



## **Workshop on the Robert Schuman Declaration**

### **Target Audience: European Youth, 11 years or older**

## **"The EU in your everyday life - shaping the future of Europe "**

### **1. General Information**

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#### **Context:**

This workshop invites students to explore the European Union by reflecting on its origins, current relevance, and future direction, Inspired by Robert Schuman's visionary declaration in 1950. Schuman's ideas serve as a starting point for students to think critically and creatively about the role of the EU in today's world.

#### **Goals:**

- o Creative engagement with the future of the EU
- o Interactive approach to the importance of the EU in one's own life / everyday life
- o Open discussion and direct exchange opportunities with experts

### **2. Procedure**

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#### **1. Impulse Session: „What does this have to do with Robert Schumann” (approx. 30 Minutes)**

##### **a. Introcuton and Workshop Overview**

- Welcome by the workshop leaders (and experts, if applicable)
- Brief overview of the workshop structure and objectives
- Framing: Today's session is about exploring the EU — its origins, its role in our lives, and its future — with Robert Schuman's vision as our starting point

##### **b. Video Input**

A good example for a Video that can be used:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01fPIhjER5Y>

##### **c. Warm-Up Activity – “Where Do We Encounter the EU in Everyday Life?”**

- Use the "Position Line" method (e.g. strongly agree → strongly disagree) to explore different perspectives and experiences)
- Encourage students to reflect on areas like travel, study, work, consumer rights, environment, digital policy, etc.
- Students can add their own examples and comment on the ones in the video



d. Transition to Group Work

- Current issues in Europe (e.g. climate change, digital transformation, social cohesion, war).
- Democratic processes like citizens' consultations, European elections, or youth initiatives

*Note: End this section with a short explanation of the two group work stations and how students will choose one.*

**2. Group work: "Influencers & visionaries of the EU" (approx. 45 minutes)**

Info: Students can choose which station they would like to work at. If the group is large each station can be supported by 1 workshop leader and/or one expert from the field to assist with the development of the content. Materials for documenting the results will be provided by the leaders (these can be downloaded from the projects website, <https://acteu.org/>). At each station, small groups of approximately 4–8 students will work together.

**Station 1 – #EU-Influencer**

**How would you present your ideas for the future of Europe today on Instagram or TikTok?**

What kind of content would you focus on — possibly different from Schuman's focus?  
How could you reach your target audience on Instagram or TikTok?

→ **Outcome:**

At this station, students will develop a **fictional Instagram or TikTok campaign**.

The results will be documented on a large poster (template provided). Students can also work with **multimedia elements**, such as sample images and video ideas. They will be encouraged to develop digital content that can be shared during the final discussion.

**Station 2 – Schuman Declaration 2.0**

**Robert Schuman as a visionary:** What would a new Schuman Declaration look like in the year 2025? Which visions for the future are especially relevant for people in Europe today? What challenges must the EU face in the coming decades? What opportunities could a modern "Schuman Declaration 2.0" offer?

→ **Outcome:**

At this station, students will develop a fictional new Schuman Declaration. The results will be documented on a large poster (template provided). To help them develop their own declarations, students will also receive an excerpt from the original Schuman Declaration as a reference.

**3. Short break (approx. 10 Minutes)**

The workshop facilitators will hang up all the posters around the room so that they can be viewed together afterward. During this time, all students have the opportunity to take a short break.



#### 4. Discussion (approx. 30 Minutes)

All students and workshop leaders take part in a short gallery walk to view the posters created during group work. Students are encouraged to share their observations with the group, focusing on similarities and differences between the posters and the visions they represent.

##### **Perspectives on the Posters**

If available, guest experts from practice or policy can offer brief input based on the following guiding questions:

- Which ideas from the Instagram/TikTok campaign or the Schuman Declaration 2.0 seem particularly future-oriented, and why?
- Which of these themes or messages are relevant in real EU-related work or debates?
- Can organizations working within the EU learn something from these student-created "products"?

Note: This input can also be provided by the workshop leaders alone if no external experts are present.

##### **Final Group Discussion**

A concluding discussion gives students the opportunity to ask final questions, reflect on what they've learned, and exchange thoughts with each other — and with any experts present — about how their ideas connect to real-world challenges and opportunities in the EU today.

#### 5. Conclusion (approx. 10 minutes)

To help students stay engaged beyond this workshop, teachers are encouraged to give a one-page handout with suggestions on how to get involved in current EU-related discussions and youth initiatives.

Because opportunities vary from country to country, the handout should be adapted by teachers to include local platforms, youth programs, or reliable sources where students can learn more about the EU and its future.



### 3. Needed Material

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Pre-designed poster from the ActEU project are provided for both group stations. These should be printed in A2 format and can be filled out by the students during the group work phase. Ideally, felt-tip pens or markers should be available to allow students to work creatively and clearly. All groups can optionally be provided with the original Schumann Declaration printed out on a piece of paper.

The workshop can be led by a single teacher or facilitator. For larger groups, we recommend having 2–3 workshop leaders to support the group work more effectively. If available, experts from practice or relevant fields can also be invited to enrich the discussion — but their participation is optional, not required.