place in schools that host students from different countries and the result is multicultural classrooms

First of all, there is a need to guarantee a dignified and quality education for all of them and also to take advantage of the fact to promote values such as interculturality and respect within the educational community and thus fight against racism and xenophobia. Interculturality will allow us to detect racist behavior and help eradicate it and promote multicultural coexistence. One way to promote this culture is the realization of activities that bring us closer to the culture of these students (typical country foods, dances and why not readings and theater that brings us closer to a deeper knowledge of these cultures) without forgetting to introduce Education in values. **Advantages of the**

Benefits that offers the European Union to member countries:

Free Trade

One of the biggest benefits for the member countries of the EU is that they are free to trade with other members at no additional taxation. This helps to keep prices of goods and food down in these countries. It helps to establish business between different countries.

Culture is not lost

The EU promotes minority languages and culture and doesn't interfere with the cultural aspects of any country. This helps to ensure that, while you are part of the union, you are also part of your own country.

A Common Currency

Most of the member countries of the EU have the same type of currency, the euro. This makes doing business, traveling or moving to other countries much simpler. It also creates a sense of unity among the countries.

European citizenship

While we feel Spanish we also feel European. The EU promotes the active citizenship among European people but keepin their own feeling of belonging to their own country, active citizenship means to know all rights and duties of a citizen and also being active to promote the European citizenship.

Avoid conflicts among nations

There are strict rules to make easier avoid any problem among countries. This prevents any of these countries from getting into large political or economical problems with one another and promotes peace throughout the continent.

How this subject is illustrated in theatre in Spain

In Spain are very popular monologues whose topics usually addressed to talk about the lives of people who have had to go to work to a foreign country and also to the people who come to work in Spain. Since 1970 there is a big worry to offer students theatre based on Education in values such as equality, antiracism, gender violence, intercultural integration. The historical theater is very important, works based on the history of the 15th, 16th and 17th century has a big impact in theatre nowadays today is not only

represented in the theater but also on television. There are also small companies that offer theatre for schools to work specific fields that interest to schools.

How is the situation in Spain regarding this subject and How this subject is illustrated in theatre in Spain

Education in values is a topical issue in Spain, but it is not new, it is about training students and prepare them for a plural society in which there is no model of an ideal person, but a set of values that are accepted in a collective way. It is intended a formation in values that propitiates a multicultural and multiracial society and without borders. The theater is an exploratory tool, without frontiers that promotes the knowledge about our reality and the reflection on ourselves. Theater helps us to see reality from different angles. Characters and situations describe our own reality and allow us to see it from different points of view. The theater helps to dramatize the values and aspirations of the community and the substance of human nature. The theater must show its relation with a global, egalitarian, free and creative society, enhancing in the students their capacity for self-criticism and criticism of reality. It encourages teamwork, sociability and makes them aware of their position among peers. Assumption of roles plays is very important in the growth of moral judgment. Placing oneself in the role of another gives the student the opportunity to confront points of view, becoming a very enriching experience.

Stereotypes

Stereotypes are used in the theater especially in comedy and this also helps us to better know and understand the people from other countries. Pieces of theater seen abroad give us an idea of what other countries think about us

