

The experimental subject Ethics in Gymnasium and VET schools

Slovak Republic

DESCRIPTION

In 2023, a new content to the **school subject Ethics** was experimentally introduced in various **Gymnasium and VET schools**. This new curriculum approach focuses on important topics such as **values, democratic values, active citizenship, academic honesty, critical thinking, and human rights**.

The subject does not rely on traditional grades, and it only uses **formative assessment, focusing on discussing different topics with students, encouraging them to express their opinions, using their argumentation skills**. The topics are thought through various types of activities such as **didactic games, discussions, case studies and analytical essays**, with the goal of **connecting theoretical knowledge with the daily practice**.

For example, the themes related to active citizenship are taught through an activity where students research upcoming legislative changes in their town: they analyse the selected law proposal; prepare suggestions to improve this law by providing arguments; explore how they can submit these suggestions and, if it is possible, the submit them. Afterward, they track the whole process, understanding why their suggestion would be accepted or rejected.

Each theme in this subject includes activities where **students are actively involved, working individually or in teams**, by applying theoretical knowledge in common daily life.

The objective of this subject, taught **once a week throughout the entire school year**, is to **increase awareness among students from different types of high schools about democratic values, human rights, active citizenship, academic honesty and critical thinking**.