

## Day of Education for Democratic Culture in VET schools

### Serbia

[www.prosveta.gov.rs](http://www.prosveta.gov.rs)

#### DESCRIPTION

In Serbia, VET schools apply a **whole-school approach** involving a **range of activities that engage all stakeholders throughout the academic year**. The choice of the activities depends primarily on the type of vocational school and its curricula as well as regional context, available resources and expected goals. Among these activities, **the Day of Education for Democratic Culture is an annual event which aims to, emphasize the importance of fostering a democratic culture in schools through diverse forms such as plays, thematic lessons, meetings, performances in public and collaborative school activities**. This event can be implemented as curricular or extracurricular activity or as a local community initiative.

Celebrating the Day of Education for Democratic Culture provides **visibility and information about the school activities to develop CDC and contributes to improve the quality of education by promoting a democratic culture in the formal education system**, also on the basis of standards and practices of the Council of Europe.

Examples of activities organised for the Day of Education for Democratic Culture:

- The Secondary school "Miloje Vasic" in Veliko Gradiste is a VET school with a focus on tourism and catering. Because of its proximity to Romania and with the presence of the Vlach ethnic minority in the region, students **prepared traditional Vlach dishes together with the members of a local Vlach association**. This activity aimed to strengthen **the sensibility and openness of students and teachers towards different beliefs, worldviews, and cultural practices, as well as valuing cultural diversity different from one's own**.
- The School Team for CDC in the Technical School of Vlasotince organised the **"Pictures of my Homeland" competition**. This extra-curricular activity involved students from Serbia, Germany, North Macedonia, Poland, Albania, Montenegro, and Bulgaria with the aim of **developing critical understanding of the world, openness to other cultures, cooperation skills and empathy**. Through this activity, both students and the local community were encouraged to view other cultural affiliations, differences and diversity to be celebrated and cherished.