



FROM PUZZLE PIECES TO COMMON GROUND

Workshop Guide – Unity in Diversity and European Citizenship

Developed and tested during the ICES Forum France 2026

General Information

No prior knowledge is required. Suitable for Civic Education, History, English or interdisciplinary projects.

Designed by	Students from Colegiul Național Unitarian János Zsigmond (Romania)
European value(s)	Unity in Diversity - Cultural Diversity - Tolerance - Mutual Respect
Pedagogical approach	Experiential and collaborative learning
Type of activity	Collaborative workshop combining icebreakers, role-play, group work and digital activities
Recommended age	15–18 years old
Language	English (adaptable to other languages)
Duration	50 minutes
Group size	16–20 participants working in small groups

Educational context

This workshop encourages students to explore the European principle of "**Unity in Diversity**" through collaborative activities, discussions and role-playing. By sharing experiences and working together, participants discover how cultural diversity strengthens a common European identity.

Learning objectives

- Explain the meaning of the European principle of *Unity in Diversity*.
- Distinguish between the concepts of unity and diversity.
- Identify examples of cultural diversity in Europe.
- Recognise the contribution of different European regions to a shared identity.
- Reflect on respectful ways of managing cultural differences.

Skills developed

Critical thinking
Collaboration
Communication
Intercultural awareness
Empathy



Why this activity?

This workshop combines discussion, movement, collaborative problem-solving and digital tools to help students experience the concept of **Unity in Diversity** rather than simply defining it. It can be used either to introduce this European value or to reinforce classroom learning through active participation.

1- Before the workshop

Materials

Material	Quantity	Annex
Europe puzzle pieces (4 regions of Europe)	1 piece per group	Annex 1
Role-play situation cards and questions	1 card per group	Annex 2
Presentation "Unity in Diversity" (mind-map, role-play instructions, menu template, Mentimeter link)	1	PPT
Pens and blank sheets	1 per student	—
Timer	1	—
Projector and Internet access (Mentimeter)	1	—

Classroom organisation

Item	Recommendation
Group size	4–6 students
Room layout	Tables for group work
Preparation time	10–15 min



2- Workshop procedure

Step	Time	Teacher's role	Students' task
Icebreaker game	5'	Initiate the game by setting a divide in the middle of the room. Ask questions such as "Cola or Pepsi?", showing which side of the divide matches each answer.	Move to one side or the other of the divide depending on their opinion, likes and dislikes or other personal preferences.
Mind-map	5'	Introduce the EU motto "United in diversity". Ask each group to brainstorm the words it brings to mind, then gather them on the board or slide.	In groups, list words linked to unity and diversity (respect, tolerance, cooperation, acceptance...) and agree on a short shared definition.
Role-play	10'	Cultural misunderstanding. Give each group one situation card (punctuality among friends / talking about money at the host family's dinner table). In each group, assign roles: actors, 2–3 students working on a solution, 2–3 observers with the question sheet.	Prepare and act out a short scene. Observers answer: Who was in the more difficult situation? How did the people react and what could they have done better? What could they do to resolve the situation?
Europe puzzle	20'	Give each group one puzzle piece and the menu template. Time the two exercises, then put the pieces together to rebuild the map of Europe.	Exercise 1 – "If our piece disappeared": complete the sentences (Without our region, Europe would lose... / We bring... to Europe / We are different from the rest of Europe because... / People recognise us for...), one sentence per sheet, in capital letters. Exercise 2 – "Making a menu": fill the menu with traditional dishes from the region; 2–3 students explain their choices.
Debriefing	10'	Launch the Mentimeter word cloud and lead the final discussion, linking each activity to the principle of Unity in Diversity.	Add words to the live word cloud and share what unites Europeans despite their differences.



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3- Teacher's tips

Tested during the ICES Forum, we recommend:

- groups of 4–5 students;
- print colour copies;
- avoid giving clues too early;
- allow enough time for the final discussion.

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