

European Conference
‘Us’ and ‘Them’:
Citizenship Education in an Interdependent World
22 - 24 October 2015
Thessaloniki (Greece)

Call for Projects and Papers

We invite interested parties to present their projects and/ or papers at the public NECE Conference in Thessaloniki (www.nece.eu), thus contributing to the discussion of the conference’s central topic **‘Us’ and ‘Them’: Citizenship Education in an Interdependent World’**. This call is addressed to young scholars, academics, researchers, representatives of NGOs, foundations, associations, multipliers and responsible bodies from schools, non-formal and informal citizenship education from all over Europe and North Africa.

Background and aims

The conference will discuss the phenomena and processes of ‘othering’¹ occurring inside and between societies in our interdependent world. We will ask what the causes, processes and consequences of othering for citizenship education are. The question is, on the one hand, whether and how citizenship education can contribute to raising awareness for these processes or even to avoiding them altogether. And on the other hand we have to ask ourselves whether citizenship education might be a part of the problem by unconsciously reaffirming (e.g. by labelling target groups, choice of images etc.) existing stereotypes in educational projects. These questions will be examined in the practice-oriented workshop section of the conference.

The conference will also **gather relevant research projects, publications, projects and approaches** as well as **identify and discuss desiderata and potential actions**. In addition to general reflections, the subject of the conference will be applied to the following areas of particular political topicality:

- **“The EU in Crisis”**: The impact of Europe’s economic and political division, which has triggered discourses fuelled by fears and dissociation in the core countries of the EU and nationalistic and populist movements in core countries as well as in the southern periphery of the EU.
- **“The West’ and the ‘Islamic World’”**: The perception of a clash of civilizations between the ‘West’ and the ‘Islamic World’ which is leading to dangerous developments on both sides of the Mediterranean.
- **“Russia, Ukraine and ‘the West’**: The repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and the challenges for civil society in Eastern Europe and Russia to cope with situations of war and ideological and nationalist regression and hatred.

¹ A (preliminary) working definition: Othering is the process of perceiving or portraying someone or something as fundamentally different or alien. Related forms of othering are racism and its relatives in all their many noxious forms - they serve to bring "us" together and make us want to fight the vague but threatening "them." This is based on a definition by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Columbia University, New York.

Papers, projects, presentations: What can be submitted?

We welcome papers or project descriptions for the different conference formats (warm-up, project market, workshops) related to or focussing on the following areas:

- Projects, models or methods of civil education that raise awareness for societal othering processes and/or discuss the question how to deal with their consequences (e.g. projects for the prevention and treatment of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, antiziganism and other forms of racial discrimination).
- Projects, strategies or programmes aimed at preventing the radicalisation of youth in terms of jihadism /salafism.
- Projects, models or programmes aimed at preventing and dealing with populism.
- Projects, models or programmes aimed at communicating/working together with groups affected by mutual dissociation.
- Projects, models or approaches examining the role of the media in the context of othering processes.
- Projects, models or approaches examining the role of historical narratives, identities and memory cultures in the context of othering processes.
- Practical approaches, tools or trainings that have been developed to prevent (unconscious) processes of othering when designing actions to be taken by civic education (e.g. diversity training or dialogue trainings and exercises).
- Practical approaches, models for inclusive work with groups affected by othering (e.g. refugees).
- Research findings or current research projects examining the question how and to what extent stereotypes are being reaffirmed or presupposed in CE projects or materials or othering processes are being reinforced, what consequences this has and what our reaction to this should be (e.g. analyses of the representation of certain groups in textbooks, studies of linguistic or other imagery, studies of mental attitudes and/or presuppositions of teachers).

The above list is not exhaustive.

Please note:

- The papers or projects submitted can relate to formal and non-formal civic education as well as cultural education. In terms of practice examples we are in particular looking for projects that link formal and non-formal CE.
- Applications related to the three key subjects (Ukraine, EU in Crisis, The 'West' and the 'Islamic World') will be considered preferentially.

Modes of presentation

Projects and papers may be presented at the conference in the following ways:

1. Presentation and discussion in one of the parallel workshops on 23.10.2015, 3:30-6:30 pm.
2. Presentation in a one-hour workshop prior to the official opening of the conference on 22.10.2015, 3:00-4:00 pm.
3. Presentation in the project market (poster session, audiovisual media etc.).

The travel and accommodation costs for the invited experts only for the workshop presentation will be covered by the organisers. Please note that only the costs up to a maximum of two persons per workshop presentation can be covered.

Deadlines and contact

Please submit your proposal as soon as possible using the fact sheet attached. The deadline for the submission of both projects and papers is **30 July 2015**. The selection of papers and projects will be concluded by **21 August 2015**.

Please send your project and/ or paper via e-mail by completing the relevant fact sheet attached.

All inquiries and further questions can be directed to:

Alice Orth (Call for Projects/Project Market) and
Ulrike Bretschneider (Call for Papers/Project Presentation)

lab concepts GmbH

Friedrichstr. 206

10969 Berlin / Germany

Fax: 0049 (0)30 259 227 59

E-Mail: nece-call@lab-concepts.de