

Activity Template 2 → Active Citizenship

A comparative geography workshop and quiz followed by the collaborative creation of infographics to analyze and compare cultural, gastronomic, and environmental aspects of Italy, Finland, and Belgium.

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Activity objectives:

- To promote intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding between Italian, Finnish, and Belgian students.
- To compare and contrast different European cultures, traditions, and lifestyles.
- To develop data synthesis and visual communication skills.
- To foster collaborative teamwork in a multinational environment.

General framework: This activity is linked with *Active Citizenship* and European integration, aiming to build a shared sense of identity through the comparison of national realities.

Cross-curricular subjects involved:

- **Geography:** Comparative analysis of European territories and demographics.
- **Civics:** Global awareness and European citizenship.
- **Arts:** Design and creation of physical infographics.

Material needed to develop the activity:

- Computers and tablets to search for information.
- Large paper sheets, markers, and craft materials.
- Fact sheets and digital resources about Italy, Finland, and Belgium.
- General knowledge quiz materials (digital platforms like Kahoot and printed sheets).

Timing: Approx. 2 hours (morning session).

Groups: Mixed international groups consisting of Italian, Finnish, and Belgian students (4-5 students per group to ensure diverse perspectives).

Procedure to develop the activity:

1. **Ice-breaking Quiz (30 mins):** A fun, competitive general knowledge quiz on geography and culture to test students' initial knowledge of the three countries.
2. **Research & Comparison (30 mins):** Groups discuss specific themes (food, environment, daily life, school systems) and identify similarities and differences between their home countries.
3. **Infographic Creation (45 mins):** Students synthesize their findings into a visual infographic, focusing on clear data representation and creative layout.

4. **Presentation (15 mins):** Groups present their work to the class, highlighting the most surprising cultural facts they discovered.

Competences and skills to be acquired:

- **Cultural awareness and expression:** Valuing one's own culture while respecting others.
- **Social and civic competence:** Collaborative problem-solving in a diverse team.
- **Digital competence:** Using technology to organize and present information.
- **Critical thinking:** Analyzing and comparing complex social and environmental data.

Pitfalls and strengths:

- **Strengths:** High level of interaction; the quiz format created an energetic atmosphere; visual results provided a tangible "memory" of the exchange.
- **Pitfalls:** Consolidating different types of data in a short time; ensuring all three nationalities contributed equally to the research phase.

Pictures:

