

The European Union and the Promise of Democracy: What can Citizenship Education and Civil Society contribute?

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The Hague, 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.

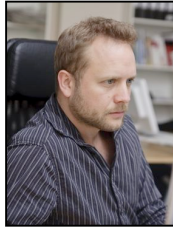


Helle Becker is a culture and education expert who worked at the international level until 1987. Since 1995 she has worked as a freelance researcher and author, project manager and trainer with the office "Expertise & Kommunikation für Bildung" (expertise and communication for education) in Essen. Her 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 a columnist and reporter. She has lectured at a variety of universities.



Carsten Berg is a trained Political Scientist and obtained a degree in Political Sciences from the University of Potsdam and an MA in Education from Alanus University Bonn-Alfter. He has campaigned for participatory and direct democracy at regional, national and transnational levels. In 2002-2003, Carsten Berg worked for Mehr Demokratie e.V. in the Convention on the Future of Europe (European Constitutional Convention) and successfully campaigned for the inclusion of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) into EU law. Since then he is heading The ECI Campaign, an NGO that is working for the successful implementation of the new

democracy instrument. At the same time it is supporting organisations and groups of individuals to use the ECI. The ECI Campaign is deeply committed to ensuring that the ECI fulfils its promise of empowering EU citizens to influence the legislative agenda of the EU.



Andreas Bock works with the Network for Reporting on Eastern Europe n-ost and is the senior editor for the European press review euro|topics. He is also a member of the strategy group of the European initiative "A Soul for Europe". Between 2005 and 2008 he worked as a project manager at the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa) and for MitOst in Budapest. He studied cultural and social science at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) and the University of California, Berkeley.



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 the 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).



Diego Garzia is a Jean Monnet post-Doctoral fellow at the European University Institute. The long-term focus of his research is on the drivers of voters' choice in Western Europe. During his studies, he heard that people would do a much better job as voters if they had all the relevant information. Based on this normative expectation, his current research project investigates the potential of web-based Voting Advice Applications to affect voters' behaviour in both quantitative (turnout) and qualitative (party choice) terms. His published works appear in journals such as Journal of Political Marketing, Political Psychology, Political Research Quarterly, The Leadership Quarterly, and World Political Science Review.



Jochum de Graaf is senior project manager at ProDemos – House for Democracy and the Rule of Law in The Hague, 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, among others a handbook on using the media. From its inception in 1989, he was involved in the development of “StemWijzer”, the very successful political preference test in the Netherlands. At the parliamentary elections in 2012, the site obtained 4.9 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 2014, for the EP elections.



Jennifer de Nijs is a 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).



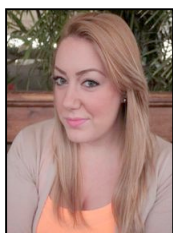
Leticia Diez Sánchez has studied Law in Budapest, Bristol, Saint Petersburg and Granada. She has worked as a trainee in the office of a Czech MEP in Brussels and is continuing her studies with an MSc in Politics and Government in the EU at the London School of Economics. She has also volunteered for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



Andreas Eis (PhD, Jena University, Germany) is a political scientist. He teaches didactics of politics as a junior professor at Ossietzky University, Oldenburg. Previous positions include visiting and assistant professorships at the universities of Frankfurt, Augsburg and Jena, and teaching politics and ethics at a high school. Andreas Eis studied at the universities of Jena, Rennes (France), and Michigan State (East Lansing). Research interests include the didactics of teaching European politics and citizenship education, participation and governance beyond the Nation State, diversity studies, and the interconnection between politics and ethics. Recent publications: A. Eis/D. Salomon (eds.): Gesellschaftliche Umbrüche gestalten: Transformationen in der Politischen Bildung, Schwalbach 2014 (forthcoming); Concepts and Perceptions of Democracy and Governance beyond the Nation State: Qualitative Research in Education for European Citizenship, in: Journal of Social Science Education, 3/2010, pp. 35-51.



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.



Candace Hetchler works as a director of Development at El Sadat Association for Social Development & Welfare, developing sustainable programmes that help alleviate poverty and assist in social, civic, institutional and enterprise growth in Egypt, with a special focus on the Nile Delta region. Candace is a multi-lingual professional with sound experience in fundraising, programme design, proposal & technical writing, copy-editing, strategic planning, relationship cultivation and programme management, particularly in the Egyptian context. She is well connected within Egyptian civil society & private sector networks.



Ondrej Horak works as co-ordinator of the pilot project "Education for Citizenship" at the Civic Education Centre at the Masaryk University in Brno (Czech Republic). 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 to the initiative "Inventorying of democracy" he set up a non-formal student group with two goals: analyse the field of civic education in the Czech Republic and find a platform for IT system support. The main aims of the Centre are to identify important topics that are valuable from the perspective of citizenship education; to co-ordinate projects and initiatives that already exist. He is currently working on the preparation of an international workshop on participatory methods in Telc.



Renate Kenter is a 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).



Thomas Krüger is the president of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education. 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.



Claudia Lenz works as head of Research & Development at the European Wergeland Centre and as associate professor at the Norwegian University for Technology and Science (NTNU). After studying Philosophy, Political Science and Psychology, she took her PhD in Political Science at the University of Hamburg. Her fields of research and publication are historical consciousness, memory cultures and memory politics with regard to World War II and the Holocaust. The other fields of expertise are theories and approaches in education for democratic citizenship and intercultural education. Her recent publication is about historicising the uses of the past, Scandinavian perspectives on history culture, historical consciousness and didactics of history related to World War II (co-edited with Helle Bjerg and Erik Thorstensen).



Katarzyna Lorenc works as a project coordinator and manager for ŻAK | BRANICKA gallery & foundation in Berlin and Kraków. She studied German Studies and focused on Comparative Literary Studies in Frankfurt am Main and Krakow. After graduation (MA) on the Construction of Nazi-Germany in GDR-literature in 2009, she was awarded with the scholarship 'Shaping Europe - Civic Education in Action' founded by the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb) and the Robert Bosch Foundation. She is dedicated to projects connecting education, literature, art and historical issues.



Markus Lux has been working at the Robert Bosch Stiftung in Stuttgart since 2002. He is currently head of the section Good Governance and Education in the Department for International Relations for Central and South-Eastern Europe, Commonwealth and Independent States, and China, in which he is responsible for exchange programmes in the areas of higher education, administration and civic engagement.



Roelof Martens is the head of the 'on location' department at ProDemos – House for Democracy and the Rule of Law in the Netherlands. Since 2006 he has been working at ProDemos and its predecessor, the Institute for Political Participation (IPP). Roelof Martens is mainly involved in participation projects at the local level, for instance trainings for future municipal councillors, advice to municipalities concerning citizens' participation and the development of various online participation tools such as the 'Budget-maker'. Before joining ProDemos, he worked for the Dutch Province 'Zuid-Holland'. From 1999 to 2011 he was also engaged in politics as a member of the board of the PvdA (Socialdemocratic Party) in the city of Utrecht. He is a graduate of the University of Wageningen, the Netherlands.



Christiana Maria Mauro specializes in EU law and Eastern European states in transition. She has worked with a number of organisations dealing with digital rights and has reported on institutional reform, transparency and data protection. Christiana was involved in the campaigns against ACTA and against Internet blocking in the EU. She is currently working as a consultant on a project for the Open Data Research Network and for the ECI Campaign.



Lorenzo Marsili is the founder and current executive director of European Alternatives, a transnational organisation promoting democracy and transnational citizenship in Europe. European Alternatives facilitates the participation of citizens in European political processes by fostering the construction of transnational platforms and campaigns and by conducting dissemination, training, cultural and awareness-raising activities, including the Transeuropa Festival. Lorenzo Marsili is also the initiator and current spokesperson of the European Initiative for Media Pluralism, an international campaign demanding better protection for media pluralism at the European level. Using a new tool of transnational participatory democracy – the European Citizens’ Initiative – Mr. Lorenzo is currently co-ordinating over one hundred partners to foster real change in media policy.



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 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.



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.



Tit Neubauer is currently the Head of the Cabinet at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Government of Slovenia. Before that he worked as an accredited assistant to a Slovenian Member of the European Parliament, where he was primarily responsible for the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee. In the past, he also worked as a researcher at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, where he was involved in the project entitled “Citizen(ship) in the New Age: Citizenship Education for a Multicultural and Globalised World”. His recent 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 was also 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.



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.

Currently, he is co-ordinating the “Evening with Ombudsman” programme in Poland. The project is primarily focused on awareness raising, informing and education of the EU citizens living in remote/rural areas about their fundamental rights as declared in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.



Alice Orth has an M.A. in North American Studies and Media and Communication Studies. She worked in the Department of History at the John-F.-Kennedy Institute for North American Studies and at the Goethe-Institute Chicago in the field of cultural programming. Alice Orth completed professional training in international project management. She has been working as a project consultant for lab concepts since 2012.



Anja Ostermann is managing director and project manager at the agency lab concepts in Bonn-Berlin, Germany. She worked as a freelance editor for the German Federal Agency for Civic Education. Anja Ostermann was responsible among other things for the publication of the “Länderbericht USA” (Country Report USA, 1992, 1994, 1998, 2004, 2007). Since 1995, she has been actively involved in the design and the implementation of various education and cultural formats, especially 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. She studied Comparative Literature, History, German Language and Literature, Business Administration and Italian at the University of Bonn and St. Andrew’s University in Scotland.



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. Her main interests include citizenship education, teaching methods, project- and problem-based learning, ICT in education, school reform and teacher education. Alicja T. Pacewicz is the author and editor of numerous publications and textbooks on civic education and innovative instruction methods. She has participated in expert groups in the area of national school curricula.



Margita Petriková is the program manager in the Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg of the Robert Bosch Stiftung and MitOst e.V. and is responsible for the cooperation programs in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Poland. The Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg encourages activists from more than 15 countries of Central, Eastern and South East Europe, Caucasus and North Africa to engage actively within their societies on the basis of democratic values. It promotes the acquisition of voluntary project management skills and supports the activists during the implementation of their own projects



Julia Pfinder is co-ordinating 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 for example 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 youths were qualified as multipliers to implement their own projects and activities for other adolescents.



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.



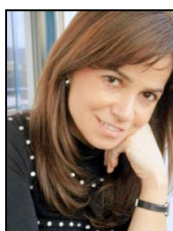
Tomaž Pušnik is a researcher at the *Center for critical approach of Political Science*, University of Ljubljana. His broader fields of research are political theory and political philosophy with focus on concepts of citizenship, citizenship education and EU policies. At the moment, he is working on two European projects, *Evening with Ombudsman* dealing with awareness raising about fundamental rights of EU citizens and on the project “A partnership for youth: Towards new learning pathways for better employability of young active citizens”, which connects stakeholders in the field of education, youth and employment.



Mona Bano Qaiser is currently finishing her master's degree in social and organisational pedagogic and is writing her master thesis in the field of work life balance in German companies. Besides that she has started working as a freelancing civic educator for youth about one and a half years ago. At the moment, she is involved in establishing and coordinating a new location for the project "Dialogue at School" in Hannover. She has learned from, worked with and been inspired by youngsters from different parts of Germany as well as international youngsters from different European and other countries. In Hannover; she has mainly worked with under represented youngsters, often with migrational backgrounds.



Juliane Rast has worked at lab concepts as a project employee/ intern in international event management and PR 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.



Olinda Martinho Rio is the Senior Officer at the Ministry of Education and Science of Portugal, with responsibilities for cultural action in schools, youth projects and Citizenship Education. Previously, she worked in the Ministry of Culture, promoting activities to bridge culture and education. She is also a member of the follow-up group of the project EDC-HR of the Council of Europe. Presently, she is enrolled in a PhD programme in European Studies at the University of Coimbra, writing a thesis on *Cultural and Identitary Dynamics in Europe: the case of European Citizenship in Portugal*. Furthermore, she is a researcher at "Centro de História da Sociedade e da Cultura", a Unit of Development and Research. She is an expert for the Youth in Action 2007-2013 Programme – EACEA.



Hatem Hassan Salama is an Egyptian theatre director and culture projects manager. Following an extensive training in theatre and several workshops he took part in many projects in Egypt and abroad. Besides his career in theatre, Hatem Hassan Salama shows many other talents as an artist, with several participations in different culture events as a co-ordinator, organiser or providing technical support. He continues to draw on that experience in his work as a culture activist, to find collaboration opportunities between culture and other fields such as tourism, environment, education and creative economy.



Anna Samel is a Ph.D. student in Political Science at the University of Warsaw. Her research interests include political and electoral socialisation of young people and the effects of citizenship education and get-out-the-vote campaigns on the turnout among first-time voters. Her MA thesis comprised a study on the voter-mobilisation activities carried out during the European Parliament Elections in 2009 across Europe. Most recently, she has worked as a Chief Communication Officer at the Foundation for the Development of the Education System (2010-2013, Warsaw, Poland). There, she was responsible for media relations and running promotional and informational campaigns. Before that, she was a co-ordinator of the "Young People Vote" Project at the Center for Citizenship Education Foundation (2006-2009, Warsaw, Poland), being in charge of implementing a civic project on electoral matters and mock elections in more than 1,200 Polish schools.



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. Among others, he wrote a book about immigration in Europe and America: *Het land van aankomst*, and is translated in several European languages.



Felisa Tibbitts is the Founder and Senior Advisor of Human Rights Education Associates (HREA), which she directed from 1999-2010. She established the Human Rights in Education Program at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government (2012-13) and is currently Lecturer at Teachers College of Columbia University.



Christiane Toyka-Seid is Project Manager of “Civic Education in Action”, a fellowship programme of the Federal Agency for Civic Education and the Robert Bosch Stiftung for young professionals from Central and South Eastern Europe. Christiane Toyka-Seid runs cts text-line, an agency for civic education. She is in charge of devising the implementation of several educational formats and editor of www.hanisauland.de, the children’s website for politics of the Federal Agency for Civic Education. She is also author (with Gerd Schneider) of the young Dictionary for Politics.



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. He 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.



Martin Wilhelm has been Director of Citizens For Europe since 2010, an activist NGO pushing for an inclusive and participatory European society. He studied political science and economy and worked between 2004 and 2010 for public and private institutions across Europe on issues of European integration, migration and cultural exchanges. He is editor of Open Citizenship and writes for universities and foundations on diversity, European democracy and citizenship issues.



Manfred Wirtitsch has been heading the Department of Citizenship Education, Environmental Education and Consumer Education of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture since 2001. One of the major fields of the department is the implementation of citizenship education in the Austrian school system. From 1988 to 2000 he worked at the Federal Ministry of Science and Research, focusing on contemporary history, cultural studies, and comprehensive security. After his studies in History and Mass Communication he worked for two years for the Austrian States Archive as the scientific editor of the Minutes of the

Austrian Government of the First Republic.



Annegret Wulff is the program director of the Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg of the Robert Bosch Stiftung and MitOst e.V. The Theodor-Heuss-Kolleg encourages activists from more than 15 countries of Central, Eastern and South East Europe, Caucasus and North Africa to engage actively within their societies on the basis of democratic values. It promotes the acquisition of voluntary project management skills and supports the activists during the implementation of their own projects. Born in Stralsund in 1975, Annegret Wulff studied Slavic Studies and Business Administration in Potsdam and Smolensk/Russia. Since 2001 she has developed the

field Active Citizenship in the Association MitOst e.V.



Benjamin Wunsch-Grafton (MA), of Grafton Development, was born in the UK and studied Joint Honours in German and Philosophy at Oxford University before moving to Austria. After 19 years in the field of education as a teacher, school director and consultant, he has been internationally active with his company Grafton Development (especially in Europe, Middle East and Africa) as a facilitator and consultant across all sectors focusing on participation and organizational development. He works closely on participation: e.g. co-founding the working group “Learning democracy in daily schooling” and the EU project “Building blocks of Democracy”, a simulation

game on the issues of democracy.; with the Goethe Institute & EUNIC in the field of culture and development, currently involved as co-initiator & advisor of the “Cultural Innovators Network” supporting the innovative junior leaders in multi-sector fields north and south of the Mediterranean.



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.