

NECE New Year's Reception 2014

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Brussels, Belgium

Biographies



Marinko Banjac has been a teaching assistant in Political Theory at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the 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'.



Pamela Brandt is an online contributor at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education. She studied History, Journalism, Education and the Romance Studies in Hamburg, Paris and Bordeaux. She has worked as a freelance journalist for both print and television, including for the broadcasters Pro7, ZDF and MDR. Pamela Brandt completed an internship at the Federal Agency for Civic Education in 2001, and subsequently became an online contributor in the area of multimedia. Her duties there include maintenance of the Federal Agency for Civic Education's website and the online election tool 'Wahl-O-Mat'.



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.



Jochum de Graaf is senior project manager at the Institute for Political Participation (IPP) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He holds a master degree in Sociology of Economics and Organisations and a post doc in Journalism. He has been working in the field of civic education since 1980, editing and publishing various publications on political problems in the Netherlands, amongst others a handbook on using the media. From the beginning, in 1989, he was involved in the development of 'StemWijzer', the very successful political preference test in the Netherlands. At the parliamentary elections in 2006 the site did obtain 4.7 million users. He successfully introduced the StemWijzer-method in Germany (2002), Switzerland (2003), Bulgaria (2005), France (2007) and the UK (2008). Together with the German Federal Agency for Civic Education he played an active role in building the NECE network Vote Match Europe 2009 for the EP-elections.



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).



Thomas Krüger is the president of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb). In 1989, Thomas Krüger was a founding member of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) in the former GDR, and he became executive director of the SDP in Berlin (East) in 1990. After a stint as first deputy to the mayor of East Berlin, Thomas Krüger became deputy chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) in Berlin (East/West) from 1990 to 1992. From 1991 to 1994 he worked as the city's Senator for Youth and Family Affairs. He was also a member of the German Parliament, the Bundestag, from 1994 to 1998, a board member of the cultural forum of the SPD, and a member of Berlin's International City Commission. Thomas Krüger was appointed president of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education in July of 2000. He studied Theology in Berlin and Eisenach.



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 the beginning of 2013, she is also managing the Europe Direct Centre (EDC) The Hague.



Almut Möller is a political analyst in the fields of European integration and foreign policy. Based in Berlin, she heads the Alfred von Oppenheim Centre for European Policy Studies at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP). Her research focuses on the institutional development of the European Union, EU Foreign and Security Policy in North Africa and the Middle East region, and Germany's foreign and European policies. She publishes regularly in academic journals and is a frequent commentator in the German and international media. Almut Möller is also the founder and editor-in-chief of "berlinbrief.org: Foreign Policy in the German Capital", a newsletter on German foreign policy for an English-speaking readership. Before, she worked as an independent analyst based in London, and was a researcher at the Centre for Applied Policy Research (CAP) in Munich. For many years, she has been a trainer in civic education focusing on the European Union, among others with "CIVIC – Institut für Internationale Bildung" (Institute for International Education) and the German Federal Agency for Civic Education. She studied Political Science, History and International Law in Münster, Aix-en-Provence and Munich.



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.



Alicja T. Pacewicz serves as co-director of the Centre for Citizenship Education (NGO), responsible for programmes and educational resources. She studied at the Central School of Commerce in Warsaw and Sociology at Warsaw University, earning an MA in Economy (thesis on economic and social aspects of advertising). She worked as a researcher at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and as a teacher trainer at the Centre for the Development of Educational Skills.



Doris Pack is Member of the European Parliament where she chairs the Committee on Culture and Education since 2009. Furthermore, she is Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and in the Delegation for Relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo. She is engaged in numerous organizations, working in the field of cultural cooperation and education (Chair of Franco-German Foundation for Cultural Cooperation, President of Saar Adult Education Association, Vice-chair of the German Association of the European Foundation for Cultural Cooperation in Europe etc.).



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.



Paul Scheffer is a publicist and professor in European Studies at the University of Tilburg. Before that, he was professor in Urban Sociology at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He worked as a correspondent in Paris and Warsaw. Since 1990, Paul Scheffer has written columns and essays for the Dutch daily “NRC Handelsblad”. He made a number of documentaries and series for television. Paul Scheffer published in well-known European newspapers amongst others “Frankfurter Allgemeine”, “Politiken”, “El País”, “de Standaard” and “Tages-Anzeiger”. Paul Scheffer studied Psychology and Political Science in Nijmegen, Amsterdam and Paris. Amongst others he wrote a book about immigration in Europe and America: “Het land van aankomst” [Immigrant Nations], which is translated in several European languages.



Rainer Steffens is Director of the Representation of the State North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union. He was Head of section Environment and Head of the German Delegation to the EU Council’s Working group on environmental issues in the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the EU from 2006 to 2011. In the years 1998 to 2006, he worked in the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany as Personal Counsellor of the State Secretary and as Head of the office for Cabinet and Parliamentary affairs. In 1998 he was National Expert to the European Commission. Before, he worked at the Representation of the State Lower Saxony to the Federal Government.



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).