

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002811/24
to the Commission
Michał Wawrykiewicz (PPE)
(6 December 2024)**

Subject: Educational activities to promote awareness of the rule of law among EU citizens

The rule of law is a cornerstone of the EU, ensuring the smooth functioning of democratic institutions and the protection of citizens' rights. However, increasing political polarisation, misinformation and a low level of awareness of the rule of law among citizens point to the need to intensify educational activities at EU level. Promoting awareness of the rule of law is crucial to strengthening European values and increasing trust in EU institutions.

In this connection:

1. Does the Commission plan to launch educational programmes for young people to raise awareness of the rule of law, democracy and the protection of human rights?
2. Does the Commission cooperate with NGOs and educational institutions to promote the rule of law among citizens, and if so, how?
3. What measures is the Commission taking to support public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives that increase citizens' knowledge of the importance of the rule of law in their daily lives?

Submitted: 6.12.2024

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(18 March 2025)**

Promoting a culture of the rule of law is a priority for the Commission. The best guarantee for the respect of EU common values is a robust political and legal culture supporting the rule of law in every Member State.

While respecting the competence of Member States to organise their education systems, the Commission supports the implementation of the 2018 Council Recommendation on promoting common values ⁽¹⁾.

This collaboration involves policymakers, civil society and social partners in the working group on Equality and Values in Education and Training ⁽²⁾.

Building on the 2023 Council conclusions on citizenship education ⁽³⁾, the Commission is exploring guidelines for democratic citizenship education and a competence framework tailored for the EU context.

The Erasmus+ programme ⁽⁴⁾ promotes common values through initiatives like the Jean Monnet actions, Erasmus+ Teacher Academies and the European School Education Platform.

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme ⁽⁵⁾ supports civil society organisations at all levels in the EU empowering them to enhance democratic processes and protect and promote fundamental values, such as the rule of law.

In September 2024, the Commission launched a communication campaign for the general public explaining in accessible terms why the rule of law matters in everyday life ⁽⁶⁾.

The campaign will also be hosted on the EU Learning Corner ⁽⁷⁾, which offers a range of educational materials related to fundamental values.

The Commission will explore how to further develop such activities. The annual Rule of Law Report also refers to good practices for promoting a rule of law culture at national and EU level such as the discussion on promoting a rule of law culture through education held in the Education Council in May 2024 ⁽⁸⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=oj:JOC_2018_195_R_0001

⁽²⁾ <https://education.ec.europa.eu/about-eea/working-groups>

⁽³⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C_202301339

⁽⁴⁾ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>

⁽⁵⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-programme/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-programme-overview_en

⁽⁶⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/what-rule-law_en

⁽⁷⁾ https://learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/index_en

⁽⁸⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/27db4143-58b4-4b61-a021-a215940e19d0_en?filename=1_1_58120_communication_rol_en.pdf