

SETTING UP AN INFOPOINT

EPAS ACTIVITY SHEET

PURPOSE

Communication is at the heart of the European Parliament Ambassador Schools (EPAS) scheme. EPAS aims to give young people the tools and knowledge to:

- Understand how the European Union (EU) and European Parliament affect their daily lives
- Influence decision-making in the EU and European Parliament
- Feel connected to people and cultures across Europe
- Find out more about the issues that interest them

A central tool in doing this is an InfoPoint. As the name suggests this is somewhere people in your school/college community can get information. There is no set format for what it should look like, or what information it should contain, but to be effective it should be:

ENGAGING

Does it look interesting? Is it somewhere people will see it?

UP-TO-DATE

How often is it updated? Who has responsibility to do this?

ENCOURAGING FURTHER ENQUIRY

Are there ideas for how you can find out more (e.g. links to relevant websites)?

RELEVANT TO THE EU AND YOUR SCHOOL/COLLEGE

Are the things on it issues people at your school/college care about? Do they have a European dimension?

BACKGROUND INFO

TYPES OF INFOPOINT

Whilst lots of schools and colleges set up their InfoPoint on display boards, this is by no means the only way it can be done. You could set up a website, or social media channel. You might emulate the InfoPoints in Brussels or at Europe House in London and have art exhibitions in your corridors, featuring different EU countries or themes.

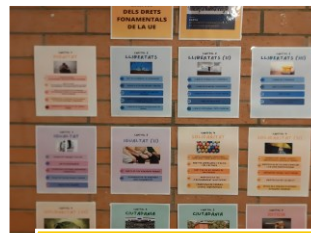
EXAMPLE INFOPOINTS



InfoPoint with a focus on languages



InfoPoint from Spain with leaflets



InfoPoint from Spain focussing on values



InfoPoint sharing country info



InfoPoint looking at current issues



InfoPoint sharing the history of the EU

USEFUL WEBSITES

- The European Parliament: www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en
- EU opportunities for young people: youth.europarl.europa.eu
- Taking action together: together.eu
- Lots of other links: epas.org.uk/useful-websites/

ACTIVITY

1. Chose your InfoPoint team. There don't need to be many of you (maybe 2-4), but you need to have an interest in display, design, and research.
2. Decide on your format:
 - Display boards
 - Website/web page
 - Social media channel
 - Something else?
3. Choose what sort of information you will display – *it could be more than one of these*:
 - Information about what the European Parliament is working on
 - Information about different EU member states
 - Information about current affairs affecting the UK and EU
 - Something else?
4. Decide how often it needs to be updated: weekly, monthly, termly?
5. Agree who oversees that it gets updated: they don't need to do the updating, but they need to chase the people who are doing that week/month/term's display.
6. Get permission from your school/college – your Senior Ambassador will tell you who to speak to. You need to agree:
 - Where you will put your InfoPoint
 - What you will post on it
 - If it needs to be checked before being added
7. Get working on your first display.

GOOD LUCK!