

Multiple identities within Europe and its impact on schools and education

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The main questions:

- Why the re-emergence of identity issues?
- How to define the concept?
- What's new in the debate?
- What do we need to foster positive identities?

The context for the re-emergence of identity issues

- The reorganisation of the superpowers after the end of the cold war
- The development of the international commerce and the growing transnational character of business and organisations
- The technological development
- The contrasting political ideologies
 - **the values of the liberal democracies**
 - **the emergence of Islam as a political transnational political creed**
 - **the upsurge of new political movements - the greens**
- The impact of globalisation on the states and on national policies
 - **the lost of relevance of national policies and cultures**
 - **the changing roles of national governments**

New!

- The counterbalancing forces to national governments and policies, brought by globalisation
 - **exploring nationalism and ethnic policies and conflicts as new referents for identity**
 - **“the organic identity” stronger feelings than the “civic loyalties”**
- The roles of governments and of civil society
 - **to guarantee coesion within national space**
 - **to value national identities**
 - **to promote cooperation**
 - **to recognise societies as plural and multiple identities, constructed and enriched through interactive processes**
- The awareness of being a transnational space

New!

- Identity is neither innate, nor intrinsic
- Social and historical identity is built on the values of
 - **solidarity**
 - **diversity**
 - **cultural heritage**
 - **mobility**
 - **plurality**

New!

- Building up our identity depends on the way we interact and value
 - **plurality**
 - **integration**
 - **solidarity**
 - **cooperation**
- And value the self and the “selves” against the other “selves”
 - **racism**
 - **xenophobia**
 - **domination**
 - **exploration**

New!

- The identity building and the political complexities: the notion of State, territory, nation, interests, globalisation, internationalisation
- The transnational identity building is not a top down creation
- but comes out of the creation and integration of multiple communities, accepting diversity as an enriching factor

New!

- **Having the “others” at home**
- **The “main door” everywhere**

What do schools need to work towards a European identity?

- A new vision of citizenship education
- An international mindset, made up of
 - awareness of our diversity (of settings, languages, cultures)
 - understanding cultural factors in identity formation, in interpersonal relationships and in perceiving the world
 - comparing differences to understand singularities
 - generating new knowledge
- New competences for dealing with
 - mobility,
 - participation
 - and cooperation in international contexts

What competences? (knowledge, skill and attitude)

- Information
- Engagement
- Communication
- Management

Information competences

- Education systems
- Cultures
- Policies
- Priorities
- International initiatives

Engagement Competences

- Active citizenship
- Inclusion strategies
- Action-research
- Innovation and professional curiosity
- Professional communities of practice

Communication Competences

- Language skills (active and passive)
- Use of ICT
- Understanding diversity
- Alterity
- Multicultural awareness

Management competences

- Local projects
- International projects
- International relationships
- Multicultural classes
- Conflict
- Self mastery