

Our education system is not a modern one. It was developed in the 1800s for authoritarian societies in need of workers, soldiers and citizens who would allow themselves to be directed by "others who knew better".

## Out of Date

Schools today are much friendlier places but the general principles have not changed much: children still find themselves in a system where their personal interests and opinions are almost completely ignored, where democracy and equality in community is rarely practiced.

### The result?

Studies show that, within just two weeks, students forget 80% of what they have learned. The dropout rate in the EU is almost 15%. Companies complain that graduates are neither creative nor innovative. More and more children are given medication to help them get through the school day.

There must be a better way.

## What is EUDEC?

EUDEC is a non-profit organisation that promotes democratic education as a sensible educational model for all democratic states. Its members are individuals, schools and institutions throughout Europe with decades of experience in democratic education.

## EUDEC pools this knowledge and shares it in the form of:

- online information about democratic education in theory and practice ([www.eudec.org](http://www.eudec.org))
- publications
- conferences, meetings and seminars
- school partnerships and exchanges
- opportunities to visit schools
- a thriving, mutually supportive network of schools, universities, organisations and start-up groups.

### To find out more, please visit our website or contact us at:

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## DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION:

# Transforming schools into democratic learning communities.



*Children deserve a democratic education.*

*Modern democratic states need democratic education.*



## A better way: Democratic Education

**Why do schools in democratic states have to be undemocratic and hierarchical? They don't.**

Educational science has proven: the best way to learn is by following our own curiosity and interests.

In democratic schools and universities, this is just what happens. Free, self-motivated learning. Natural curiosity is not smothered, but nurtured.

**The result: motivated, innovative, lifelong learners.**

**“Sounds interesting. How does it work?”**

## There are two pillars of democratic education

### **Self-determined learning**

Students in democratic schools and universities attend classes, just like in conventional schools. The difference is, they choose to attend.

And a lot of learning happens outside of classrooms as well: perusing the Internet, playing games, volunteering, doing projects and talking with friends and teachers.

**The result: tolerant, open-minded, responsible individuals who know how to express their opinions and listen to those of others; well-educated, active citizens for a modern democratic society.**

### **A community of equality and mutual respect**

The best setting for learning – or working or living, for that matter – is one in which our rights and opinions are respected.

Democratic schools have school meetings in which all members of the community have an equal vote, regardless of age or status. Students and teachers can sit together as equals to discuss and vote on school rules, curricula, projects, the hiring of staff and even budgetary matters.