

NECE Conference 2016
Crossing Borders. Migration and Citizenship Education in Europe

10 - 12 November 2016
Zagreb, Croatia

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Conference report

Networking against crises!

Set against the result of the US elections on November 8, NECE 2016 from the first moment was shaped by a sense of urgency among the more than 300 participants.

Several keynotes by [Thomas Krüger](#), [David Goodhart](#), [Michalis Kakos](#) and [David Kerr](#), more than 20 workshops and panels, fieldtrips to Croatian NGOs and initiatives in citizenship education helped to advance this year's format of NECE more clearly towards a more participatory, a more controversial and more localised character.

Key issues of the controversy about migration and integration were addressed during the opening panel when the audience started to discuss the thesis of David Goodhart (UK) that "extreme liberalism" and ideas of a post-national, borderless world had helped to create the populist backlash.

Statements emphasizing legal, ethical and economic reasons for an open and more liberal migration policy showed that most participants did not share this view. At the same time, many welcomed the open and fair controversy as an essential and necessary part of the intellectual profile of NECE.

How citizenship education can rethink and redefine its role and methods in times of crises and populist revolts was one of the big issues of this conference. No satisfying and final answers were found but a useful and timely debate was started by keynotes from Michalis Kakos (UK) and David Kerr (UK).

On a practical level NECE was a showcase for creative projects and solutions as well as a great networking space and market: among many others, the new [NACE \(Networking Arab Civic Education\)](#) initiative and the focus group on "[Hard to Reach Learners](#)" could present new ideas and results of their work designed to take on the new challenges for citizens and citizenship educators.

A full documentation of the conference papers will be available soon at [nece.eu](#). Please check also the [NECE blog](#) with many interesting videos and interviews with speakers and participants.

Christoph Müller-Hofstede; 15.12.2016