

NECE



newsletter

News Information Conferences
Reflections Introducing Projects

01/10

Focus
Report
Introducing
Good Practice
Call for Proposals
Policy News
Information



TOPICS:

Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights // The Action Days for Democratic Citizenship Education 2010
// NECE Conference "The Impact of Cultural and Citizenship Education on Social Cohesion" // Novum FORUM – Conference
"Perspectives on Active Citizenship" // The European Wergeland Centre // Good Practice: Theatre and the Community //

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The Council of Europe's "Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights" (EDC/HRE) programme, introduced 1997, enters its 4th phase. Its previous results and future developments will be discussed at an evaluation conference in April. Sigrid Steininger, EDC-Coordinator Austria, describes the current state of work. The European Wergeland Centre (EWC) in Norway will play a crucial role in the continuation of the EDC programme. By an interview, Dr. Claudia Lenz, Research Coordinator at EWC, explains the Center's tasks and goals. This year, the "Aktionstage für politische Bildung (Action Days for Democratic Citizenship Education)" will happen for the sixth time. The Focus informs about which countries and institutions will present themselves by which topics and actions.

The peak of the NECE initiative 2009 was the conference in Vilnius in December, on the topic of "The Impact of Cultural and Citizenship Education on Social Cohesion". Dr. Helle Becker reflects on the conference and its results. The documentation on the conference will be online in the coming weeks. Furthermore, the NECE website will be topically extended. Thus, it is worth the effort to have a look at the NECE website at regular intervals.

Exciting NECE activities are also planned for 2010: for example, the NECE workshop in Barcelona from 24 to 26 June 2010 as well as the NECE conference in Trieste from 29 September to 1 October 2010 will critically discuss the topic of urban development and the thus connected challenges for citizenship education. Please save the date! We are looking forward to welcoming you in Trieste.

We hope you will enjoy reading and look forward to your suggestions!

With warmest regards,



Petra Grüne & Christoph Müller-Hofstede
Federal Agency for Civic Education

Content:

Focus

Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights – the Council of Europe Programme entering its 4th Phase
by Sigrid Steininger, EDC-Coordinator Austria/ Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, Austria _____ p. 2

The Action Days for Democratic Citizenship Education 2010 - a Summary _____ p. 3

Reports

NECE Conference

"The Impact of Cultural and Citizenship Education on Social Cohesion", 3-5 December 2009, Vilnius, Lithuania (European Capital of Culture 2009)
by Dr. Helle Becker, Office "Expertise & Communication for Education", Germany _____ p. 4

Novum FORUM – Conference "Perspectives on Active Citizenship" 5 November 2009, Otocec, Slovenia
by Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk, Institute for Political Participation (IPP), the Netherlands _____ p. 4

Introducing

The European Wergeland Centre (EWC)
an interview with Dr. Claudia Lenz,
Research Coordinator, Norway _____ p. 5

Good Practice

Theatre and the Community
by Mike Levy, Director of Keystage Company, United Kingdom _____ p. 6

Project Funding / Call for Proposals _____ p. 7

Imprint _____ p. 7

NECE Correspondents _____ p. 8

Policy News _____ p. 8

Information _____ p. 9



FOCUS

This section highlights current issues on the political agenda of the European Union.

Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights – the Council of Europe Programme entering its 4th Phase

by Sigrid Steininger, EDC-Coordinator Austria/ Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, Austria

By the evaluation conference “Learning Democracy and Human Rights: Looking Forward” in Strasbourg from 15-16 April 2010, the already third phase of the Council of Europe’s programme on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights (EDC/HRE) will be formally concluded. Representatives of the member states, decision makers in the field of education, education practitioners, civil society representatives and other partners are going to debate the results achieved and lessons learned in the activities programme as well as the future programme for 2010-2014. Objectives and expected outcomes include the dissemination and promotion of the results of the programme 2006-2009, feedback from partners and target groups, an input for the planning of future activities as well as reinforcement of partnerships and cooperation.

The Council of Europe is the oldest and biggest European organisation. With 47 member states, it covers almost the whole of geographical Europe and touches the lives of over 800m people living there. The Council is the watchdog for human rights for Europe’s citizens, and a guardian of democracy and the rule of law: the best structure to oversee EDC in Europe.

www.coe.int/edc

“Learning and Living Democracy for All” 2006-2009

The 3rd phase aimed to support policy development, with a particular focus on social cohesion, social inclusion and respect for human rights. The range of activities carried out by the Council of Europe, single member states or in the framework of various co-operations includes the development of material and policy papers, the implementation of regional networks and the strengthening of cross-institutional co-operation, with the overall goal of sustainably implementing the results of earlier programme stages.

The EDC project was launched in 1997. The first phase was devoted mainly to the clarification of concepts and development of strategies to promote EDC, whereas the focus of the second phase (2001-2004) was on the dissemination of the results of the first phase through

networking and communication activities. The aim of the “European Year of Citizenship through Education” (EYCE) in 2005 was to reach a broader public and to communicate the vital role education plays in fostering citizenship.

The NECE initiative contributed to EYCE by the conference “National Experiences - European Challenges”, that took place 2005 in Berlin. By discussing issues concerning European identity and citizenship with representatives of the Council of Europe, the European Commission as well as representatives of the civil society from the fields of education, culture, economy and the media the event identified important challenges for the future of European identity and citizenship.

www1.bpb.de/veranstaltungen/F162CR,0,0,EYCE_2005%3A_National_Experiences_European_Challenges.html

Evaluation of the Programme 2006-2009

An Evaluation Report on the Council of Europe Programme provides an overview of the main results achieved and makes recommendations for future activities. Secondly, an evaluation based on questionnaires answered by the EDC/HRE coordinators and summarised by Dr. Claudia Lenz from the European Wergeland Centre, which will play an important role in the upcoming programme, was presented at the coordinators meeting in November 2009. The replies suggest that a lot of good work has been done and that the coordinators are motivated to continue with it. Especially the regional sub-networks (for example the regional network of northern countries) are working quite efficiently. Concerning future activities (2010-2014), the coordinators came up with the following list of “top five”: focus on teacher training (pre-service and in-service); translation, implementation and dissemination of existing tools; development and implementation of assessment (evaluation, monitoring) tools; curriculum development and the whole school approach/Democratic Governance.

Nevertheless, the degree to which the programme has been implemented in the different countries varies depending on political support and/or financial resources available. The use of the tools and publications produced in the programme seems to be successful to a certain extent and is limited mainly by the lack of translations into national languages. Such translations and their systematic use for training therefore is one of the important tasks for future work.

More information on the outcomes of the evaluation conference in April, including details of the programme 2010-2014, will be published in the next NECE newsletter.

www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/edc/default_EN.asp

FOCUS

The Action Days for Democratic Citizenship Education 2010

In 2010, the Action Days for Democratic Citizenship Education will happen for the sixth time, parallel in Germany (5-23 May), Austria (23 April-9 May), Southern Tyrol (23 April-9 May) and the German-speaking part of Belgium (15 April-10 May). For three weeks, actors and institutions of citizenship education will present themselves and their work and this way make the variety of their actions obvious. In 2005, the Action Days happened for the first time, being connected to the European Year of Citizenship through Education (EYCE), declared by the European Council. Since then, these Action Days have been happening under the central idea of "Learning and Living Democracy", which is the motto of the Council of Europe's "Education for Democratic Citizenship" programme.

[German Federal Agency for Civic Education/ bpb](#)

More information at:

www1.bpb.de/veranstaltungen/OPK1YVW,0,Aktionstage_Politische_Bildung_2010.html

[polis - The Austrian Centre for Citizenship Education in Schools](#)

[Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture](#)

The Austrian Action Days will focus on the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010) and the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

More information at: www.aktionstage.politische-bildung.at

[Autonome Provinz Bozen, German Department,](#)

[Office for advanced training](#)

This year's topic is "Solidarität und Zivilcourage" ("Solidarity and Courage of Convictions")

More information at:

<http://www.provinz.bz.it/politische-bildung/default.asp>

[Autonome Hochschule der Deutschen Gemeinschaft, Department](#)

[GrenzGeschichteDG](#)

More information at:

www.grenzgeschichte.eu/aktionstage/machmit.html



REPORTS

NECE Conference

“The Impact of Cultural and Citizenship Education on Social Cohesion”

3-5 December 2009, Vilnius, Lithuania
(European Capital of Culture 2009)

by Dr. Helle Becker, Office “Expertise & Communication for Education”, Germany

The conference focused on the discussion surrounding theoretical perspectives and educational practices against the backdrop of growing social erosion in Europe from the scope of cultural and citizenship education. 191 experts and multipliers from the fields of science and research, politics, culture, cultural education and citizenship education discussed parameters and terms of social exclusion and options of cultural and citizenship education to improve participation and social cohesion.

The conference presented various kinds of approaches to the main target groups in the context of formal and non-formal youth and adult education. It was discussed whether educational concepts in Europe are comparable. The discussions focussed on the creative impulses coming from cultural and citizenship education. Options and limits of pedagogical and cultural interventions and their intentions were discussed controversially. The debates showed the necessity to distinguish between cultural participation (in terms of access to cultural products and activities), social participation (in terms of opportunities to develop an individual and social identity of a individual’s own choice), and political participation (in terms of political judgement and co-determination). The definition and the use of the term “target group” was another crucial issue of the conference’s debates.

On the one hand, such categories can impede an inspection of social and individual circumstances and they can abet unproven attributions; on the other hand categories can help to describe typical problems, to design proper measures and to address groups adequately. From the participants’ point of view, the conference provided food for thought, interesting practical examples and vivid discussions, above all due to the variety of scientific and professional disciplines being represented. This provided opportunities to exchange experiences of creative methods and settings, which help to involve people in social, cultural and political activities. Furthermore, participants explored the opportunities of transfer and co-operation.

*More information is coming soon at:
www.nece.eu/documentation*

Novum FORUM

“Perspectives on Active Citizenship”

5 November 2009, Otocec, Slovenia

by Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk, Institute for Political Participation (IPP), the Netherlands

The newly established Slovenian political foundation ‘Novum Forum’ organised this conference, where NGO representatives from Slovenia, Croatia and the Netherlands discussed prospects of active citizenship in the future. Dr. Pavel Gantar, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, attended as well as Dr. Vesna Pusic, President of the Club of Representatives in the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia, who in her opening speech looked back at the East European countries in the 80s when the idea of citizens being the real owner of the state and its structure was so euphorically welcomed. She admitted that the concept of the active citizen as such has not yet been completely developed, not even in Western democracies, and that it might be a positive utopia to ever reach it by its totality. Sandra Pernar, Director of “Gong” (Croatia), gave an overview about the development of citizen’s participation in Croatia in the last decade. She stressed that structures have been established to make the involvement of citizen organisations easier, but that reality in Croatia is still lagging behind. Politicians and civil servants are still very sceptical towards the involvement of citizens in the political process. But on the other hand Croatian citizens themselves are very passive, believing that taking part in elections is sufficient for political involvement.

For the conference participants from the Netherlands it became quite obvious that Slovenian and Croatian NGOs active in the field of citizens’ participation are very much longing for best practises from Western European countries. In this context Ivo Hartmann, IPP, warned for too many illusions: one should not forget that also citizens’ participation is part of the political struggle and will never be fully realised. He further presented some types of citizen’s participation, like the participation of citizens in policy-making processes through ways of deliberative democracy, which are relatively new even in Western societies. During the final discussion participants from Slovenia and Croatia stressed several times the need for a strong national legal base for activities of individual citizens and civil society organisations. It turned out that the heritage from the past causes the widely spread opinion: ‘Everything being not expressively allowed, is forbidden’, and citizen’s participation in Slovenia and Croatia suffers very much from this also in reality.

*For more information, please contact:
Novum Forum Director Sebastjan Pikel at spikl@inovum.si*

INTRODUCING

In every edition we introduce organisations being actively involved in the field of citizenship education.

The European Wergeland Centre*

The European Wergeland Centre (EWC) is a European resource centre on education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship for the member states of the Council of Europe. In February 2009 the Centre started its work on providing in-service training, carrying out and supporting research, creating networks, serving as a platform and disseminating information and good practices. The Centre is an innovative initiative between the Council of Europe and Norway. Dr. Claudia Lenz, Research Coordinator at the Center, answered our questions.



NECE:

What is the background of developing and starting such a Centre in Norway? How is it organised and financed?

Claudia Lenz:

EWC: The goal of the Council of Europe (CoE) is to enhance democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Its working methods are to pass conventions and give recommendations to the 47 member states. Throughout the years the CoE has experienced that some member states have difficulties in turning these political recommendations into practical actions. In 2005, the Summit Meeting of the CoE therefore recommended the CoE to establish a resource centre to assist the states in bridging the gap between policy and practice. Therefore, the EWC has been established to support and promote the shared fundamental values and principles of CoE and Norway. These are to foster democratic culture, respect for human rights and intercultural dialogue and understanding. The EWC is an independent legal entity, governed by a Board of seven members, three from the CoE and four from Norway. The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Centre's activities. The staff is international and the office is in Norway. The Centre is mainly financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and may receive contributions from CoE member states as well as from other donors.

NECE:

The EWC aims at building bridges between research and (educational) practice in the fields of intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship by an integrated approach. What exactly does this mean? Could you give a concrete example of how this exchange works?

Claudia Lenz:

Generally, the EWC integrated approach means that all aspects of our activities are based on values and principles such as transparency, multi-perspectivity, inclusiveness and reflexivity. In the course of the past few years, a lot of research in the fields mentioned has been carried out, which may inspire and inform educational practice. This includes theoretical/conceptual, methodological approaches and empirical studies. Few of the results, though, are communicated to and used by educational practitioners. The EWC creates a dialogue between the fields. One example is "The State of the Art Project". Scholars publish plain statements about research agendas, results and current debates. By a next step, interactive features will allow for discussing these statements. During 2010, new web-functionalities will be accessible to foster dialogue within and between fields of practice. They include an expert database, interactive platforms, information sharing about research opportunities and project involvements, as well as literature recommendations. The EWC also organizes face-to-face consultations, presenting "fresh" research results to educators. A series of events about the finalised REDCo project ("Religion in Education. A contribution to Dialogue or a factor of Conflict in transforming societies of European Countries") will be held in several European countries.

NECE:

What will be the next most important steps on the further development and upcoming special features of the EWC? Which future co-operations with European partners do you plan?

Claudia Lenz:

The EWC represents a complementarity and an added value with regard to the CoE activities in the scope of our mandate. We are open for co-operations with partners in all CoE member countries and beyond. An example of this is a summer school on Democratic School Governance, which will be held in Poland in summer 2010. It bases on a co-operation between the Polish Ministry of Education and the EWC and is open for participants from a broad variety of countries. In 2010, the EWC will conduct training seminars in co-operation with the CoE's Pestalozzi-programme and will host conferences for CoE projects such as "The image of the other in history teaching". In order to create the largest possible impact, the EWC will conduct to-step-training modules, where international participants will serve as trainers in their countries. We would like to invite all CoE member states to co-operate with us, within the framework of our mandate: the promotion of education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship.

More information at: www.theewc.org

*The Center is named after Henrik Arnold Wergeland (1808-1845). He was a romantic poet and an important historian. By realising that the young Norwegian nation was in need of active citizens and that true power was to be found in knowledge, he thus made his home library accessible to everyone, working to make people proud of their own language and culture.

GOOD PRACTICE

In this section we introduce projects intended to exemplify and clarify how empowerment and qualification of different target groups by means of citizenship education may work.

Theatre and the Community

by Mike Levy, Director of Keystage Company, UK

Can theatre help to build active citizens and cohere in a divided community? Our experience shows that it is possible to build a somewhat fractured community through the power of the theatre arts. Our projects are always based on strong community themes drawn from the history and heritage of the neighbourhood from which the players and crew are drawn. The production might, for instance, be based on a local figure, who had made a positive contribution to the town, region, country or even the world. This type of heritage theme works particularly well as it binds the diverse communities of a neighbourhood or town to common roots. The impulse here is to provide an active creative project on a theme that all participants can feel involved in. As an example, we have recently produced a community play for the small town of Thetford in rural Norfolk.

The town celebrated the 200th anniversary of its most famous son, Thomas Paine, the radical writer on human rights and a founding father of the USA. We persuaded the town's commemoration committee to include a specially-written play with music on the life and works of the great man. We were given the brief to create a company of actors and stage crew from a town that had little or no theatre provision. It is a town suffering from high unemployment, poor prospects and a rather fragmented community of local English people and those from Poland and Portugal. We recruited performers and crew from all communities – including some recent immigrants who could not yet speak English well. The result

is that barriers are broken, new friendships forged and a sense of pride in the production and the heritage theme that lies behind it are built.

Writing a bespoke production means that one can tailor the script to the abilities of the community actors. That does not, and should not, mean any kind of 'dumbing down'. We believe that it is very important to set high quality standards so that both the process and outcome of the production provides a series of achievable challenges and a real sense of achievement. We also use a lot of original music. Again songs can be tailored to the abilities of the team; there is always a sense of special achievement to play or sing an original song and lyrics. The same was true for a city-wide musical play 0-800 in 60 minutes. It was an out-of-school project for ten city schools in Cambridge, the theme was the 800th anniversary of the famous university. The play provided young people from a very wide and diverse range of backgrounds to engage with local history, build up a sense of ownership and pride in their famous institution and encourage some of them from disadvantaged backgrounds to think of Cambridge University as part of their own future.

Original productions based on heritage and history, provide the ideal focus for community-wide creative projects which provide for many a first taste of the magic of musical theatre. We know many young people from disadvantaged communities who have gone on to be involved in youth theatre groups – they have got the lifelong theatre bug. Community theatre is a powerful tool in building, and sustaining, creative teams and a strong sense of unified purpose; it can also be used, as we have seen, to bolster a sense of local pride in one's collective history and heritage.

More information at: www.keystage-company.co.uk

The company's work on the 0-800 play can be seen on Youtube: www.admin.cam.ac.uk/news/dp/2010012203



PROJECT FUNDING / CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Project Funding / Call for Proposals

4th annual conference of the International Centre for Education for Democratic Citizenship and the Institute of Education, University of London

This conference, taking place in July 2010, is the culmination of the two years-long ESRC-funded seminar series, "Education for 'national' citizenship in the context of devolution and ethno-religious conflict". Paper proposals or proposals for panels relating to the following possible topics, and/or inter-relation between sub-themes: citizenship education, naturalisation, gender, ethnic and religious diversity, societies and conflict, inclusive participation, local, regional, national and global levels of identification/governance are welcome.

Submission deadline is 30 April.

More information:
www.bbk.ac.uk/icedc/events/current/esrc/summary

Citizenship education: Democracy, Culture, Socialisation & Media

This conference, taking place in Denmark in September 2010 will address the issue of opportunities for an educated "citizen democracy". Papers within the research field of political socialisation and education and a special focus on civic involvement, social capital, political literacy and media (new & traditional) are welcome.

Submission deadline is 18 June.

More information at:
www.politicalsocialization.org/newsletters/RCPSE%20Newsletter%20December%202009.pdf

Educational Research

In 2011 the journal of the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) will publish a special issue on Intercultural, Citizenship and Human Rights Education. Articles from a range of contexts and perspectives including international, regional, national, and local perspectives as well as school, classroom, community contexts encapsulating the exciting debates, issues and developments currently underway in these fields are invited to be submitted until 30 July.

More information at:
<http://campaigns.openemail.net/t/8315059/19130030/15149/0/>

Shaping CITYzenship

The aim of this project is to have a closer look at the current dynamic and heterogeneous character of Berlin, exploring on different scales the existing relations mainly among three important elements within the urban context: people, spaces and mental images. Citizens of Europe invites young people living in or around Berlin and being interested in joining a project which is driven by curiosity and joy for exploration and which also looks for experienced people ready to be interviewed about activities by which they shape neighbourhoods.

More information at:
www.citizens-of-europe.eu
or contact directly
francesca.lavigna@citizens-of-europe.eu

2nd European Forum for Video Education "Video and active citizenship"

Within the framework of this forum the competition "Video and active citizenship" is announced. Educators are invi-

ted to submit interesting video related to the theme of "active citizenship" and win a free trip to the Berlin Forum. Contributions from all educational sectors are encouraged (pre-school, school, vocational training, adult education, university) and contributions, which don't rely on spoken language are preferred. Deadline for contribution is the 31 August 2010.

More information at: <http://viducate.net>

Imprint

Responsible publisher of the NECE newsletter:

Federal Agency for Civic Education
Adenauerallee 86
53113 Bonn / Germany
www.bpb.de
www.nece.eu

Editor
lab concepts GmbH
Anja Ostermann & Anita Baschant
nece@lab-concepts.de

Translation:
Mirko Wittwar, BDÜ

Subscribe to the Newsletter:
www.nece.eu or
www.lab-concepts.de

Layout
www.meva-bonn.de

Photos
photocase.com
Mike Levy

POLICY NEWS

This sections provides information about news and political decisions that are relevant for the agenda setting of citizenship education.

UN proclaims International Year of Youth in 2010

The United Nations proclaimed in December an International Year of Youth, starting in August 2010, in an effort to harness the energy, imagination and initiative of the world's youth in overcoming the challenges facing humankind, from enhancing peace to boosting economic development. Under the topic of "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding", the Year aims to encourage dialogue and understanding across generations and promote the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and freedoms, and solidarity.

More information at: www.yourtime2010.com

Commission awards Golden Stars to citizens' projects

The European Commission awarded eight projects with the "Golden Stars" of active European citizenship' in a ceremony in December 2009. The ceremony was preceded by a EU conference, which provided an opportunity to debate the issue of civic participation through volunteering. This conference marked the beginning of the mobilisation of citizens towards the European Year of Voluntary Activities Promoting Active Citizenship 2011.

More information at:
http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/news/news919_en.htm

Combating poverty and social exclusion: A statistical portrait of the European Union

It is hoped that building a more inclusive Europe as well as solidarity will be further promoted through the designation of 2010 as the European year for combating poverty and social exclusion. This study presents a broad range of statistical concepts and indicators from social statistics and explores poverty and social exclusion across the 27 Member States.

More information at:
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=693&furtherNews=yes>

Youth Policy Watch – knowing more about youth in Europe

This new tool provides information on youth related topics in Europe and was launched recently by the European Youth Forum. The Youth Policy Watch, available both in English and French, is geared to anyone who is interested in knowing more about youth in Europe. The European Youth Forum is a platform of 99 national youth councils and international non-governmental youth organisations from across Europe. Its ongoing activities are supported by the YOUTH in ACTION programme under action 4: Youth Support Systems.

More information at: www.youthforum.org/en/taxonomy/term/329

NECE Correspondents

Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, Austria

Mag. Sigrid Steininger
(EDC-Coordinator Austria),
Sigrid.Steininger@bmukk.gv.at
Mag. Manfred Wirtitsch,
Manfred.Wirtitsch@bmukk.gv.at

Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe, Bulgaria

Ph.D. Rayna Gavrilova,
r.gavrilova@ceetrust.org

Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences, Croatia

Dr. Caroline Hornstein-Tomic,
Caroline.Hornstein-Tomic@pilar.hr

Danish University of Education, Denmark

Ph.D. Claus Haas,
haas@dpu.dk

University of Turku at Rauma, Finland

Ph.D. Riitta Korhonen, riitta.korhonen@utu.fi

National Centre for Scientific Research, France

Dr. Corine Defrance, corine.
defrance@wanadoo.fr

University of Heidelberg, Germany

Prof. Dr. Anne Sliwka,
sliwka@ph-heidelberg.de

Center for Citizenship Education, Poland

Dr. Alicja Pacewicz,
alicja@ceo.org.pl

University of Navarra, Office of Educational Innovation, Spain

Prof. Dr. Conception Naval,
cnaval@unav.es

Institute for Political Participation, the Netherlands

Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk,
t.meijvogel@publiek-politiek.nl

University of London, Institute of Education, United Kingdom

Ph.D. Bryony Hoskins,
B.Hoskins@ioe.ac.uk

INFORMATION

PREVIEW

NECE Activities

21-22 April 2010, Warsaw, Poland

Public Libraries as Centres for Civic Education in Europe: Recommendations for new Practices and Perspectives in the Polish Libraries

The main aim of this European expert seminar is to formulate recommendations and discuss best practices regarding informal civic education that could be implemented in local libraries. The workshop is conducted by the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA) in Warsaw, Poland in co-operation with the Information Society Development Foundation (FRSI) within the framework of the Library Development Programme (LDP), the Robert Bosch Foundation and NECE - Networking European Citizenship Education.

Participation is on invitation only.

More information at:

www.isp.org.pl

www.nece.eu

24-26 June 2010, Barcelona, Spain

**NECE Workshop
City and Diversity - Challenges for Citizenship Education**

Urbanity in the 21st century is closely linked to identity processes and challenges for citizenship education. At this workshop, invited experts will work on this question: How could citizenship education at the European level appropriately react to these changes and also initiate new models of participation?

Participation is on invitation only.

More information at:

www.nece.eu

29 September-1 October 2010, Trieste, Italy

**NECE Conference
The Role of Citizenship Education within the Development of Cities and Urban Spaces**

With globalisation going on, the multi-levelled change of urban living and working spaces become ever more relevant for the cohesion of urban societies. In these contexts, citizenship education must take new positions, because the opportunities and possibilities for social and political participation in the urban space are increasingly influenced by transnational change. The European conference will raise the following questions: What is the position of citizenship education in the urban space? What makes its practice special, and which new approaches must be pursued? By help of which means does citizenship education succeed with mediating in urban contexts and between actors as well as with developing strategies for sustainable urban civic life?

Pre-registration is possible at nece-trieste@lab-concepts.de

More information at:

www.nece.eu

Events

22-25 April 2010, Poznan, Poland

**European Festivals Research Project (EFRP)
“Celebrating Europe: International Festivals Strengthening Civil Society”**

This project is an international, interdisciplinary consortium, which is focused on the dynamics of artistic festivals in contemporary life. The long weekend consists of three distinct events: “Culture as A City Capital – Festivals in the Urban Developmental Strategy”, a round table with invited experts, festival operators and representatives of the local governments, the “Europe of Festivals – Civil Society Benefits?”, an academic conference where invited speakers discuss the role of festivals in shaping and strengthening Europe-wide civil society, and the EFRP research workshop “Artistic Festivals with an Intellectual Agenda”.

More information at:

www.efa-aef.eu/en/activities/efrp/

**25 April-9 May 2010 in four cities: London, Paris, Bologna, Cluj
Transeuropa Festival**

This festival is an innovative kind of public event, which is simultaneously an artistic, cultural and political engagement, taking place across national borders. It embraces the values of shared political responsibility, free movement, travel, transnational communications and cultural and political exploration. It brings together a transnational network of diverse cultural and civil society organisations and individuals.

More information at:

www.euroalter.com/transeuropa

20-22 May 2010, Barcelona, Spain

**The Twelfth Annual CiCe Network Conference:
“Lifelong Learning and Active Citizenship”**

Lifelong learning lies at the heart of the drive to develop the European Community as an advanced knowledge-based society, with sustainable economic development and improved social cohesion. Therefore this year's CiCe Network conference focuses on lifelong learning in informal or formal settings in relation to citizenship and the development of social identities.

More information at:

http://cice.londonmet.ac.uk/conferences/main/main_home.cfm

28 May 2010, Pamplona, Spain

Research Project: “Education for Communication and Social Cooperation”

The following questions will be asked: What does the “loss of civic commitment” mean for the citizens of a democracy? Is it possible to inspire commitment and concern for the common, social good in the midst of competing and exclusive demands on citizens' attention? How might civic partnership and coexistence be discerned and based on what unites us rather than on what divides us? The

INFORMATION

goal of this day-long conference is to bring together researchers and educators to reflect and debate these issues, which are keys to the sustainability and strengthening of democratic structures.

More information at:
www.unav.es

May and June 2010, Slovakia, Austria, Germany **European City Seminars 2010: "Ethnicity in the City"**

The Multicultural Centre Prague, the Institute of Public Affairs, the Villa Decius Association and Rejs e.V. invite researchers, journalists and artists to participate in a unique project that will deal with ethnic topics in Central European cities. The outcome of this project will include several case studies and media material.

More information at:
www.migrationonline.cz/calendar/?x=2205791

16-20 June 2010, Primorsko, Bulgaria **Exploring Civic Identity - New Perspective in Civic Education Workshop**

The general aim is to develop understanding of the concept of civic identity and its implementation at secondary school, to explore the place of civic identity in the framework of EDC and in civic education programs and curricula. The training aims at preparing education professionals to become multipliers of Council of Europe standards and values in education.

More information at:
www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/pestalozzi/Activities/workshop_en.asp

Publications

Citizenship Education at Schools

a report published by the English schools inspectors (Ofsted)

In 2006, the report "Towards consensus?" provided a picture of citizenship as an emerging presence at schools. This new report shows steady progress as citizenship becomes more widely understood and acquires depth in the light of experience, but also highlights what these schools need to tackle with if citizenship is to be firmly established.

More information at:
www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Citizenship-established-Citizenship-in-schools-2006-09

Pupil Assessment in Citizenship Education: Purposes, Practices and Possibilities

a report by David Kerr, Avril Keating and Eleanor Ireland, published April 2009

The report collects comparative information on current policies, purposes and practices in eight European countries and highlights the emerging topics and challenges of assessing citizenship learning among students of all ages.

More information at:
www.nfer.ac.uk

European Citizenship - In the Process of Construction: Challenges for Citizenship, Citizenship Education and Democratic Practice in Europe

edited by Ditta Dolejsiova and Miguel Angel Garcia Lopez, published 2009

Young people in particular have a special interest in and concern about what kind of Europe they want to live in. Therefore, it is important to reflect on how European citizenship and debates around European identity could help and empower young people to actively contribute to building Europe. The essays present the debates and findings of the research seminar entitled "Young People and Active European Citizenship", organised by the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

More information at:
http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&produit_aliasid=2444lang=EN

Handbook on Values for Life in a Democracy

by Robert Strandling and Christopher Rowe, published 2009

This Handbook was one of the outcomes of the project "Cultural identities, shared values and citizenship" (2006-2008). It is structured around a series of key questions to promote discussion among young people about universal human rights and the implementation of core European values and encourages the reader to apply these values to a variety of issues.

More information at:
http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2384

Links

TRAFO - a new multimedia website for young people

The European Youth Card Association has launched its new portal targeting young people. The website encourages and enables young people to communicate their ideas and to share their points of view. Everyone may contribute to the content of the website.

More information at:
trafo.euro26.org