

Teaching File 79

Micro Republics

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At a glance

Cross-curricular links	Language of schooling and other languages, History, Social science, Art, Geography, Physical education
Level	Primary 1
Duration	4 school hours (one hour is 45 min.)
Aims	Establishing connections between languages, comparing different cultures
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping students develop a positive attitude towards other languages • Motivating students to discover new words in several languages • Helping students activate pre-existing linguistic knowledge • Helping students recognize linguistic patterns • Helping students to become aware of how a democracy works • Activating the students' fantasy to create a society

The activity “Micro Republics” has been developed within the *DELA-NOBA*-project. *DELA-NOBA – Developing the Language Awareness Approach in the Nordic and Baltic Countries* – is a three-year Nordplus Horizontal project where the objective is to disseminate and exchange results and experiences in education by examining how the Language Awareness/Éveil aux langues approach can be integrated and further developed in the Nordic/Baltic context.

The project activities involve 21 partners from seven participating Nordic/Baltic countries (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Sweden) and aim at establishing partnerships between universities and schools (primary and secondary schools) in these countries. The project gives the partners the possibility to establish a network, to adapt, develop and evaluate teaching materials for the Nordic/Baltic context, to collect information about plurilingualism in the Nordic/Baltic countries and to

compare and disseminate the results. You can find many other teaching activities that involve language awareness on the *DELA-NOBA* website: <http://www.ruc.dk/institut-ter/cuid/forskning/forskningsprojekter/dela-noba/teaching-materials/> (see Daryai-Hansen, Tonello & Meister’s article in the present volume).

The activity “Micro Republics” was developed by four teachers. As participants in the project, they created the activity at a workshop in Vilnius, Lithuania, in October 2014. A guided tour in Vilnius, where they were introduced to the constitution of the microrepublic Užupis inspired them to work with Language Awareness, intercultural competences and democracy.

Constitution Republic of Užupis

Užupio Respublikos Konstitucija [in Lithuanian]

1. Žmogus turi teisę gyventi šalia Vilnelės, o Vilnelė tekėti šalia žmogaus.
2. Žmogus turi teisę į karšią vandenį, šildymą žiemos metu ir čerpių stogą.
3. Žmogus turi teisę mirti, bet tai nėra jo pareiga.
4. Žmogus turi teisę klysti.
5. Žmogus turi teisę būti vienintelis.
6. Žmogus turi teisę mylėti.
7. Žmogus turi teisę būti nemylimas, bet nebutinai.
8. Žmogus turi teisę būti nežymus ir nežinomas.
9. Žmogus turi teisę tingėti arba nieko nedaryti.
10. Žmogus turi teisę mylėti ir globoti katę.
11. Žmogus turi teisę rūpintis šunimi iki vieno iš jų gyvenimo pabaigos.
12. Šuo turi teisę būti šunimi.
13. Katė neprivalo mylėti savo šeimiminko, bet sunkią minutę privalo jam padėti.
14. Žmogus turi teisę kartais nežinoti, ar jis turi pareigų.
15. Žmogus turi teisę abejoti, bet tai nėra jo pareiga.
16. Žmogus turi teisę būti laimingas.
17. Žmogus turi teisę būti nelaimingas.
18. Žmogus turi teisę lyli.
19. Žmogus turi teisę tikėti.
20. Žmogus neturi teisės priverianti.
21. Žmogus turi teisę suvokti savo menkumą ir didingumą.
22. Žmogus neturi teisės kėsintis į amžinybę.
23. Žmogus turi teisę suprasti.
24. Žmogus turi teisę nieko nesusprasti.
25. Žmogus turi teisę būti įvairių tautybių.
26. Žmogus turi teisę švesti arba nešvesti savo gimtadienio.
27. Žmogus privalo prisiminti savo vardą.
28. Žmogus gali dalintis tuo, ką turi.
29. Žmogus negali dalintis tuo, ko neturi.
30. Žmogus turi teisę turėti brolių, seserį ir tėvų.
31. Žmogus gali būti laisvas.
32. Žmogus atsako už savo laisvę.
33. Žmogus turi teisę veikti.
34. Žmogus turi teisę būti nesuprastas.
35. Žmogus neturi teisės padaryti kitą kaltą.
36. Žmogus turi teisę būti asmeniškias.
37. Žmogus turi teisę neturėti jokių teisų.
38. Žmogus turi teisę nebijoti.
39. Nemugalek.
40. Nesigink.
41. Nepasiduok.

Užupis' forfating [in Danish]

1. Alle har ret til at bo ved floden Vilnia, og floden Vilnia har ret til at flyde forbi enhver.
2. Alle har ret til varmt vand, opvarmning om vinteren og et takket tag.
3. Alle har ret til at dø, men det er ikke en pligt.
4. Alle har ret til at lave fejl.
5. Alle har ret til individualitet.
6. Alle har ret til kerlighed.
7. Alle har ret til ikke at blive elsket, men det er ikke et krav.
8. Alle har ret til at være forstående og berømt.
9. Alle har ret til at slappe af.
10. Alle har ret til at elske en kat og at sørge for den.
11. Alle har ret til at kigge efter en hund, indtil en af dem dør.
12. En hund har ret til at være en hund.
13. En kat behøver ikke at elske sin ejer, men den er nødt til at hjælpe i svære tider.
14. Alle har ret til undertiden være uvidende om deres pligter.
15. Alle har ret til at tvivle, men det er ingen pligt.
16. Alle har ret til at være lykkelige.
17. Alle har ret til at være ulykkelige.
18. Alle har ret til at være stille.
19. Alle har ret til at være troende.
20. Ingen har ret til at anvende vold.
21. Alle har ret til at erkende deres ubetydelighed og deres storhed.
22. Alle har ret til at grille ind i evigheden.
23. Alle har ret til at forstå.
24. Alle har ret til at ikke forstå noget.
25. Alle har ret til forskellig nationalitet.
26. Alle har ret til at fejre eller ikke at fejre deres fødselsdag.
27. Alle skal kende deres navn.
28. Alle kan dele ud af, hvad de har.
29. Ingen kan dele ud af, det de ikke ejer.
30. Alle har ret til at have brødre, søstre og forældre.
31. Alle er i stand til uafhængighed.
32. Alle er ansvarlige for deres frihed.
33. Alle har ret til at græde.
34. Alle har ret til at blive misforstået.
35. Ingen har ret til at gøre en anden person ansvarlig.
36. Alle har ret til at være individualle.
37. Alle har ret til ikke at have rettigheder.
38. Alle har ret til ikke at være bange.
39. Hold humøret oppe!
40. Så ikke igen!
41. Giv ikke opi!

Constitution Republic of Užupis [in English]

1. Everyone has the right to live by the River Vilnelė, and the River Vilnelė has the right to flow by everyone.
2. Everyone has the right to hot water, heating in winter and a tiled roof.
3. Everyone has the right to die, but this is not an obligation.
4. Everyone has the right to make mistakes.
5. Everyone has the right to be unique.
6. Everyone has the right to love.
7. Everyone has the right not to be loved, but not necessarily.
8. Everyone has the right to be undistinguished and unknown.
9. Everyone has the right to idle.
10. Everyone has the right to love and take care of the cat.
11. Everyone has the right to look after the dog until one of them dies.
12. A dog has the right to be a dog.
13. A cat is not obliged to love its owner, but must help in time of need.
14. Sometimes everyone has the right to be unaware of their duties.
15. Everyone has the right to be in doubt, but this is not an obligation.
16. Everyone has the right to be happy.
17. Everyone has the right to be unhappy.
18. Everyone has the right to be silent.
19. Everyone has the right to have faith.
20. No one has the right to violence.
21. Everyone has the right to appreciate their unimportance.
22. No one has the right to have a design on eternity.
23. Everyone has the right to understand.
24. Everyone has the right to understand nothing.
25. Everyone has the right to be of any nationality.
26. Everyone has the right to celebrate or not celebrate their birthday.
27. Everyone shall remember their name.
28. Everyone may share what they possess.
29. No one can share what they do not possess.
30. Everyone has the right to have brothers, sisters and parents.
31. Everyone may be independent.
32. Everyone is responsible for their freedom.
33. Everyone has the right to cry.
34. Everyone has the right to be misunderstood.
35. No one has the right to make another person guilty.
36. Everyone has the right to be individual.
37. Everyone has the right to have no rights.
38. Everyone has the right to not to be afraid.
39. Do not defeat.
40. Do not fight back.
41. Do not surrender.

Description of the activity

Suggested procedure

The activity is based on the constitution of the Republic of Užupis in Lithuania, which has been translated into many languages. Many of the words are recognizable and the different rules/laws are fun!

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Užupis>

Lessons

- The teacher explains what a micro nation is, tell about Užupis, show pictures, go online and talk about similar communities.

- Discussion: What is a constitution?
- Read the constitution of Užupis and discuss: Which laws are good/silly/bad etc.?
- Three activities (choose one, two or three)
- In order to complete the activities, the students have to know which languages they will work with. The Constitution of Užupis is attached in several languages. We recommend a selection of 3-5 working languages for each activity.

Activities

Quiz and swap

Each student gets one of the rules – one in the language of schooling and one in a foreign language. The student reads the rule in the foreign language. Then a classmate has to guess the language and the rule. Then they swap roles: two students pair up – one of them reads, the other guesses.

Find a pattern

5 different rules in 5 different languages. Each student gets one of the rules and has to find the students with rules in the same language.

Comparison

In groups the students are handed a copy of the constitution in their language of schooling. The rules are numbered. Then they are also handed a copy in a different language, but without the numbers. Now they have to match the rules.

After each activity we discuss in the classroom:

What have the students observed (e.g. some words were the same in the familiar language and the foreign language)?

How did they proceed in order to accomplish the task? What have they focused on? What have they concluded? What have they learned?

Extra activities/Further development

We recommend integrating other languages in this activity that are relevant in your context, including minority and regional languages, e.g. languages represented in your classroom.

Worksheet – Your own Micro Republic

Now, in groups, invent your own Micro Republic

1. Name the republic

2. Think of 5 rules for your constitution

Rule 1:

Rule 2:

Rule 3:

Rule 4:

Rule 5:

3. Write your constitution on a poster (separately)

These posters could be translated by students and/or parents in some other languages, for instance migrant languages or regional languages.

4. Invent a language

How do you say *hello, yes, no, thank you, how are you, what is your name?*

.....

5. Currency – draw the coins/banknotes

6. Make a top 5 of what you have to see in your micro republic if you were a tourist

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7. What is your national sport?

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8. Draw a map of the micro republic

9. Present your micro republic in class

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