

EUROPEAN IDENTITY — PORTUGAL: EXPLORATION AND CULTURAL, HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Teacher: JOANA TEIXEIRA

Course Duration: one week, from Monday to Saturday, 30 hours

Number of Participants: Min. 6 – Max. 20

Course location: Porto and North of Portugal



DESCRIPTION

Required equipment: Comfortable clothes, shoes and a personal computer

As European citizens, which cultural characteristics unite us and which make us unique? With this course we intend to explore the concept of culture through contact with elements of Portuguese culture, in order to create a method of critical observation that leads us to distinguish, as citizens, the key elements of our native cultures and how to become ambassadors of them.

Portugal is a country that contains several World Heritage items. How does this process take place? What leads to the process of patrimonialization of a tradition, a monument or space? After all, what is heritage? These questions will be addressed in a practical manner, with a visit to three cities with World Heritage sites – Braga, Guimarães and Porto.

Important in the approach to the birth of a European identity is the Way of St. James, considered a European Cultural Itinerary since 1987. We will delve into its origins and how it generated uniformity in the European cultural landscape that still endures today.

This course will show how it is possible through the heritage of a place to create an historical narrative and how it can be used as an alternative education tool that captures the attention of students and turns them into ambassadors of their origins.

Not forgetting, however, that the challenge of the 21st century is to promote tolerance between peoples, so through practical cases we will see how it is possible to foster a sense of European identity in students. We will address the issue of cities that were once European capitals in the North of Portugal, namely for culture, sports and youth, and how this has strengthened ties between Europeans.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Learning strategies for the promotion and enhancement of cultural heritage at local, regional and cross-border level through contact with various heritage elements
- To learn more about Portuguese culture in an European context through the contact with different contexts (?) of the North of Portugal
- Understanding the Portuguese context before and after joining the European Union
- To understand European institutions and how they manage territory
- To promote personal interpretation and critical thinking on what connects our cultures in the European identity, in order to be able to use those tools in a classroom context with students

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PROGRAM

Monday

- Presentation dynamics;
- Introduction of teachers and schools;
- Introduction of the course;
- Games about European Union

Tuesday

- Braga

The rivalry with Santiago de Compostela, the creation of a Jerusalem in the Sacromonte: morning guided tour to the historical centre of the city which influenced the culture of the Euroregion Galicia-North Portugal; afternoon visit to the Bom Jesus do Monte Sanctuary, with the narration of the “Passion of Christ”

Wednesday

- Guimarães

Cradle of the Portuguese nationality and obligatory place of passage on the Way of St. James: guided tour in the morning, with entrance to the Guimarães Castle; free afternoon

Thursday

- Viana do Castelo

The traditional costumes and the assistance on the Portuguese Way of St. James: guided tour of the historical centre of the city, with entrance at the Costume Museum and at the Old Pilgrims' Hospital

Friday

- Porto

The sea routes and contact with cultures from different countries, the city of the people: guided tour of the historic centre, with emphasis on the medieval heart of the city, divided between the Cathedral and Ribeira areas. With entrance at the Portuguese Centre of Photography and Museum Extension of the Douro

Saturday

- Porto

Valuing local culture: bridge boat circuit on the Douro River;

- Port wine tasting;
- Handing out of certificates (with group photo);
- Group lunch