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Citizens of Europe - at home in Europe: An experienced concept for teacher training courses

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The aim of this seminar or teaching course is to enable students to gain a basic knowledge about the possibilities of living and working in another European Union member state and about fundamental rights and opportunities that citizens share within the European Union. We achieve this through the simulation of a situation where a family is planning a longer stay in another EU member state. This is intended to initiate a learning process by confronting the students with some everyday problems and decisions that the family members may face in the course of their new situation. Reflecting on the consequences for each family member, the students work out (perhaps in group work) strategies with which to address these everyday problems.

Our method of teaching is through group work. Students use relevant literature and special EU publications, such as the brochures titled *Citizens first*. Ideally, the pupils should be able to suggest many possible solutions and answers to each question under the various topics listed below. Each group will then present its findings to the plenum. This information will then be reflected upon and discussed in a dialogue between the trainers, the presenting group and the other students.

Four topics are covered:

- Residence and employment
- Labour law and social security
- Education and vocational training
- Recognition of diplomas and degrees

We work to the following 'script':

- Introducing the general topic
- Presenting the simulation
- Brain-storming: what questions arise?
- Organising working groups in regard to the different topics. Providing students with the relevant literature
- Presentation by each group of its findings
- Reflection and additional information provided by the trainers
- 'Self-test' in order to give the students the opportunity to evaluate their newly gained knowledge

