



**Hayatboyu  
Öğrenme  
Programı**

## **Digital European Union: E-Book for the High Schools in Turkey**

**A project run by the European Institute of Istanbul Bilgi University in collaboration with the Istanbul Directorate of National Education, and financed by the European Commission within the framework of Jean Monnet Life Long Learning Program**

### **Project Objectives**

The project aims to contribute to increase the level of participation to EU related process and to reduce prejudices towards EU among citizens of Turkey, thus enhancing knowledge and awareness among young citizens of Turkey of issues related to European integration.

This aim will be achieved by the **publication of a digital textbook (e-book) on European integration for Turkish high school students between the ages of 15 to 18**. The project aims to develop and deliver appropriate pedagogical content and new didactic material for the teaching of European integration at the level of secondary schools students and teachers in Turkey.

**The e-book** will cover issues such as introduction to EU, Key EU policies and constructing the European citizenship and will be based on the idea of creating a sense of European citizenship based on understanding and respect for human rights and democracy, and encouraging tolerance and respect for other peoples and cultures.

An essential part of the project will be a **teacher's guide** for better use in the classroom which will also accompany the e-book. The teacher's guide will include detailed explanation of the methodology and approach. It will facilitate the guided use of the e-book in the class.

The e-book and the teacher's guide will be accessible in several ways: a web site for online use, downloadable to enable offline use and a version compatible with tablet computers which are being introduced by the Turkish Ministry of Education to all Primary and Secondary Schools (FATİH Project).

The contents will be designed in a **participatory way**; according to the needs and ways that young people prefer to learn European integration related issues

The project will be conducted in collaboration with Istanbul National Education Directorate of Province. The Directorate will provide the necessary support in order to reach students and teachers from various economic, cultural and social backgrounds for the needs analysis and testing periods of the project. Equal participation of boys and girls to these meetings as well as inclusion of students from most excluded groups such as Roma will be another issue for the invitation of participants to these meetings.

### **Project Deliverables**

The deliverables of the Project will be:

1. A **“Digital European Union: e-book for high school students in Turkish”** available both on tablet computers and PC/Laptop environment via a web site. 100 USB ports and 900 DVD copies of the E-Book will be used for dissemination purposes at the end of the project to groups with difficult access to internet.
2. Accompanying **“teachers guide for the “Digital European Union: e-book for high school students in Turkish”** will be also available in the above mentioned formats.

A participatory working approach will result in **4 workshops with groups of students and teachers** at different stages of the project for testing of the E book and the Teachers guide with representatives of the target groups. A **final conference** is planned for the presentation and dissemination of the results of the project to public opinion. A **press briefing** will be also held in parallel to the final event.

### **Project Impact**

**The e-book based on the idea of creating a sense of European citizenship, understanding and respect for human rights and democracy, and encouraging tolerance and respect for other peoples and cultures will raise awareness for the European Union at this time of difficulties in the Enlargement process and crisis.**

**At a time when no specific education material on the EU is available on Turkish High Schools curriculum, the İstanbul National Education Province Directorate will propose to place the E book on the officially recommended reading material for social sciences courses for the age bracket, thus making its dissemination sustainable.**

**The teacher’s guide will be also targeting high euroscepticism among the teachers and address many current questions.**

**Most of all, schools participating in the project were selected from different social, economic and cultural backgrounds in coordination with Education Reform Initiative of Sabanci University, Child Studies Unit and Youth Studies Unit of Istanbul Bilgi University and Istanbul National Education Directorate Province Groups from difficult socio-economic backgrounds .**

### **Project Innovation**

The project is innovative in several ways. First is the final product itself, which is a digital textbook or an e-book. The e-book will be a first of its kind in the educational system in Turkey that is prepared by a university on European integration related issues for high school students. The e-book will provide necessary information on European integration related matters such as introduction to EU, Key EU policies and constructing the European citizenship. The political background of the e-book will provide an understanding of respect to human rights, development of participatory democracy and a sense of European citizenship among high school students. The e-book will also be the first of its kind, which can be used on tablet PCs and accessible online and offline.

The second innovative character is based on the methodology of the project and the final product. The project is conducted with a participatory approach. The content and the methodology of the e-book will be identified in two steps with participation of different stakeholders. The first step, roundtable debates, will enable reflection of similar experiences and knowledge on the content and methodology. The second step will be based on the roundtable debates, a workshop with end-users, who are high school students and their teachers. Both students and teachers will be able to influence the content and the methodology. The workshops are held in order to understand the learning needs of the students and the methodologies with which they prefer to learn the subject matter. Teachers will also be involved in this workshop in order to identify best ways to use this material during their classes.

The third step will be a final meeting with 150 students and 15 teachers and will be carried out after the preparation of the first draft of the e-book. The students and the teachers will provide feedback on the content and the methodology of the e-book. For both of these workshops, participants will be invited from different economic, social and cultural background. Equal participation of boys and girls to these meetings as well as inclusion of students from most excluded groups such as Roma will be another important aspect of the working method...

The third innovative character is the open-source approach of the e-book, which means that it will be downloadable from a web site for free of charge. This aspect will enable other users who need materials for the teaching and learning of issues related to European integration to make free use of the results. The web-site and the relevance of the content with up to date information, will enable this e-book's sustainability.