

## **Improvement of Religious Education and Religion courses in European elementary and high schools**

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**We emphasize that education nowadays should provide all the needed characteristics of a tolerant society, especially regarding the religious perspective, as the relationships between people of different beliefs are becoming worse because of the lack of cultural understanding. Thus, following the EUPAS Political Programme and taking into consideration the importance of a religious education in some specific cases or areas, we propose to analyse another ways of educating tolerance concerning this subject. As in the majority of cases religious conflicts are generated by a lack of mutual understanding between people of different faiths, caused by an insufficient amount of informing.**

We suppose that the most efficient way to occur this problem is hidden in a more complex course of religious education, which should offer the minimum amount of elementary knowledge concerning the rest of the most common existent religions in Europe.

Taking into consideration that:

The additional educational material of History of Religions implementation is suggested only for those institutions which provide elementary courses of Religions or Religious Education. Thus, in case of an existing course of Religious Education the additional materials will bring pupils to a better level of understanding other confessions.

The meant of the suggested complementary material regarding the History of Religions isn't to substitute the existing one, but to adapt it according to the multicultural values of the modern society not violating our cultural background. The additional knowledge would be gained through enriching content of books as well as enabling practical lessons held by priests or professors in the very religion object.

The new material will offer the necessary knowledge and background in order to facilitate the mutual perception between people of different confessions.

The level of religious extremism which is caused by the lack of objectivity and misinformation will be ceased due the additional course of history of religion.

The purpose of the additional course is to offer more complex information regarding religions and to teach students and pupils the values and origins of the most common religions in Europe.

The additional course is conceived only as a supplementary material for the existing courses of Religions and Religious Education, which of course imply some changes in their curriculums.

Moreover, the project doesn't have to imply big expenses, as it doesn't need other changes than the curricular ones, or sometimes may be - a specialised teacher. However, the existence of such courses at the universities facilitates its' implementations from the financial, methodological and logistical points of view.

It is important to mention that our suggestion do not support political correctness or other multicultural concepts, as its' main purpose is to educate an objective society and to cease the level of discrimination and religious conflicts caused by misunderstandings between people of different confessions through education and knowledge, by facilitating the mutual understanding built on the materials of the additional material.

Bearing in mind all these points, EUPAS calls upon all European Parliament members, especially the Committee of Culture and Education of EP and EPP Officials to take the implementation of this statement into account, especially regarding elementary schools, in order to form a democratic and open-minded and peaceful education based on objectivity and common understanding.

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[This resolution was forwarded to every ministry of education across Europe. We encourage every educational responsible to take act on it.](#)