



★ NETWORKING EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

Invitation to a New Year's Reception

28 January 2014

Brussels, Belgium

*Venue: Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union,
Rue Montoyer 47, 1000 Brussels*



Media Partner:





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Background and aims

NECE is a trans-European initiative for networking citizenship education in Europe promoted by the Federal Agency for Civic Education/ bpb (Germany) and supported by its European partner organisations, the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture (bmukk), ProDemos - House for Democracy and the Rule of Law (the Netherlands) as well as the Center for Citizenship Education (Poland), the Civic Education Center (Czech Republic) and the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia).

The NECE initiative invites Members of the European Parliament, media representatives as well as practitioners and stakeholders in citizenship education to discuss the following issues in the run-up of the European Parliament elections 2014:

- What is the value of citizenship education in Europe today in the light of an obvious crisis of trust in the European project and the rise of populist 'anti-European' parties and movements in many member states?
- How can trans-national networks of citizenship education help to increase voter participation in the European Parliament elections 2014?
- How can investment in and political support for citizenship education be organised in the coming years?

Recommendations and conclusions of the NECE Conference 2013 in The Hague (the Netherlands) on these questions will be presented and discussed in Brussels as well as four scenarios on the future of the EU in 2030.

Doris Pack, MEP and well-known Dutch publicist Paul Scheffer will be present to discuss their ideas with the audience. The transnational initiative "Vote Match Europe" (based on a VAA, which was used by 13 million people during the last parliamentary elections in Germany) will present the first outcomes of their project.

The goal of this evening is to spark a dialogue between citizenship education and European policymakers.

Please note: The New Year's Reception will be in English without simultaneous translation.



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Programme

Moderation of the NECE New Year's Reception:

Almut Möller, German Council on Foreign Relations (Germany)

6.30 pm

Registration

7.00 pm

Words of Welcome

Rainer Steffens, Head of the Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union (Belgium)

Thomas Krüger, President of the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Germany)

Presentation of the NECE Film Clip "Scenarios on the EU 2030"

7.15 pm

Statement

Citizens' Participation in the EP Elections 2014 and the Future of the European Union

Doris Pack, Member of the European Parliament (Germany)

7.45 pm

Panel Discussion

with

Alicja Pacewicz, Vice President of the Center for Citizenship Education (Poland)

Doris Pack, Member of the European Parliament (Germany)

Paul Scheffer, Publicist and Author (the Netherlands)

8.15 pm

The NECE Initiative and trans-national co-operation projects: Presentation of Vote Match Europe 2014

Vote Match Europe (www.votematch.eu) is one of the most famous Voter Application Advice Systems. As an educational tool, it has the potential to promote European citizenship, to better inform citizens about elections for the European Parliament, to teach voters about the programmatic differences between the contesting parties, and to increase the voter turnout. In 2009 Vote Match Europe started for the first time.

presented by **Pamela Brandt**, Federal Agency for Civic Education (Germany) & **Jochum de Graaf**, ProDemos - House for Democracy and the Rule of Law (the Netherlands)

8.30 pm

Reception & Presentation of NECE Co-operation Projects