

NETHERLANDS

Educating young citizens in the Netherlands

ProDemos was established in 2010 as an organisation to promote and support democracy and the Rule of Law in the Netherlands, with adolescents as one of the main target groups. One of the main elements of the ProDemos approach is that we focus on 'on site learning', involving a direct encounter with the phenomena being studied. Examples are practising democratic skills in or close to our centres of government, parliament, local councils, etc., combining guided tours, meetings with 'real politicians', simulation games and workshops. It was a deliberate choice not only to focus on democracy, but to always include the rule of law, to emphasize that a democratic system under the rule of law is more than just simple majoritarian decision-making. Equal rights, an inclusive approach towards minority viewpoints and separation of powers are essential elements of our democratic system. The main challenge is to find approaches and methods in education to emphasize that a democratic system under the Rule of Law is more than just simple majoritarian decision-making. Democracy takes more than 51% of the votes.