

European Workshop

**European Co-operation Projects
Experiences – Strategies – Networking and Follow Up**

4 - 6 November 2010, Trent (Italy)

Summary

Working Group Citizenship Education Action Days

by

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Participants of the Workshop:

Ms Brigitte Foppa, Autonomy Province of South Tyrol (Italy)
Ms Petra Grüne, Federal Agency for Civic Education (Germany)
Ms Patricia Hladschik, Austrian Centre for Citizenship Education in Schools (Austria)
Mr Ondrej Horak, Center for Civic Education (Czech Republic)
Mr Walter Pichler, Autonomy Province of South Tyrol (Italy)
Ms Sigrid Steininger, Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture (Austria)

In 2003, the Action Days have been organised for the first time in Austria, being connected to the preparation for the European Year of Citizenship through Education 2005, declared by the Council of Europe.

The central idea of the Action Days is “Learning and Living Democracy”, which is the slogan of the Council of Europe’s “Education for Democratic Citizenship / Human Rights Education” programme. Every year for up to three weeks in April / May, stakeholders and institutions of citizenship education present themselves and work in order to make the variety of their activities obvious. Many of these events are specially developed for teachers and pupils. Others are aimed to a broader public.



The Action Days are so far carried out in Germany, Austria, the German speaking part of Belgium and South Tyrol.

The aim of the workshop was to:

- Share experiences and lessons learnt so far
- Prepare common activities in the framework of the Action Days 2011
- Debate the possible extension of the campaign on a European level
- Plan for 2013 (European Year of Citizenship Education)
- Intensify co-operation.

1. History

2003 Austria (idea / project planning: Sigrid Steininger, Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Unit Citizenship Education)

[2005 European Year of Citizenship through Education]

2005 Germany

2006 Belgium, German speaking community

2008 Italy, South Tyrol

2. Status quo / Recent discussions

- National action days with their own identities
- Some bilateral projects
- So far no cooperation between the participating countries / institutions on a regular basis
- Target groups: broad public, but special focus on schools (teacher trainings, events, workshops for schools etc.)
- Number of events: danger of surplus; balance between quality and quantity is needed (is it better to have as many events as possible or to concentrate?)
- Corporate Identity: is the brand known? Do participants know they are taking part in the Action Days?
- Annual focus: linking the Action Days to the European Years
- Consensus on the idea of expanding
- Action Days are already a kind of European project, but with lack of awareness.

3. Next steps

- On the national websites: links to the Action Days in the partner countries (see www.politische-bildung.at/aktionstage)
- Ask other partners to link under the umbrella of NECE
- Austria – South Tyrol work on / suggest ideas for projects to stimulate and support potential contributors
- Negotiate at least one common event or activity for 2011
- Agreement between the existing partners / commitment on “Europeanisation”

- Drafting of a concept / Project planning
 - Define a period
23 April (World Book and Copyright Day – www.un.org/depts/dhl/book/) to 23 May (1949: Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany – www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/documents/legal/index.html);
5 May [Europe Day (Council of Europe) – www.coe.int] and 9 May [Europe Day (EU) – www.europa.eu/abc/symbols/9-may/index_en.htm] could be appropriate dates for common events
 - Create a common website
common web space or common access
possibility to create a project identity
opportunity for cross border cooperation
 - Corporate Design
common CD and CI needed, not only for website
 - Corporate Identity
to create a European project identity (strengthening the European character of the project)
 - Agree on a title for the (new) European project:
(European) Festival of Citizenship Education?
European month for active Citizenship?
Subtitles / slogan of the Action Days
Focus theme / common topic: joining the European Years
 - Check possibilities for funding (Europe for citizens etc.)
 - Find new countries or regions who want to join
 - Promote “Politische Bildung in Aktion”, an exchange programme for young professionals from Central and South East Europe (see www.bpb.de/veranstaltungen/21NR54,0,Politische_Bildung_in_Aktion.html) which provides the room for planning Action Days in the Member states of the programme
 - Public Relations, Press Conferences
 - Evaluation
- Ideas for common events / programmes / initiatives
 - Quiz Show in the public sphere in various towns with online connections – Vienna, Berlin etc. – video walls
 - Website – competition – prize
 - „Citizenship Education Train “crossing various European countries with events, lectures on the train and in the train stations
 - Making the same projects in each countries and then exchange views, findings etc. (video conference, Skype etc.)
 - Develop common project with European funding
 - Patronage by the European Union
 - International Facebook / Twitter presence

Obstacles

- Participants could be less interested in a European campaign than in a national series of events
- Will a European brand work? (EU scepticism)

Chances

- Learning from each other, exchanging points of view
- Greater impact
- Common press work
- Lower costs?
- European funding



★ NETWORKING EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

Links

www.aktionstage.politische-bildung.at

Participation and Civil Courage!

27 April to 15 May 2011

www.bpb.de/aktionstag

5 May to 23 May 2011

www.provinz.bz.it/politische-bildung/info.asp

Verantwortung übernehmen! / Assumere responsabilità! / Surantó Responsabilitè!

23 April to 9 May 2011

www.grenzeschichte.eu/aktionstage/machmit.html

Contact persons

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