

European Workshop  
**Perspectives of Web 2.0 for Citizenship Education in Europe**  
 7 - 9 April  
 Brno, Czech Republic

## Biographies



**Anita Baschant** is project consultant at the agency lab concepts in Bonn and 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 especially in the fields of European education debates and international cooperation. She is also responsible for the conception of youth formats and events and the coordination and management of projects within the framework of the NECE initiative.



**Ondrej Daniel** holds a master degree in Contemporary History from Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, where he currently continues his PhD studies (title of the dissertation thesis: Migrants from the former Yugoslavia in Western Europe, cases of France and Austria). Concurrently he works as a project manager for Multicultural Centre Prague and South Moravian Centre for International Mobility (EURAXESS Centre Brno). Ondrej Daniel is a co-founder of the Centre for the Study of Popular Culture (CSPK) where he works on the topics of popular culture during post-socialism. Thereby he brings focus to the importance of popular culture for identity formation in the context of urban ethnic subcultures, regionalist political movements and nationalism.



**Jochum de Graaf** is senior project manager at the House for Democracy and the Rule of Law, formerly the Institute for Political Participation (IPP), in 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. Jochum de Graaf

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.



**Simon Delakorda** is a full time eDemocracy/eParticipation practitioner and researcher and founding director of the Institute for Electronic Participation (INePA) in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Starting in 2000, he has participated in early internet democracy projects within university and NGO's sector in Slovenia. He is author and co-author of articles and case studies and conference speaker on democracy, political participation, active citizenship, non-governmental organisations and government on-line. Simon Delakorda worked as an e-democracy course associate and researcher at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana, as co-founder and head of the Centre of Electronic Democracy at the Institute of Ecology

and as an e-democracy associate at the Arctur IT Company Ltd. From 2006 to 2007 he coordinated and managed the E-participacija web portal and facilitated the first successful e-democracy project in Slovenia – the Citizen's Forum. His memberships include the Slovenian Political Science Association, Demonet: the eParticipation network of Excellence, CEE CN eParticipation experts group and Association of the Slovene NGO's managers.



**Jan Dekelver** is research coordinator of Science and Technology at the KH Kempen University College in Belgium and affiliated researcher at the Department of Electrical Engineering (ESAT) at the K.U.Leuven, Belgium. He is coordinator of expertise at the centre K-Point ([www.k-point.be](http://www.k-point.be)) working on research projects on inclusion and Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Jan Dekelver is co-ordinator and partner in a number of projects involving ICT and/or training and inclusion, amongst others he was partner of the project “EasyICT: European certification of ICT skills for people with intellectual disabilities” ([www.easict.eu](http://www.easict.eu)) within the framework of the Leonardo Programme and was project director of the FP7 project INCLUSO from 2008 to 2010 – ICT-2007.7.2 Accessible and inclusive ICT, sub-item: Stronger RTD capacity through delivery of proof of concept for ICT solutions facilitating social inclusion of marginalised young people ([www.incluso.org](http://www.incluso.org)). Amongst others he is board member of the WAI-NOT foundation, which promotes the use of ICT for people with mental/intellectual disabilities and member of the research group on social inclusion within K.U.Leuven university association. In 2009 he received the Senior Cera Award (social engineer).



**Nathalie Doodkorte**, intern at the House for Democracy and the Rule of Law, formerly the Institute for Political Participation (IPP), in the Netherlands, is a graduating BA student of European Studies at the Thorbecke Academy in the Netherlands. During her studies she has worked as a student assistant at the Department of Public Management, was a trainee at the Representation of the European Commission in Berlin and organised several projects for students of Public Management.



**Petra Grüne** has been in charge of the Federal Agency for Civic Education’s Events Department since 2005. Together with Christoph Müller-Hofstede, Petra Grüne is responsible for the NECE initiative promoted by the Federal Agency for Civic Education and amongst other projects also in charge of the online glossary Confusing Conversations and the Action Days for Democratic Citizenship Education. She has been working at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education since 1991 in a number of different fields and positions, including heading a comprehensive evaluation of this institution in 1999 that eventually led to a reshuffling of the organisation. After the restructuring, Petra Grüne

initially headed the “Principles” Department. She studied Sociology, Sinology and Communications Research in Bonn and Shanghai.



**Ellen Helsper** is a lecturer in the Media and Communications Department of the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her main research interest is in the role of new media in everyday life of disadvantaged social groups. Much of her research has focussed on young people from these groups and how they use the internet, balancing both the opportunities and the risks it provides. An important element is the development of a theoretical framework, the corresponding fields model, to understand the links between digital and social exclusion based on theories of social capital and social identity. Furthermore, she has a special interest in the development of methodology in relation to

new media and policy research. Important to her in this context is an understanding of engagement with media as multifaceted and contextualised in everyday realities.



**Ondrej Horak** works as coordinator of the pilot project “Education to Citizenship” at the Civic Education Centre, Brno. He took part in several student activities and initiatives during his study of law at the Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. As a follow-up of the initiative “Inventorying of democracy” he set up a student non-formal group with two goals: analyse the field of civic education in the Czech Republic and find a platform for its systematic support. The main aims of the Centre are to identify important topics, which are valuable from the perspective of citizenship education; to coordinate projects and initiatives, which already exist.



**Stefan Huber** works at the ePolicy & eSociety Unit of the ICT&S Center at the University of Salzburg, Austria. His research concerns new media literacy and political education in the larger context of a participatory society. At the ICT&S Center Stefan Huber is involved in a task force on ICTs & participation and is coordinating the participatory Web 2.0 platform [www.polipedia.at](http://www.polipedia.at) for which Ursula Maier-Rabler, head of the ePolicy & eSociety Unit, signs responsible. Within the field of e-participation and e-democracy, he currently focuses on ICT-supported participatory online budgeting on municipal level. He studied political science at Salzburg University and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (IEP) in Rennes, France.



**Linda Jakobson** has been citizen engagement project manager at the public policy website [Politika.lv](http://Politika.lv) since 2011 and associated researcher of the Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS, Latvia since 2009. Before she held posts as head of the Information Department of the European Integration Bureau, Latvia and deputy head of the Communication Department of the State Chancellery of Latvia. Between 2005 and 2008, she was director of the European Union Information Agency in Latvia. Linda Jakobson holds a master degree in European Studies from the University of Applied Sciences, Bremen (Germany), a master degree in Social and in Political Science from the University of Latvia and a master degree in

Organisational Management from the School for International Training, Brattleboro, VT, USA. She has recently been elected head of the board of the Latvian Development NGO Platform.



**Zoya Lukyanova** is founder and CEO of the Russian Non-Profit Organisation "Civic Engagement Institute", which was founded in 2007. She graduated from Perm State Technical University in Russia. From 2001 to 2003 Zoya Lukyanova was head of the Contact Office of the Goethe Institute in Perm. Subsequently she made an internship within the framework of the "Year of Russian Culture in Germany", which took place in Munich from 2003 to 2004. Zoya Lukyanova participated in a scholarship programme of the Robert Bosch Stiftung and MitOst e.V. for "Cultural managers from Central and East Europe" from 2004 to 2005, which she passed as project manager at the "Fabrik Potsdam" in Germany.

Since 2009, Zoya Lukyanova has been member of the "Public Youth Council of Ministry for Culture, Youth Policy and Mass Communications" of Perm Krai.



**Csaba Madarasz** is a community and democracy partner of People Process Technology Group LTD (PPT), which focuses on the use of open source technologies and advanced methodologies for communication. He has been working in the interrelated field of technology, culture and society for more than a decade in various jobs and roles. Traditionally, as journalist with a strong emphasis in communication sciences, his primordial focus is to help healing society and the relation to environment. During the past years Csaba Madarasz has been serving at the Central and Eastern Europe Citizens Network (CEE Citizens Network) to strengthen the presence in the e-democracy and e-participation domain.

Beside being a representative in several projects (Council of Europe- Ad-Hoc Committee on E-democracy, Pep-Net, ECI) he is acting as an evangelist and holding workshops, speaking on various types of events - promoting new forms for information management and cooperation.





**Axel Maireder** has been researcher and PhD candidate at the Department of Communication of the University of Vienna, Austria, since 2009. Alongside the work on his thesis on practices of intermediation on social media and the corresponding diffusion processes, he is carrying out studies on the utilisation of social network services, Twitter and Facebook in particular. From 2007 to 2009 he has been doing research for the Austrian Ministry of Education on cyberbullying in teenage peer groups as well as digital literacy of high school students and their teachers. After completing his master thesis on freedom of expression in Turkey, Axel Maireder has been executive editor of the Vienna-based “deScripto” – a journal of Media in South Eastern Europe published by South and East Europe Media Organisation (SEEMO) from 2005 to 2007 as well as has been working on media feasibility studies for the city of Vienna and the Government of Lower Austria. He is Secretary General of European Society of Education and Communication (ESEC), coordinating the annual Erasmus EuroMedia Awards.



**Ondrej Matejka** is director and project manager at the Civic Education Centre at Masaryk University Brno. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Masaryk University, he established this new institution in 2009. Its vision is to broaden the concept of civic education in the Czech Republic. Studying at a bilingual grammar school gave Ondrej Matejka the opportunity to learn German history of the Czech lands. He followed this topic all through his history and political science studies from 1998 to 2005. Subsequently in his professional career, Ondrej Matejka started to work in the Czech-German field for various NGOs. In 1998 he became a member of the group called Antikomplex and in 2005 its director. Antikomplex provides a critical reflection on the German speaking history of the Czech lands. Since 2005 Ondrej Matejka has been examining the recovery of civil society in the Sudetenland in his PhD studies, a part of the Czech Republic formerly inhabited by Germans. Since the winter term 2007/2008, he has been teaching a course on civil society theory at the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University, Prague.



**Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk** has been working as project manager for International Politics at the House for Democracy and the Rule of Law, formerly the Institute for Political Participation (IPP), in the Netherlands since 2006. In this position she is dealing with international citizen participation projects (as for example the ‘European Citizens Consultations’ in 2007) and with participatory and educatory projects in the Netherlands having an international scope (for example the ‘Consultants Evenings over Europe’, in cooperation with the Dutch Parliament in 2007) or peer education projects on the European Union for Dutch high-school students. Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk is also coordinating the international Politeia association, a network for citizenship and democracy in Europe involving organisations from ‘old’ and ‘new’ member states in Europe as well as organisations originating from candidate member states.



**Christian Mieß** is co-founder and project manager at Citizens for Europe e.V. where he is currently responsible for online projects, conferences and publications as well as the overall strategic focus of the association. Christian Mieß graduated at Greifswald University in 2010 and holds a master degree in political science. His work experiences include voluntary work, internships and side jobs in Germany, Italy, and the USA. Amongst others he works part-time as online editor for student initiatives, marketing agencies and online magazines.



**Raluca Mihai** is project assistant at the Institute for Public Policy (IPP) in Bucharest, Romania. She has a solid expertise in parliamentary monitoring, currently being responsible for developing the website [www.alesiivoteaza.ro](http://www.alesiivoteaza.ro), the only IT application in Romania that displays information about individual performance of members of the Parliament and about the law making process. Raluca Mihai is responsible for the communication with over 1.700 users per month, NGOs, journalists, business associations whom the website keeps informed, in real time, about the activity in the Romanian Parliament.



**Niccolo Milanese** is the founding director of European Alternatives, an organisation promoting transnational culture and politics with offices in London, Paris and Bologna. European Alternatives conducts projects and runs campaigns throughout the European continent, including a Transeuropa Festival each spring, and increasingly works in other countries of the world.



**Jöran Muuß-Merholz** is founder of the agency “J&K – Jöran und Konsorten” (Jöran and fellows) in Hamburg, Germany, which is specialised in educational projects, online and offline. The agency handles conceptual issues as well as organisational ones. Jöran Muuß-Merholz holds a master degree in educational management. After working as a lecturer and researcher for the universities of Hamburg and Lüneburg, he focused on civic education projects. From 2004 to 2006, Jöran Muuß-Merholz established a regional education center of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, which featured more than 70 events per year. In 2006, he co-founded the “Archiv der Zukunft” a network of progressive educators and up to 2008 fostered its increasing recognition. The network grew rapidly to become one of Germany’s crucial players in educational reformation. 2009 “Jöran und Konsorten” started their activities to strengthen the connections between the educational and the digital world.



**Julius Narkunas** graduated as an architect at Vilnius Academy of Arts, Lithuania in 2004. His academic interests lie in the field of urban morphology and his practical interests embrace community building and communication. In 2007 he started working as a creative director and executive for public relation and advertising companies. Together with Dr. Jekaterina Lavrinec he runs the project “Laimikis.lt”, devoted to urban culture. He is one of the initiators of street actions and urban installations, which aim to reanimate public spaces, seek to activate creative local communities for creative actions and to build street tools for intensive communication between passers-by. Being a member of “Laimikis.lt” group Julius Narkunas has participated in a number of exhibitions and publishing projects devoted to the city life.



**Tit Neubauer** is researcher and graduate student of Political Science at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He is currently involved in the project entitled “Citizen(ship) in the New Age: Citizenship Education for a Multicultural and Globalised World”, which aims to develop proposals on how to bring contemporary global and multicultural environment closer to citizens and to provide scientific foundation for the development of new intuitional approaches to citizenship education in Slovenia. His latest research includes an analysis of informal and non-formal citizenship education in Europe and Slovenia, with particular emphasis given to the formulation of policy proposals for enriching the field. Tit Neubauer is currently involved in a FP7 ICT and Policy Modelling project and has participated in several FP6 projects in the past. Among his current research interests are citizenship and lifelong learning, impacts of ICT on citizenship and citizenship education, and citizenship concepts and traditions.



**Knut Neumayer** has been director of the Europe programme at ERSTE Foundation since 2005. Previously he was head of marketing at the Austrian newspaper “Der Standard”, where he set up an innovative cross-media campaign with A1, an Austrian mobile service provider, and won two Golden Lions at the International Advertising Festival in Cannes. Prior to that, Knut Neumayer worked at the Austrian Cultural Service (ÖKS) designing and implementing programmes in the field of Arts and Education.



**Maartje Nevejan** is an independent filmmaker based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, with a background in theatre and multi media. In her projects she likes to research the (raw) poetic quality of reality. She worked for Dutch, Belgian, Finnish Broadcast, and Al Jazeera. Maartje Nevejan is mostly known for her films and websites about angry teenagers around the world, not taking the standard power structures anymore. She has won several prizes amongst others the Golden Calf, Silver Zebra and was nominated for the Rose d'Or and the Emmy Award.



**Jaroslav Petrik** is project manager at the Civic Education Centre at the Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic. His main responsibilities are the management and coordination of a project to build a nation-wide network curriculum for civic education at primary and secondary schools, training teachers and supervising the implementation of the curriculum. Jaroslav Petrik is currently working on his doctoral project “Use of foreign aid in preventing terrorism-case studies US-Pakistan, EU-Occupied Palestinian Territories and UN-Sri Lanka” at the Department of Political Sciences, Faculty of Social

Studies at Masaryk University Brno.



**Tomas Protivinsky** is a research and evaluation manager at the Civic Education Centre at the Masaryk University, Czech Republic. He worked as an educator at Lipka (an environmental education facility), as a graphic designer at Partnership Foundation (a leading Czech foundation supporting sustainable development projects) and as an instructor of ropes courses. Besides his work, he organises summer camps and other leisure activities for youth. Tomas Protivinsky holds a Bachelor's degree in Maths (specialising in statistics) and in Environmental Studies and Psychology (his thesis tries to understand better how the civic maturity relates to structure of adolescents' leisure

activities). He studies for a Master's degree in Psychology.



**Filip Radunovic** is currently working as a project manager for the Europe programme at ERSTE Foundation in Vienna, where he oversees initiatives focusing on gender issues, urban development and community affairs of the foundation. He studied Communication Studies and Political Science at the University of Vienna, Austria. His master's and doctoral thesis concentrated on semiotics and media psychology. Filip Radunovic worked as a researcher at the Institute for Communication and Media Science in Vienna, where he contributed to projects on journalism in crises and conflict situations and surveyed effects of print and television advertisements. Beside his academic interests, Filip Radunovic has

also contributed to the reform of the Montenegrin vocational education system working for KulturKontakt Austria in Podgorica. He continues to pursue his research interests as a lecturer of media theories at the University of Montenegro.





**Ulrike Reinhard** is consultant, author, visionary, free spirit and passionate digital native rolled into one. Her belief in the internet's ability to empower people and change our lives and worlds for the better drives all her work, whether it be investigating global mega-trends or establishing grassroots self-help projects in Africa. She deals with the way the internet is shaping and transforming society, education, politics and economics.



**Vladimír Smékal** is professor of Psychology at the Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic. In 1990 he was elected chairman of the Institute of Psychology at the Masaryk University. He was involved in the founding of the new School for Social Studies at the Masaryk University in 1997, where he was director of the Research Center for Personality Development and Ethnicity. His main specialisation is individual psychology, psychology of religion and methodology of psychological research. Vladimír Smékal published almost 300 articles, most of them based on the analysis of research data. He was editor of four monographic collective studies. Since February 2010, he has been professor emeritus at the Masaryk University and has been working at the Civic Education Centre on evaluation research of citizen education.



**Antonín Stanek** is assistant professor at the Department of Social Science, Faculty of Education at the University of Olomouc in Palcky, Czech Republic. He studied Pedagogy focusing on didactics of social sciences. Antonín Stanek worked for several elementary, grammar schools and in secondary vocational education. Moreover, he made an educational research on the subject methodology of social sciences and also worked on the creation and assessment for textbooks for universities, high schools and elementary schools.



**Julia Suchar** is a freelance educator, trainer and youth worker engaged in educational various projects in Germany and Poland, recently working mainly with (socially) disadvantaged youth and young adults. Since 2004 she has been involved in the work of the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, coordinating the Anne Frank exhibition in Poland and working on other international projects focusing on Shoah and Human Rights education. In 2009 and 2010 Julia Suchar participated in the Fellowship Programme of the Federal Agency of Civic Education in Bonn and the Robert Bosch Stiftung "Civic Education in Action". Julia Suchar was a member of the international team in the project "Righteous Among the Nations" that developed materials for teaching about righteous and silent heroes and promote civil courage, tolerance and democracy. Currently she is working at the House of Peace in Wrocław.

**Zsuzsanna Szelényi** has been chair of the board of the Active Citizenship Foundation in Hungary since 2007. From 1996 to 2010 she was working at the Council of Europe as deputy director of the European Youth Centre Budapest. Zsuzsanna Szelényi started her professional career as a member of the Federation of Young Democrats in Hungary, and was elected to the first freely elected Parliament in Hungary. From 1990 to 1994 Zsuzsanna Szelényi represented the Hungarian Parliament in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. After leaving party politics in 1994, she worked with the Ministry of Culture and Public Education. At the same time she gained experience as an editor in various cultural programmes with Hungarian Public Television. Zsuzsanna Szelényi's experience encompasses the broadest range of political process, public policy, development policy, conflict management and general management activities at international level.



**Ana Cinthya Uribe** is a researcher involved in the AUSTICA project at the Blanquerna Communication School of the Ramon Llull University in Barcelona, Spain. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Media of the Monterrey Institute of Technology (ITESM) in Guadalajara, Mexico, and a Master degree in Corporate Communication (EAE-UPC) and Public Management (EAPC). Her PhD dissertation – in process – is an analysis on Voting Advice Applications (VAAs) for their application in new markets. She is part of the project 'elecciones.es' that will be launched for the 2010 regional elections in Catalonia, Spain and has been working as a journalist and communications manager since 1998.



**Mieke van Heesewijk** is one of the founders of Network Democracy. Network Democracy promotes cooperation between the system (government and established organisations) and social pioneers by offering a platform for new developments and discussions. Mieke van Heesewijk is also board member of Citizens Gang (Bende Burgers), an umbrella organisation of citizen initiatives in the Netherlands that helps to contribute to general interest. She works as an internet-strategist to promote greater health and sustainability at Schuttelaar & Partners – a communication consultancy. As policy advisor she has worked at the Ministry of Interior where she developed internet applications that made the democratic process more transparent, such as Petities.nl and WatStemtMijnRaad.nl. Before that Mieke van Heesewijk worked at "Internetprovider XS4ALL" as web developer, project leader and was engaged in Public Affairs on privacy matters, freedom of speech and copyright on the internet.



**Christine Wetzel** has been working for the Federal Agency for Civic Education in Bonn, Germany since 2009. Following a trainee in the Communications Department there, she is now concerned with strategic fundraising and marketing issues. Before working for the Federal Agency for Civic Education, she was research fellow in Migration Studies at the Centre d'Etudes de Populations in Differdange, Luxembourg (2008-2009), research assistant at Trier University/Germany (2004-2008), freelance journalist (2000-2005), and has been involved in the students' participation and exchange. Christine Wetzel has studied Politics (International Relations) and Media Science at the Universities of Trier and Lancaster/UK.



**Andy Williamson** has been leading the Hansard Society's Digital Democracy Programme since 2008. He is an internationally respected commentator on the digital society and a well-known thought leader on digital democracy and citizen engagement. Andy Williamson has an extensive background in digital media and social policy, with a focus on digital engagement and inclusion. He holds a PhD from Monash University, Australia, has held numerous public and private board positions and advised parliamentary and government agencies in the UK, Europe, Africa, North America, Latin America, Australia and New Zealand.



**Søren Winther Lundby** is CEO and co-founder of Global Citizen. From 1990 to 2000 he studied Philosophy and Political Science at Aarhus University, Denmark. In 1985 he received the Queen Ingrid Travel Grant for his work against the Apartheid rule in South Africa. For 30 years he has been involved in organisational work. From 1996 to 2000 Søren Winther Lundby was a board member at one of the Danish centre-left parties. He has had a wide variety of part-time and fulltime jobs as a factory worker, a teacher, a dishwasher, a baker, a mason, a student counsellor, etc. He has also functioned as a special adviser to the Vice-President of the European Commission, Margot Wallström.