

Scenario-Workshop as a preparation for the NECE Conference 2013

*“The European Union and the promise of democracy:
What can Citizenship Education and Civil Society contribute?”*

7 - 9 July 2013
The Hague, the Netherlands

Biographies



Marinko Banjac has been a teaching assistant in Political Theory at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana since 2007. He has held the position of a researcher at the same faculty since September 2009. His research interests include political theory, theories of citizenship as well as (im)migration, education and multiculturalism in the European Union. He has written several articles on these topics. He was one of the leading researchers on a major citizenship education project co-funded by the European Social Fund, entitled Citizen(ship) in a New Age. Currently, he is involved in the implementation of the LLP project (Jean Monnet Action

(KA 1) - Information and Research Activities for "Learning EU at School") entitled "Engaging the Youth - Building the Future".



Anita Baschant, project consultant at the agency lab concepts and deputy manager of the Berlin office, studied Pedagogic and Cultural Studies at the University of Karlsruhe. During her studies she worked as a graduate assistant at the Institute of Pedagogy, was a trainee at the "Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg" and initiated and organised several projects for students of Pedagogy and Cultural Studies. As project consultant Anita Baschant supports lab concepts specifically in the fields of European education debates and international co-operation. She is also responsible for the design of youth formats and events, as well as for the co-ordination and management

of projects within the framework of the NECE initiative.



Dr. Helle Becker is a culture and education expert who worked at the international level until 1987. Since 1995 she has worked as freelance researcher and author, project manager and trainer with the office "Expertise & Kommunikation für Bildung" (expertise and communication for education) in Essen. Her areas of expertise include theory of education, cultural education and education for democratic citizenship, European youth and education policy and practice, co-operation of schools and youth work. Helle Becker has written for a number of periodicals and news agencies as columnist and reporter. She has lectured at a variety of universities.



Nina Belyaeva is professor at the National Research University "Higher School of Economics" (HSE) and President of the Interlegal Foundation of Political & Legal Research, enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe. She was also a member of the Organising Committee of the 1st International Conference on Public Policy in Grenoble, 26-28 June, 2013.



Hanne Bikker is senior communications officer on Europe at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is currently working on the Dutch story about the how and why of European cooperation. Before, he worked on topics such as transparency, the networking government, EP-elections and the Dutch referendum in 2005 in the ministries of General Affairs of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. He has a B.A. in Economics and an M.A. in Public Administration.



Boris Blazevic is about to finish his Master in EU Studies at the Centre International de Européene in Nizze and Berlin. He was a trainee in the GIN-Top Programme (GRAWE Internal Trainee Program) in Graz, Austria. While working as a project manager and as a member of Club Alpbach Croatia, he organised the conference *EFA-Network: SEE Regional meeting 2011*, fundraising and PR activities. He speaks German, English, Croatian and a bit of French.



Rinze Broekema works as a programme supervisor and guest lecturer at ProDemos – House for Democracy and the Rule of Law in the Netherlands. He is a historian with a main focus on international relations and a lawyer in the field of public international law. In the recent past he has worked for a member of the Dutch parliament and at the Dutch embassy in Beijing, China.



Petr Čáp is a professional civic education trainer and evaluator. Currently he is director of the Civic Education Centre at Masaryk University in Brno (Czech Republic). At the Civic Education Centre he focuses on advocacy of civic education within the Czech system of further adult education and on the development of educational programmes to mitigate social tensions in socially deprived areas.



Dr. René Cuperus is director for International Relations and senior research fellow at the Wiardi Beckman Foundation, think tank of the Dutch Labour Party (PvdA). He is also a member of the Scientific Committee of the Paris-based think tank “Terra Nova” and active within the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) in Brussels. René Cuperus co-founded the Berlin-based Forum ‘Scholars for European Social Democracy’, a European network of centre-left think tanks and political foundations. Also, he writes a column for the Dutch daily newspaper De Volkskrant and contributes a blog to Social Europe Journal (www.social-europe.eu), E-journal linked to the London School of Economics (LSE).



Nelly Corbel is currently working at the American University of Cairo (AUC) as the University Civic Engagement programmes manager of the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement. She has developed a variety of educational programmes at AUC in intercultural dialogue and ethical leadership. In this capacity Nelly Corbel has also participated in drafting recommendations for a variety of local and international organisations on youth, volunteerism and the democratic transition.



Jochum de Graaf is senior project manager at ProDemos – House for Democracy and the Rule of Law in the Netherlands. From the beginning, in 1989, he was involved in the development of “StemWijzer”, the very successful political preference test in the Netherlands. Besides this he is involved in developing other e-tools, such as the “Begrotingswijzer” (Budget Maker) and the organisation of events like the Night of Dictatorship and the Day of Democracy. Together with partner organisations in Germany, Great Britain, Latvia, Poland, Austria, Bulgaria, he is, under the auspices of NECE, working on the network Vote Match Europe aimed at the EP elections in 2014.



Jennifer de Nijs is consultant for the European Youth Forum. There she exclusively works on the League of Young Voters in Europe project. The League aims to inform young people about the European Parliament and the content of its upcoming elections in a nonpartisan way. She previously worked for Caritas Luxembourg in Kosovo, where she developed strategies for gender equality and peace building projects in the Balkan region. There, she also participated in several election-monitoring missions by the OSCE and the EU Special Representative's offices. Jennifer de Nijs holds degrees in European Politics (University of Sussex) and in International Studies and Diplomacy (SOAS).



Paul de Ruijter has been involved in international strategy projects with clients ranging from cities, NGO's, ministries, industry associations, multinationals and global institutions through De Ruijter Strategy. He is a guest lecturer for Nyenrode University, Delft University and SIOO and is a renowned speaker at international congresses and seminars. He is also a co-author of several books, such as one about business opportunities in South-Africa (1992), about Industrial Policy in the Netherlands (1999) or a book about scenarios at Rabobank (2004).



Leticia Diez Sanchez has studied Law in Budapest, Bristol, Saint Petersburg and Granada. She has worked as a trainee in the office of a Czech MEP in Brussels and is continuing her studies with an MSc in Politics and Government in the EU at the London School of Economics. She has also volunteered for Amnesty International in both Bristol and Granada. Leticia Diez Sanchez joined FutureLab Europe in 2012.



Dr. Karlheinz Dürr, M.A., is a former head of the section “Europe” at the State Centre for Civic Education Baden-Wuerttemberg (retd. 2012). Since 2011, he is an Adult Education Assessment Expert for Grundtvig applications to the EACEA, Brussels, a freelance seminar facilitator for the European Academy of Otzenhausen and guest lecturer at the National Academy for Administration, Kiev (Ukraine). Also, he is a former German national coordinator for the Council of Europe's project “Education for Democratic Citizenship”.



Laura Fruhmann is a political sociologist with a background in European history and cultural anthropology. Her Master thesis on concepts to help bridge the gap between the EU and its citizens was published in 2011. After graduation she worked in several fields where she put her passion for Europe and extensive knowledge of the European Union into practice. Laura Fruhmann is coordinator for European Alternatives in the Netherlands. As such, she maintains contact with the board and network of the organisation, and is also responsible for overseeing the many (trans-)national projects of the local group in Amsterdam and the development of activities that support the mission of European Alternatives.



Petra Grüne has been in charge of the Federal Agency for Civic Education’s Events Department since 2005. She has been working at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb since 1991 in a number of different fields and positions. Together with Christoph Müller-Hofstede, Petra Grüne is responsible for the NECE initiative promoted by the Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb.



Lene Håhr Jensen is a student at the University of Aarhus, Denmark. She is currently finishing her masters degree in Art History with a special interest in the cross field between art and sustainability. She is a project coordinator at Culture/Futures Clubs, associated with the Danish Cultural Institute in Copenhagen and in fall 2013, she will attend ArtEpi, a green performing city in Jutland, Denmark.



Mona Hinz has been working as programme officer for the focus area "Promoting Europe" since March 2011. Prior to joining the Robert Bosch Stiftung in 2008, she studied International Relations and European Studies (Master) in France and completed a German-French double degree in Political Science.



Slavica Ilieska is an international programme assistant at the Felix Meritis Foundation, working on the projects “A Soul for Europe” and the Amsterdam-Maastricht Summer University. Her previous international experience includes active cooperation and activism for causes and organisations as HUB Amsterdam, TEDxBarcelona, Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean and TEDxSkopje. She has also worked as journalist on themes covering international relations and international organisations, and as event organiser on several NGO's projects concerning human rights, minorities' issues and entrepreneurship. She has a bachelor's degree in International Trade at the University 'Ss. Cyril and Methodius', in Skopje, Macedonia and is currently finishing an International Master Programme in Euro-Mediterranean Relations, at the Rovira i Virgili University in Tarragona, Spain and University of Paris VIII.



Renate Kenter is strategy consultant, facilitator and teacher at De Ruijter Strategy (since 2005). Before that, Renate Kenter worked for the Centre of Organisational Learning and Change (OLC) at Nyenrode University (1999-2002). She has an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Amsterdam (1998) and wrote her master thesis on Scenario Thinking in International Relations. Renate Kenter was a student representative for the Faculty Council and a board member of Machiavelli (study association). As a student she travelled extensively in Africa, Asia, South America and Europe, (e.g. participating in a cultural exchange programme in Sierra Leone).



Paul König has just finished school in Bremen, Germany. He is 18 years old and considered himself blessed because he has already had many chances to interact with people from all over the world as a member of a guest family or in political projects, such as the Model European Parliament, the Model United Nations and various other minor events all over Europe. Paul König is one of the Young European Professionals (YEPs), a peer-to-peer project of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb. The YEPs are young European citizens between 16 and 23 who are trained in European issues to communicate the European Union to peers of the same age. He is also a treasurer for "Gemeinsam Europa Gestalten e.V."



Vincent Kuiper was born in Maastricht, home of the Treaty on European Union. He has always been fascinated with the European continent and its multitude of cultures. In 2011 he graduated in European Studies at the University of Amsterdam, specializing in EU-enlargement policies regarding the Balkans, with a focus on the Roma-minority in Romania. Currently, he is a board member of European Alternatives, a pan-European civil society organization devoted to exploring the potential for transnational politics and culture. He is actively involved in the 'Making a Living project', a project funded by the British Council addressing youth unemployment and precarity in Europe.



Magdalena Kurz is a policy officer for participation at the European Youth Forum with youth participation, active citizenship and citizenship education being core elements of her portfolio. Prior to the Forum she was active within UNIS, the OSCE and developed brochures for the “Zentrum POLIS”, the Austrian centre for citizenship education, coordinating a first time voter motivation campaign for the Austrian National Youth Council. Magdalena Kurz holds an M.A. in Political Science and studied at the University of Vienna and UC Berkeley, focusing her master thesis on how Non-formal Education (NFE) in European Youth Work contributes to active citizenship.



Liselotte Lankhorst is studying Journalism at Amsterdam University. She is also doing an internship at ProDemos – House for Democracy and the Rule of Law in the Netherlands for five months, where she supports the communication department within the editorial management of the ProDemos website.



Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk has been working as a project manager for International Politics at ProDemos – House for Democracy and the Rule of Law in the Netherlands since 2006. In this position she deals with international citizen participation projects and with participatory and educatory projects in the Netherlands. Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk is the contact person for the NECE initiative at ProDemos. Since beginning of 2013, she is also managing the Europe Direct Centre (EDC) The Hague.



Christoph Müller-Hofstede has been a consultant at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb since 1988. Currently he is running a national project aimed at establishing new formats of citizenship education for young people with a migrant and/or Muslim background in German schools. Together with Petra Grüne, Christoph Müller-Hofstede is responsible for the NECE initiative promoted by the Federal Agency for Civic Education.



Kacper Nowacki has been programme coordinator for “Culture and Citizenship in the Library” at the Center for Citizenship Education in Warsaw since 2011. Since 2011, he has been doing his Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy at the University of Warsaw at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology and his Master of Arts in Cultural Sciences at the Institute of Social Sciences at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. He has worked for the AdArte Foundation at several film festivals such as the Short Movies Festival “Short Waves”, “Vivisesja” Festival and for the Malta Foundation at the Nostalgie Festival and the Radiohead concert.



Anja Ostermann is managing director and project manager at the agency lab concepts in Bonn-Berlin, Germany. Since 1995, she has been actively involved in the design and the implementation of various education and cultural formats, in particular for public sector clients. Anja Ostermann has provided process guidance/academic support in the Europeanisation of cultural and citizenship education and the formation of political and cultural education networks.



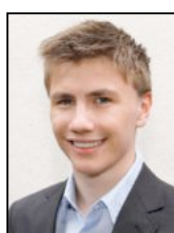
Margita Petrikova works as a project head for the MitOst Association in Berlin, Germany. MitOst is active in the field of civic engagement and cultural exchange in Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe. Margita Petrikova is responsible for supporting the cooperation programmes in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Poland in the frame of the “Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg”, a programme of the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the MitOst Association. At the moment, she is also an alumni representative of the programme “Shaping Europe-Civic Education in Action”, run by the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb.



Julia Pfinder is coordinating the network “Verstärker: Netzwerk zielgruppenspezifische Bildungsarbeit” on behalf of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb. She graduated in Political Science, Law and Intercultural Communications. She works as a freelance project manager, trainer and consultant in the field of education and participation. With her emphasis on civic education, intercultural understanding, international youth exchanges as well as sustainable development, she has worked e.g. for bpb, the Society for International Cooperation and the state capital of Munich. Julia Pfinder managed the nationwide youth participation project “Aktion09” in 2009. The concept being based on the peer-to-peer-approach, 60 disadvantaged youth were qualified as multipliers to implement their own projects and activities for other adolescents.



Mario Plešej is political scientist from Slovenia working as a freelance civic educator with the Slovene NGO “Socialna akademija” for almost two years now. Before, he had worked as a policy analyst in the Slovene public administration with the focus on European affairs. He is active in his local church community and likes to write blogs about political, social and spiritual issues.



Lukas Pollmann is one of the Young European Professionals (YEPs), a peer-to-peer project of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb. The YEPs are young European citizens between 16 and 23 who are trained in European issues to communicate the European Union to peers of the same age. He is also a treasurer for “Gemeinsam Europa Gestalten e.V.”. At the moment he is studying Economics and European Law at the University of Wuerzburg and is working for HP and Microsoft.



Tomaž Pušnik is a researcher at the Centre for Critical Approach of Political Science at University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. His broader fields of research are political theory and political philosophy with a focus on concepts of citizenship, citizenship education and EU policies. At the moment he is working on different projects: Youth in Action, POLIPEDIA – Online civic education and Jean Monnet and Engaging the youth – Building the future: teaching European democratic citizenship.



Ana Nives Radović graduated in Economics of Small Business and in Law of the EU. Finally, she completed her postgraduate studies in *Field Consulting* and *Cooperate Governance and Financial Trade*. She entered the world of finance in 2004 while getting her first banking job in “Hipotekarna Banka” in Kotor. Ana Nives Radović continued to work in financial and sales department of several different companies and started her own business, founding “AR Vision”, outsourcing agency for business networking, in 2008.



Juliane Rast works at lab concepts as a project employee/ intern in international event management and PR services since 2013. She studied International Communication and Translation (B.A.) at Hildesheim University and la Universidad de Valladolid, Spain. The focus of her studies was the use of German, English and Spanish as well as cultural and political sciences. Over the last two years, she completed internships in several concert agencies in organisation and PR services in Berlin. Furthermore, she has worked for the international music and theatre festival “Kulturarena“ in Jena in the field of event management for several years.



Dr. Maria E. Rotter is a senior advisor to the chairman of the European Affairs Committee in the German Bundestag, Gunther Krichbaum MP. From 2011 to 2012, she was also an associate at Stiftung Neue Verantwortung, a Berlin-based think tank, where she worked on scenarios for EU security. Prior to completing her PhD in political science in 2011, Maria E. Rotter worked as a project manager at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for several years.



Sigrid Steininger, a graduated historian, is head of the Unit for Citizenship Education at the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture. As Austria's EDC/HRE (Education for Democratic Citizenship/ Human Rights Education) coordinator she has been closely involved with the Council of Europe's EDC/HRE programme since 2002. In preparation for the “European Year of Citizenship through Education” (EYCE) she drew up and initiated the EDC Action Days in 2003, which have been held annually since then. Sigrid Steininger has also gained experience on an international level in her function as Austrian educational coordinator in Macedonia and Kosovo (1999-2002), on election observer missions and due to her activities at the Council of Europe. The book “EDC in Europe – Challenges for Austria” has been published in August 2006. An encyclopaedia on politics for kids co-edited by Sigrid Steininger was issued in October 2008 (revised and updated edition 2010).



Kars Veling has been the director of ProDemos – House for Democracy and the Rule of Law since 2011. He studied Mathematics and Philosophy and has a PhD in Philosophy and has worked as a lecturer and in executive roles at various high schools and institutes of higher education throughout the Netherlands. In the past he was involved in politics as a member of the Christian Union in the First and the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament. As a member of the Supervisory Board of the Institute for Political Participation (2005-2010) Kars Veling was closely involved in the formation of ProDemos – House for Democracy and the Rule of Law in 2011.



Inga Wachsmann is the programme director at Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer – FPH for Progress of Humankind, Paris (since 2010) and responsible among others for the "European" programme *citizensforeurope.eu*. She is a programme officer for Franco-German and European projects at ASKO Europe-foundation, Saarbrücken (Germany, 2007-2009). She hold her diploma in political science at the Institut d'Études Politiques (Lille, France) and Westfälische Wilhelms-University (Münster, Germany). She was also a volunteer in European integration processes and Franco-German relations and is currently among others in the board of Young European

Federalists Germany.



Amber Zabicki is a programme host/guide for ProDemos since 2008 and works on other projects within ProDemos. She studied European Studies at the University of Amsterdam and Political Science in Grenoble (Erasmus exchange). Amber Zabicki worked at the Dutch Embassy in Warsaw during the first Polish EU-presidency in 2011. Her master thesis was about European rights and citizenship.



Thamar Zijlstra is a political scientist specialised in European politics from the perspective of comparative politics. From European political parties to trans-European citizen media, she has first-hand experience in European citizenship. She is working on two major projects of European Alternatives: European Citizens' Initiative on Media Pluralism and Borders 2 Cross, a conference on citizens' initiatives in partnership with several Dutch ministries and civil society organisations.