civitas international programs

The Center for Civic Education’s Civitas International Programs bring exemplary civic education curricula to students worldwide in partnership with organizations in the United States and in eighty countries. This unique network of educators, civil society organizations, educational institutions, and governmental agencies has worked for more than a decade to develop quality curricular materials and train teachers throughout Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East. Many countries in the Civitas network collaborate in unique partnerships using model civic education programs from the United States and other countries to develop programs that address their specific civic education needs. The objectives of Civitas International Programs include the following:

**EXCHANGE OF IDEAS**

Foster collaboration between educators, government officials, and private-sector leaders from the United States and around the world through networks.

Provide opportunities for sharing experiences and best practices through workshops, conferences, newsletters, online discussions, exchange visits, and events such as

- The World Congress on Civic Education
- International Project Citizen showcases
- Regional and thematic programs

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Introduce educators to exemplary curricular materials and teacher-training programs developed in the United States and other participating nations that utilize interactive, student-centered methodologies.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

Facilitate the creation, adaptation, and implementation of sustainable civic education programs in participating countries.

Foster the institutionalization of comprehensive civic education programs by developing standards, curricular frameworks, courses, curricular materials, teacher education programs, leadership training, assessment programs, and teacher credentialing requirements.

**RESEARCH & EVALUATION**

Promote independent research and evaluation projects to determine the effects of civic education programs on teacher instruction and student knowledge, skills, and dispositions.
U.S. and international civic education centers are matched in long-term partnerships based on common goals. Partners share ideas, resources, and expertise, and are able to bring a more global perspective to their own countries’ civic education programs.
Special Projects

International civic education organizations partner directly with the Center to implement civic education projects in their countries. They contribute to the worldwide exchange of ideas through web-based discussions, delegation visits, and regional and global meetings.

Albania  
Algeria  
Argentina  
Bahrain  
Bangladesh  
Cambodia  
China  
Egypt  
Germany  
Guatemala  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Indonesia  
Iraq  
Israel  
Japan  
Kenya  
Kosovo  
Lebanon  
Macedonia  
Mali  
Malaysia  
Mexico  
Montenegro  
Namibia  
Nepal  
Oman  
Pakistan  
Paraguay  
Philippines  
Qatar  
Saudi Arabia  
South Korea  
Sri Lanka  
Taiwan  
Thailand  
Tunisia  
Turkey  
Vietnam  
West Bank and Gaza  
Yemen

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curricular programs

Program partners develop curricular materials to meet their civic education needs. These materials may address specific societal issues such as reconciliation, conflict mitigation, gender inequity, participation, and human rights. In addition, U.S. and international educators collaborate on the development of lessons in comparative government for U.S. students.

Many international partners have also chosen to adapt curricular materials originally developed in the United States. The most widely adapted materials include the Project Citizen and Foundations of Democracy texts developed by the Center for Civic Education.

From left to right: Active Classroom, Russia; Project Citizen, Mali; Foundations of Democracy, Bahrain; The Citizen and the Constitution, Colombia

"I have been waiting for twenty-five years for a student-centered program like Project Citizen. This will forever change my teaching methods."
TEACHER, SERBIA

Project Citizen is a project-based curriculum that provides youth and adults with the knowledge and skills required to monitor and influence public policy. Participants develop support for democratic principles and values and feelings of political efficacy.

Foundations of Democracy is a series for K–12 students focusing on concepts fundamental to democratic citizenship, including authority, privacy, responsibility, and justice. Participants are challenged to discuss the proper scope and limits of authority, utilize democratic procedures to make decisions and manage conflict, and make informed choices.

"Students 13-14 years old stood before the Municipal Council and presented their problems, findings and solutions....Adults in the room were astonished at the level of maturity displayed by the students....What shook them was the fact that their youngsters were serving as researchers and agents of change."
GABRIELA BOLAÑOS, U.S. EMBASSY, COSTA RICA

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The Center for Civic Education is fortunate to collaborate with a number of institutions whose expertise and experience contribute to the success of Center activities. Among these institutions are the following:

- **American Federation of Teachers**
- **National Council for Economic Education**
- **National Council for International Visitors**
- **National Council for Social Studies and State Affiliates**
- **National Conference of State Legislators**
- **Organization of American States**
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