

NECE



newsletter

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**NECE Conference 2012**  
**Participation Now! Citizenship Education**  
**and Democracy in Times of Change**  
21-24 November 2012, Córdoba (Spain)



TOPICS:

“A small one, but still a light” /// “Civil society in the context of decision-making structures in Brussels” /// “Human Rights and Democracy in Action - Looking Ahead”: Forthcoming European Conference on Citizenship and Human Rights Education /// NECE conference 2012 /// The European Forum Alpbach /// “One passport, one people? The role of democratic citizenship in building a new Europe” /// 2nd workshop of the project group for the Intercultural Glossary Project (IGP) /// Teachers of civic education at the Dutch parliament /// Seminar on civic participation for Spanish and British university students ///

## EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

Despite the crisis in Europe, in July 2013, Croatia will in all probability become the 28th country to join the EU. At the beginning of this year this was decided by the Croatian people. Andrea Dadoš-Petrlik and Boris Blaszevic from Croatia have interviewed members of the young generation and asked them about their attitude towards the EU. In Brussels, Frank Schwalba-Hoth is best known as „Clint Eastwood on the folding bicycle“, and he is considered one of Brussel´s most famous networkers. He points out three strategies of how civil society actors may made their voices heard on the Brussels stage. For the end of November 2012, the Council of Europe plans a huge evaluation conference on its Charter on education for democratic citizenship and human rights education. Yulia Pererva will provide some insight into the preparations. Patricia Mussi, former Managing Director of the European Forum Alpbach, Austria, informs about the goals, topics and backgrounds of the European Forum Alpbach which brings together more than 4,000 young people from all over the world every year in the Tyrolian Alps to discuss current political topics.


As in every edition of our newsletter, you will also find a number of upcoming events and news from the European Commission as well as of conference reports, e.g. of the europe@debate with young Europeans from FutureLab Europe in Brussels and of the second workshop of the project group for the Intercultural Glossary Project.

We would be pleased to welcome you to this year´s NECE conference that is going to take place from 21-24 November 2012 in Córdoba, Spain.

Further information will be soon available at the NECE website. Please visit regularly to stay informed.

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

Best regards,



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

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## FOCUS

**This section highlights current issues on the political agenda of the European Union or in the field of citizenship education in Europe.**

### “A small one, but still a light”

*by Andrea Radoš-Petrlík, University Zagreb & Boris Blažević, Vice President NGO Club Alpbach (Croatia)*

**In January 2012, by a clear majority the Croatian people voted in favour of their country’s accession to the European Union. However, with far less than 50% the turnout was rather modest. The accession, intended for 1 July 2013, may be taken for granted, for the ratification of the treaty of accession by the 27 current EU states, which is necessary as a precondition, is considered just a formality. Given the ongoing crisis in Europe, we were interested in the general attitude towards the EU of Croatia’s young generation. Boris Blažević, Vicepresident of the NGO Club Alpbach Croatia and Andrea Radoš-Petrlík, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb, have been keeping their ears open for us.**

Opinions among the young population in Croatia, when it comes to the subject of the EU, are divided. The atmosphere is weird. Looking at the European Union, young people see the huge unemployment rate in Spain, the collapse of Greece, and some years ago Ireland used to be a kind of a role model for Croatia to find its right way. Now, Ireland is in the same pot with all the other weak countries. They all are member states of the European Union. After becoming a fully-fledged member state in 2013, products are going to be more expensive. As processes of restructuring have to be done, the very „beginning“ of the membership is going to be hard. Recessionlike. But out there there is already a continuous recession, so younger people do not really know what to expect. Besides, what is the EU? Who is representing it? Jose Manuel Barroso is a well-known person, but the most important decisions are being made and/or enforced by Nicolas Sarkozy or Angela Merkel. They are Heads of States, neither of Croatia nor of the EU. That is confusing. The „Occupy Wall Street“ movement is much more attractive than the EU. It has a face.

These are only some thoughts of young Croatians concerning the European Union, also due to the lack of more complete information and education efforts by the country concerning the EU.

There is no euphoria, but a sense of hope. A hope that things will be better. Just that. Nobody is really saying so, but the need to change primarily the political and economic situation is at the same time a deeply emotional process. From the emotional point of view, the EU is something like the light at the end of the tunnel. A small one, but still a light. Especially the younger people are those wanting to make the light bigger and to go through it. On the other hand, looking inside Croatia, what

can we see: the former Prime Minister and other members of the government are being prosecuted, there are affairs after affairs, and trust in politics is at a very low level. In other words, Croatia is in the midst of the biggest crisis since the war in the Nineties. The major „real-life-problem“ the younger population faces is the high unemployment rate among young people. Some are calling it „couch-surfing at home“.

This short analysis quite clearly mirrors the confusion that is being seen among young Croatians. One thing is specific in itself. There is a smaller number of well-educated and at the same time well-situated young professionals who have a very negative stand when it comes to the EU. They are loud and divided into two groups.

The first are those who have never experienced Yugoslavia, but they have nostalgic feelings when thinking about it. The reason is to be seen with their parents. Working from 9 am to 3 pm, having one or two jobs at the most in a lifetime and less problems than these days. The second group are those coming from families from a rather right-wing political spectrum, who stick very much to the idea of national sovereignty. For them, the EU is just another bad idea, a union of states that, in their eyes, just resembles a kind of a more “modern” Yugoslavia. Conferring competences to a supranational level is emotionally the same as getting back to the „dark“ past. They are afraid that their people’s customs and traditions, that have been ingrained into a way of living for centuries, are will have to be changed and adapted to meet EU standards and requests, which will lead to a loss of identity and part of their history as well.



Looking at the overall picture, young people are coveting for some opportunities and a more secure future, although they are very much aware that this will be difficult to find, due to the dynamics of life today. Under the burden of the difficult past, faced with a murky future, all they want is something solid they could rely on.

## FOCUS

# “Civil society in the context of decision-making structures in Brussels”

by Frank Schwalba-Hoth, independent political analyst and strategist (Belgium)

„How to be present in Brussels” - this is at a certain moment the question everybody will ask him/herself who intends to influence political decision-making. After 28 years in the capital of Europe, first as an Green MEP and then Head of the Greenpeace EU Office, and currently as the editor of “EU Stakeholder Directory”, the Who is Who presenting the 16,000 key persons living in the capital of Europe, I believe to be able to point out three ways for those representing civil society structures.

1. Setting-up your own office: with the exception of Washington, there is no other place in the world than Brussels with a broader range of “public affairs” - i. e. lobbying. Ten per cent of the about 3,000 Brussels-based offices of associations, federations etc are civil society NGOs. About half of the work consists of communicating EU decisions to your own structure at home and of influencing precisely these decisions. Expenses for rent, staff and operating costs even for a small office are never less than 200,000 Euro a year - an aspect which prevents many people from establishing their own office.

2. Becoming part of a network: about ten per cent of the more than 800 EU-wide Brussels-based associations offer membership or cooperation to NGOs. The variety of these associations goes from climate, development cooperation, education, energy, environment up to gender, health, information society, human rights, social policy and traffic. Apart from providing regular information and formulating joint policies, these networks offer as well their assistance with targeted lobbying.

3. Making use of consulting: among the about 250 consulting firms there is a (small) percentage having specialized on NGOs and their needs, this includes assistance as well with applying for projects as well influencing EU policy. Let's give an example: the EU is currently planning a legislation which would make it possible for the Commission to lift a ban on night flights negotiated between those living around an airport and the airport itself. For the anti-noise NGOs around Frankfurt airport, a concept to convince Brussels-based decision makers that this is a wrong way was developed, and a two day match-making visit to Brussels made it possible to meet with more than two dozen key players. Even if others - beside those from Frankfurt - intervened, it is now obvious that the Commission draft will not be adopted in its current version, neither by the EP nor the Council of Ministers.

The complexity of decision-making structures plus the unpredictability in Brussels offers civil society quite often a successfully playing David vs. Goliath. To get an idea of how Brussels lives, breaths and works, a short visit will always be the first step. Even one or two days are usually enough to be able to decide whether you want to start the adventure to contribute to the Brussels international scene in order to fight for one's sustainable goals - be it on your own, assisted by coaching, in coalition with other organisations, discretely or assisted by a public campaign.

“EU Stakeholder Directory” (Print or Online Version, 2012)  
Stakeholder.eu – The Directory for Brussels lists all of Brussels stakeholders in a comprehensive, well-structured, reliable, user-friendly way, covering all facets of administration, national and international representatives, public affairs, media and civil society. It provides more than 16,000 names and addresses. To guarantee optimum convenience to the readership, this directory is available not only in print as an annually updated hardback edition, but also online, with updates at regular intervals. The directory is edited by Frank Schwalba-Hoth, former Member of the European Parliament, who has spent the past decades meeting, connecting and networking throughout the Brussels labyrinth.

[www.stakeholder.eu](http://www.stakeholder.eu)



## FOCUS

# “Human Rights and Democracy in Action - Looking Ahead”: Forthcoming European Conference on Citizenship and Human Rights Education

by Yulia Pererva, Council of Europe (France)

From 29 to 30 November 2012 a conference on “Human Rights and Democracy in Action - Looking Ahead” will bring together in Strasbourg about 200 participants, including governments, civil society organisations, international institutions, and education professionals from Europe and from other parts of the world, to discuss how democracy and human rights can be promoted through education.

In recent years, important developments in the field of citizenship and human rights education have taken place both in Europe and beyond. In particular, the Council of Europe Charter on education for democratic citizenship and human rights education [Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7] was adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and representatives of the 47th Council of European member states. The Charter is an important reference point for all of Europe. It builds on many years of inter-governmental cooperation and provides a basis for the Council of Europe’s work in this field in the coming years. In 2012, a report on the implementation of the Charter will be prepared, with a view to collect information on the latest developments in the States Party to the European Cultural Convention in the field of citizenship and human rights education, to facilitate the exchange of good practice and to help identify priorities for future co-operation. This report will serve as a key document for the discussions at the Conference.

This event will provide a forum for debate on challenges and opportunities in the field of citizenship and human rights education. It will facilitate an exchange of information on the impact and implementation of the Charter. The participants will discuss how to further enhance citizenship and human rights education through the use of the Charter in the coming years, and will contribute to the development of sustainable mechanisms for the implementation of this legal text. Concrete future co-operation initiatives among national and international institutions and organisations and between formal and non-formal education sectors will also be part of the agenda. A Round Table on the role of regional and international institutions in the promotion and development of citizenship and human rights education will be organised.

Democratic societies can only be built by democratic citizens. Today, as never before, democratic deficit is a threat to the wellbeing

and stability of our societies. At the same time there is a wealth of ideas and experiences of providing young people and adults with relevant knowledge, skills, values and attitudes, and of empowering them for taking action for democracy and human rights. This Conference is yet another step in taking stock of such experiences and in making the relevant kind of education more visible, effective and sustainable.

The Conference will be organised by the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the European Commission and the European Wergeland Centre.

More information at: [www.coe.int/edc](http://www.coe.int/edc)

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## NEWS FROM THE NECE INITIATIVE

# “Participation Now! Citizenship Education and Democracy in Times of Change”

**NECE Conference 2012**  
**Córdoba, Spain, 21-24 November 2012**

In the focus of the NECE Conference 2012 there are current concepts of democracy and participation in the face of worldwide processes of change as well as crises in politics, society and economy.

In Europe, but also in other countries of the Western World, as a result of the financial crisis a massive lost of trust in the legitimacy and creative power of democratic institutions must be stated. Currently the European project experiences the worst crisis of confidence in its history. Old resentments and prejudices are back, possibly resulting in new splits in Europe and endangering the European integration. At the same time, in the past few years radical changes in the societies of authoritarian states – such as in the countries of North Africa – have resulted in attempts at democracy and have initiated transformation processes with uncertain consequences.

As a result of these worldwide developments, new movements of social and political protest have emerged, indicating new ways of organising civil society. These movements increasingly start appearing in the public space, they act primarily situationally, temporarily and processual. Despite a high degree of diversity, their common feature is a demand for more participation and transparency of political decision-making.

The NECE Conference is supposed to pursue the question of what might be an appropriate reaction to these obvious and new questions and developments of crisis – not only in the West. Which initiatives and conclusions will be relevant for citizenship education in the transnational space? Does Europe need a new ‘Social Contract’ between the state, the EU, the political structures of civil society, the market, social security and environmental sustainability? And how could the various initiatives for newly inventing ‘democracy’ in Europe and for an extension of political participation be connected with the radical changes and transformation processes on the far shore of the Mediterranean? Where and how could bridges be built between civil society initiatives on both shores of the Mediterranean; where do they already exist? Concerning

our own reflections on citizenship education in Europe, what could we learn from the change in other countries, and vice versa?

The NECE Conference provides an interdisciplinary platform for a dialogue among multipliers of citizenship education and civil society in Europe on the one hand and “non-European” countries on the other. Actors particularly from the North African region are invited to tell about their experiences and problems and to initiate a process of learning and exchanging.

**Participation is free!** The organiser does not pay for travel and accommodation. **Pre-register right now** by sending e-mail with your personal data to: [nece-spain@lab-concepts.de](mailto:nece-spain@lab-concepts.de)  
More information about the programme will soon be available at [www.nece.eu](http://www.nece.eu)



## INTRODUCING

**In every edition we introduce organisations that are actively involved in the field of citizenship education.**

### The European Forum Alpbach

*The European Forum Alpbach is a non-profit association based in Vienna, Austria. It is funded in equal parts by participation fees, sponsorship and a smaller part - one fifth - by public subsidies and other income like membership fees. As its main activity, it organises conferences and panel discussions on current topics, with the aim of fostering knowledge, prosperity, freedom, and peace in Europe and in the world. The events focus on a variety of issues such as philosophy, science and culture, as well as economics and politics.*

**NECE:** The main event - of the same name as the organisation - is the "European Forum Alpbach", which takes place every year. What are the main goals, issues and characteristics of this event?

**Patricia Mussi:** The European Forum Alpbach is an interdisciplinary international conference happening in the Tyrolian mountain village of Alpbach for three weeks every year. More than 4,000 people from over 60 countries come together there every year to enter into an intellectual discourse, which transcends all barriers of religion, age, languages, disciplines and ideologies. In 2012, the overarching topic of the Forum will be "Expectations - The Future of the Young". We will search to initiate a dialogue between the generations in order to find out how we could best lay the foundations for future well-being, peace and understanding in Europe and the world at large.

**NECE:** Within the framework of the "European Forum Alpbach" there exist Alpbach Initiative Groups and Clubs. What is their main role and what are the main tasks?

**Patricia Mussi:** The Clubs and Initiative Groups (IG) are independent organisations of scholarship-holders who work to foster the values and aims of the European Forum Alpbach. Currently, more than 30 such Clubs and IGs exist in over 20 European countries. Their main activity consists of running scholarship-programmes of their own. In addition, they form an active network and organise regular international meetings, thus contributing to Europe-wide interaction and exchange. For example, Club Alpbach Belgrade and IG Alpbach Pristina worked together in 2011 to create a photo exhibition called "Euroxhibition", which is an unique embodiment of an increasing détente between the West Balkan arch enemies. In general, the Forum's IG network provides an opportunity for young people from across Europe to share their ideas for furthering peace and unity on the continent and beyond.

**NECE:** NECE is an initiative for networking and promoting citizenship education in Europe. What does the European Forum Alpbach understand by citizenship education?

**Patricia Mussi:** Citizenship education, in our opinion, should be twofold: Firstly, young people should be made aware of the relevance and of the implications of political decisions and should receive a basic knowledge of the central policy areas, such as social, economic, health, financial and integration policy, as a pillar of their school education. Secondly, young people should be enabled to build an identity not only as a German or a Spaniard, but as a European. To achieve this goal, they should experience European exchange, travel and communication as early as possible, and they should learn why the EU exists and what Europe would look like without it.

**NECE:** What do you think are the most important challenges for citizenship education in regard of the current crisis in Europe? What does the "European Alpbach Forum" try to contribute?

**Patricia Mussi:** The challenges are the growing political disaffection among young people, as well as racist/nationalist tendencies. The European Forum Alpbach tries to counteract these dangers by providing a platform and space for exchange between students and young professionals from all over Europe on the one hand and European economic and political decision-makers on the other. The aim is to increase mutual understanding and to build sustainable cross-European networks.

More information at: [www.alpbach.org/index.php?id=267](http://www.alpbach.org/index.php?id=267)



## REPORTS

### FutureLab Europe

**“One passport, one people?”**

**The role of democratic citizenship  
in building a new Europe”**

**26 March 2012, europe@debate with young Europeans from  
FutureLab Europe in Brussels (Belgium)**

*by Michiel van Hulst & Alex Johson, FutureLab Europe, Germany*

17 FutureLab Europe participants met in Brussels to present and debate the findings of their report “One passport, one people? The role of democratic citizenship in building a new Europe”. At this, the first “europe@debate” in a series of national events, keynote speakers EU Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and Gareth Harding, Director of the Brussels Programme of the Missouri School of Journalism, faced questions by FutureLab participants, the audience and online viewers via social media. Introducing the programme, FutureLab participant Janosch Delcker argued, that „...Europe ought to recall its role as an advocate for social justice, human rights, the protection of minorities and democracy.” Gareth Harding then outlined why, as he believes, Europeans have not yet developed a common identity: “There are many common European traits, but no European people. We have Europe; now we need Europeans.” A heated discussion ensued with FutureLab participants who felt Harding’s outlook was too pessimistic. Participants Estefanía Almenta López, Marian Cramers and Nevena Jovanović presented Commissioner Malmström with the report “One passport, one people?”. It includes a manifesto by the participants, in which they call on Europe to rediscover its soul, a survey of 600 young Europeans and a collection of blog posts. In the survey, 45% of those questioned said radical measures, such as European economic governance or Eurobonds, are needed to put Europe back on track. Asked about the role citizens might play in building a new Europe, 54% agreed that, in light of modern technologies, there should be a platform where citizens could suggest or petition the European institutions. As a sign of an emerging European identity among younger people, 56% of interviewees said they would prefer a European passport from a national or regional one. Commissioner Malmström responded to the report, saying that it was important for European policy-makers to engage with citizens about the future of the EU. She welcomed many of the report’s suggestions, and in a passionate plea for more Europe she argued: “It is only through cooperation that we can grow stronger, this is true now more than ever”. The debate was broadcast live on the FutureLab website, and combined online interactivity with questions via Facebook and Twitter.



**FUTURELAB  
EUROPE**

FutureLab Europe is a project of the European Alliance for Democratic Citizenship affiliated to the Network of European Foundations and initiated by the Körber Foundation. The project is operated by the European Policy Centre.

*You may find the whole survey report in the “News” section at  
[www.nece.eu](http://www.nece.eu)*

*or at the FutureLab website at:*

*[www.futurelabeurope.eu/What\\_we\\_do/News\\_post.html?postId=77](http://www.futurelabeurope.eu/What_we_do/News_post.html?postId=77)*

*More information about the European Alliance for Democratic Citizenship at:*

*[www.koerber-stiftung.de/en/education/futurelab-europe/european-alliance.html](http://www.koerber-stiftung.de/en/education/futurelab-europe/european-alliance.html)*

*the Körber Foundation at:*

*[www.koerber-stiftung.de/en/aktuelles/koerber-foundation.html](http://www.koerber-stiftung.de/en/aktuelles/koerber-foundation.html)*

*and the European Policy Centre at: [www.epc.eu](http://www.epc.eu)*

## Workshop

**2nd workshop of the project group for the  
Intercultural Glossary Project (IGP)**

**24-25 February 2012 in Berlin (Germany)**

*by Claudia Lenz, European Wergeland Centre, Norway*

The long term aim of this project, which builds on the work of the NECE project “Confusing Conversations”, is to provide an online resource for education professionals, offering definitions and discussions of key concepts, as well as methods and working materials for concept learning. In 2011, some of the partner institutions tested the interactive approach towards concept learning in face-to-face and online activities. During the two-day workshop held at the premises of the Federal Agency for Civic Education in Berlin, experiences from the 2011 activities and future developments were discussed. Until summer 2012, a new version of the glossa-



## REPORTS

ry-WIKI, with interactive features, fostering a dynamic and multi-dimensional understanding of concepts, will be developed by the Federal Agency for Civic Education. This will be piloted in learning activities by the partners from the autumn term until spring 2013. Content for the online glossary will be developed during these activities, some of which in the form of a co-operation between the partners. An integration of this initiative into the NECE activities is intended.

IGP partner institutions are the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb), the European Wergeland Centre, the Centre for Human Rights Education University of Teacher Education Central Switzerland Lucerne, the Higher School of Economics/ Moscow, the University of Hamburg, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, the KULTRANS programme/University of Oslo, the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the University of Vienna.

Information about "Confusing Conversations":  
[www.confusingconversations.de/mediawiki/index.php/Hauptseite](http://www.confusingconversations.de/mediawiki/index.php/Hauptseite)  
 or at: [www.nece.eu](http://www.nece.eu)



During the opening in the morning, the teachers (most of them had been visitors with their school classes at the Dutch parliament before) got the opportunity to sit in the seats of the Dutch Members of Parliament. Instead of a formal opening speech, Ms. Verbeet (being a teacher herself) gave the audience an insight into the aspects of her daily parliamentary work and asked the teachers to ask questions. In his guest lecture Arthur Docters van Leeuwen, a retired high ranking civil servant, reflected quite personally on the relation between civic education in school curricula and society today. During the breaks, all well-known Dutch publishers of schoolbooks were introducing their newest educational materials. A great variety of workshops and lectures were offered to the participants in the afternoon. The programme did not only open up new didactical perspectives, but also provided answers to the challenge of how to deal with topics such as media, jurisprudence, human rights and integration in class. In the late afternoon, a reception in the premises of ProDemos, opposite the Dutch Parliament, rounded up the day. The participants were quite euphoric about this day, the programme, as well as the location. Most probably, the comment by one of the board members of the Association of Dutch teachers for civic education represented the idea a lot had in common:

'It would be wonderful if we could make a tradition out of this and organise our conference every year here in The Hague in the Second Chamber. We are those explaining to the kids what is going on here. Our direct contact with the Parliament should therefore be deepened even more.'

More information about ProDemos at:  
[www.prodemos.nl](http://www.prodemos.nl)  
 or the Dutch 'Association for teachers of civic education' (NVLM) at:  
<http://nvlm.nl/>

## ProDemos

### Teachers of civic education at the Dutch parliament

**10 February 2012, The Hague (the Netherlands)**

*by Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk, ProDemos, the Netherlands*

Who was outside the Dutch Parliament in The Hague on 10th of February was quite surprised: early in the morning, 400 teachers of civic education were entering the building: - Strike? Petition? - No, the teachers were guests of the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament. For the 30th time the conference for teachers of civic education was organised by ProDemos - the House for Democracy and the Rule of Law' and the 'Association for teachers of civic education' (NVLM). Over the years, this event has taken place in various locations all over the Netherlands. But last year the president of the Second Chamber, Ms. Gerdi Verbeet, was the conference's guest speaker and took the opportunity to spontaneously invite the teachers to hold their event in 2012 in the premises of the Dutch Parliament.

## Seminar

### Seminar on civic participation for Spanish and British university students

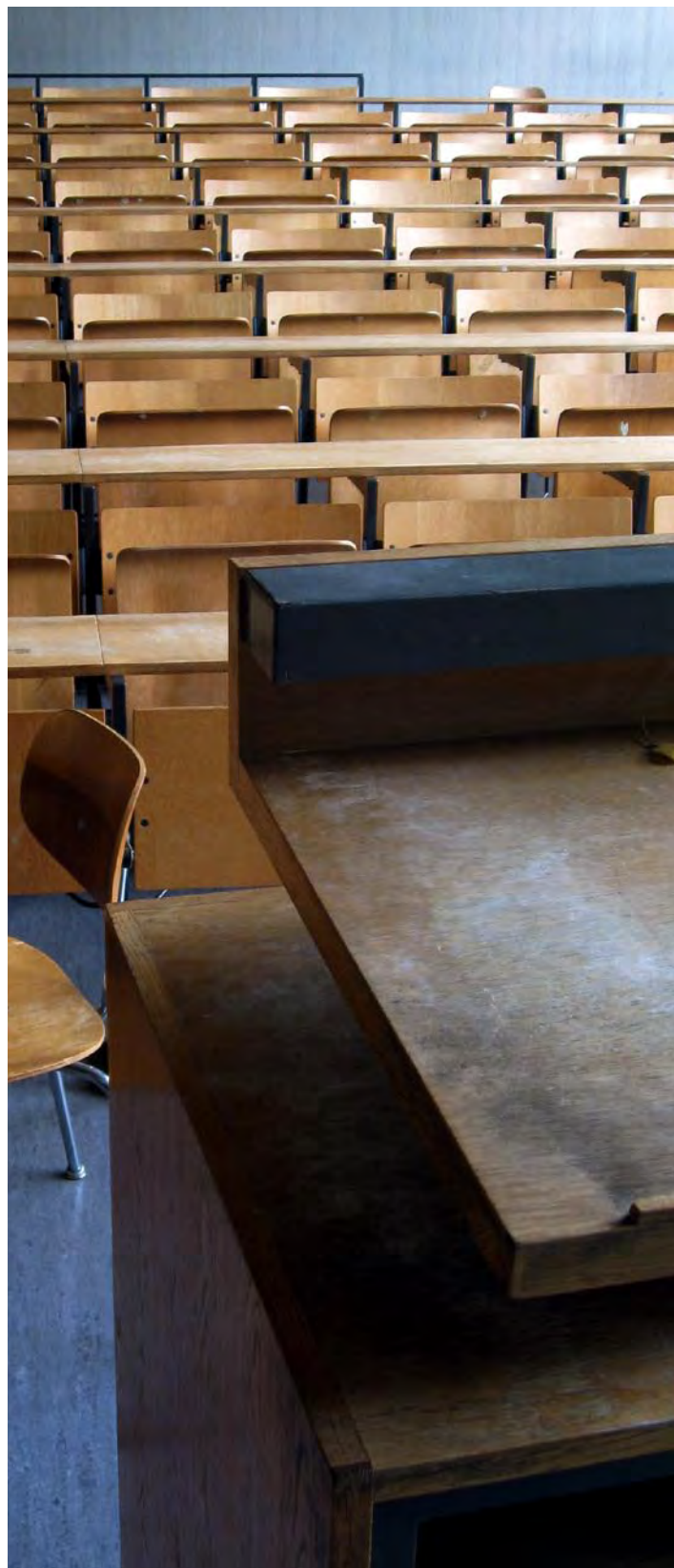
**February and March 2012 (Spain and United Kingdom)**

*by Concepción Naval, University of Navarra, Spain*

Eight undergraduate and postgraduate students of Education at the University of Navarra and six students from the Complutense University of Madrid took part in a seminar on “Students’ experiences of community and civic participation in Spain and England” in the United Kingdom. The first activity, which was organised by the Department of Education and the Civic Parliament, took place in February and March at the University of Navarra, the Complutense University of Madrid, and Roehampton University. The second stage of the programme was held at the University of Roehampton (United Kingdom), which sponsored the Spanish students’ visit.

In Spain, the activity consisted of sessions such as “Universities in Spain and Britain: organisation and traditions”; “New forms of political expression and students’ civic attitudes: the “indignados” in Spain and the student movements in the United Kingdom”; and “Designing a questionnaire for a field study on students’ community identity”. In the United Kingdom, the students took part in the sessions: “The university: a new form of community?”; “The university student experience in Spain and the United Kingdom: Results of the Eurostudent IV study”; “Civic education in the British and Spanish education system”; “The university as a participative environment”; and “Students’ social responsibility”. By studying documents on civic participation and by holding debates the participants broadened their understanding of democratic life and developed an interest in social issues, learning more about civic attitudes and social responsibility.

They also acquired skills that are useful in social research, such as the ability to dialogue and to explain one’s ideas. “This activity has given the students the opportunity to exchange their experiences with students and teachers from different universities, and to experience an aspect of civic participation within the university environment”, said Concepción Naval, Professor of Education at the University of Navarra, who was responsible for the event.



## POLITICAL NEWS

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

### **We are Europe! Manifesto for re-building Europe from the bottom up**

“A European Year of Volunteering for Everyone” – for taxi drivers and theologians, for workers and the workless, for managers and musicians, for teachers and trainees, for sculptors and sous-chefs, for supreme court judges and senior citizens, for men and women – as a response to the euro crisis! This Manifesto is initiated by Ulrich Beck und Daniel Cohn-Bendit and supported by the Allianz Kulturstiftung.

More about the „Manifesto“ you may find here:

<http://manifest-europa.eu/allgemein/wir-sind-europa?lang=en>

Please support this initiative by signing it: <http://manifest-europa.eu>

### **Education, Youth and Culture Council**

Androulla Vassiliou, the Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, will discuss progress by Member States in setting national targets to reduce the number of early school leavers and to increase the proportion of young people in tertiary or equivalent education when she joins Ministers at the Education, Youth and Culture Council in Brussels on 10-11 May 2010. The Council will deal with sport for the first time.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/10/171>

### **The European Citizen's Initiative**

Since 1 April 2012, the European citizens' initiative makes it possible for one million EU citizens to participate directly in the development of EU policies, by calling on the European Commission to make a legislative proposal. This is the beginning of a new era in participatory, citizen-led democracy in the EU. This website provides information on all citizens' initiatives, it explains the rules, and enables you to launch your own initiative.

<http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/welcome?lg=en>

### **EU Commission, 1 March 2012: Commission Staff Working Paper, Action Plan on Adult Learning: Achievements and Results 2008-2010**

Over three days, at a conference in Budapest experts from the world of adult education discussed the EU's Adult Learning Action Plan. Participants agreed that future priorities should concentrate on enabling adults to cope with change and transitions in their lives and jobs. One of the main issues highlighted was how to achieve efficient expansion of the sector at a time of economic austerity.

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/grundtvig/doc/sec271\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/education/grundtvig/doc/sec271_en.pdf)

### **“Information on Education Systems and Policies in Europe - Key Data on Education in Europe 2012”, published by Eurydice in February 2012**

This report is a Eurydice flagship publication tracing the main developments of European education systems over the last decade. The report combines statistical data with qualitative information to describe the organisation, management and functioning of 37 European education systems from pre-primary to higher education.

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/key\\_data\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/key_data_en.php)

### **Androulla Vassiliou, EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, launched the implementation phase of the European Agenda for Adult Learning at an event in Brussels on 28 February**

“The rapid pace of change in the world means that education can no longer be a concern only for the young. Learning has to be life-long to make sure that everyone can keep up with rapidly changing labour market needs”, said Commissioner Vassiliou. “Improving the knowledge, skills and competences of adults is a priority for the Commission because it would greatly benefit not just these individuals but also society as a whole.”

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/20120301b\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/20120301b_en.htm)

### **15 January 2012 - CEMR White paper for active European citizenship**

The CEMR White paper for active European citizenship brings new perspectives for involving citizens in the European project and formulates the position of local and regional authorities on citizenship and town twinning in the light of the 2014-2020 EU “Europe for citizens” programme.

<http://www.ccre.org/en/publications>

## CALL FOR...

### **“Inclusion of young people marginalised by early school leaving and unemployment”**

The P&V Foundation has launched a far-reaching project that aims at bringing together the most recent and relevant scientific knowledge on the inclusion of young people marginalised by early school leaving and unemployment. A maximum of 12 articles will be selected and rewarded with a prize of €1,500 each. Their authors will present their works at a conference to be organised in December 2012; the articles will form part of a publication distributed widely in Belgium and Europe via the European Network of the Foundations for Social Economy. Submission deadline: 30 July 2012

More information at:

[www.fondationpv.be/fileadmin/templates/main/pdf/youngPeople/youngPeopleMarginalised\\_call.pdf](http://www.fondationpv.be/fileadmin/templates/main/pdf/youngPeople/youngPeopleMarginalised_call.pdf)

## INFORMATION

### Events

**24-26 May 2012, University of York (UK)**  
**14th Annual Children's Identity and Citizenship in Europe Conference**

"Creating Citizenship Communities: Local, National and Global"  
The conference focuses on citizenship and identity with particular respect to community building. It reflects on current concerns for community cohesion from local to global scales and chimes with current initiatives around volunteering and inter-generational solidarity.

More information at: [www.citized.info/pdf/conferences/YorkFlyer.pdf](http://www.citized.info/pdf/conferences/YorkFlyer.pdf)

**1-3 June 2012, Aarhus (Denmark)**  
**Solutions by Re-Thinking**

The Great Debate is a high visibility event in connection with the Danish EU Presidency in the first six months of 2012. All interested citizens, organisations, associations, companies, parties, think tanks and universities will have an opportunity to activate themselves and each other in the debate about the problems and possibilities we face in Europe towards 2050.

More information at: [www.european-net.org/component/option,com\\_docman/task,doc\\_download/gid,553/lang,fr/](http://www.european-net.org/component/option,com_docman/task,doc_download/gid,553/lang,fr/)

[http://www.facebook.com/GlobalCitizen.net/app\\_208195102528120](http://www.facebook.com/GlobalCitizen.net/app_208195102528120)

**20-28 June 2012, Cetinje (Montenegro)**  
**"First South East Europe (SEE) Summer Academy: Human Rights in Action"**

This Summer Academy aims to strengthen the capacity of school heads, teachers and representatives of NGOs or parents' associations to implement and promote principles and practices of EDC and HRE at their schools and local communities. A central part of the programme is the development of an action plan by each team to implement upon return, with concrete activities and projects to foster EDC and HRE.

More information at: [www.theewc.org/content/activities/first.south.east.europe.summer.academy.hosted.by.montenegro/](http://www.theewc.org/content/activities/first.south.east.europe.summer.academy.hosted.by.montenegro/)

**3rd of July 2012, University of London Union (UK)**  
**Association for Citizenship Teaching (ACT) "National Citizenship Education Conference"**

If you teach Citizenship, then this is for you! You will find out about all the latest developments in citizenship education and meet other teachers from across the country. We have got an exciting programme of workshops with ideas that can be taken straight into your classroom, and we have a resources marketplace where you can pick up free teaching resources and find out about what is available.

More information at: <http://www.teachingcitizenship.org.uk/events>

### Preview:

**16 August - 1 September 2012, Alpbach/Tyrol (Austria)**  
**European Forum Alpbach: "Expectations – The Future of the Young"**

This forum offers its participants a choice of 16 one-week seminars, which will analyse the manifestations of "Expectations – The Future of the Young" in a great variety of academic fields as well as approaches to the topic from a more practice-oriented point of view. A large number of panel discussions will give you the opportunity to debate the most burning current issues in the fields of healthcare, technology, economics, international politics, spatial planning, financial markets and law.

The full-length programme will be available from May 2012 on at: <http://www.alpbach.org/index.php?id=1479>

**3-7 October 2012, Ruse (Bulgaria)**  
**International MitOst Festival**

The Festival aims to bring together people from different European and neighbouring countries in order to exchange ideas and knowledge. The focus will be on active citizenship, participation and cultural exchange. Workshops will convey practical skills and methods, cultural events and discussions will create an inspiring atmosphere at the festival. The organisation invites participants as well as cooperation-partners for the festival. The Berlin based association MitOst is a large, vivid network with 1.200 members in more than 40 countries, mostly in Central, East and Southeast Europe and neighbouring regions.

More information at: <http://www.mitost.org/mitglieder/international-mitost-festival.html>

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## INFORMATION

### Action Days for Democratic Citizenship Education 2012

The Action Days for Democratic Citizenship Education are nation- and Europe-wide campaign by and in support of citizenship education. The campaign will present the variety of actors, target groups and actions and will attract the attention of the public to the broad and important offer of citizenship education. Accordingly, the Action Days will happen at different times in Germany, Belgium, South Tyrol and Austria.

#### 5-23 May 2012, Germany

Being the central event of this year's Action Days in Germany, the Federal Congress on Citizenship Education will happen in Berlin from 21-23 May 2012, at several places around Berlin's Friedrichstraße. The Federal Congress will be dedicated to the topic of "participation". The Federal Congress is a joint event by state and non-state citizenship education actors in Germany. Organizers are the Federal Agency for Civic Education, the Federal Association for Civic Education and the Federal Committee on Civic Education.

You may still enlist for the Federal Congress on Citizenship Education „In the Age of Participation“ under:

[www.bundeskongress-partizipation.de](http://www.bundeskongress-partizipation.de)

More information at: [www.aktionstage-politische-bildung.net](http://www.aktionstage-politische-bildung.net)

## Publication

### Youth Knowledge Book "Intercultural Learning in Non-Formal Education" by Susana Lafraya

published 2012

This essay is a contribution to enlarging the circle of communication on intercultural learning experience through youth work. The connections the author makes between non-formal learning, youth work and intercultural theory sum up much of what has been said in the youth work field in the past years. It is translated and published here with the intention of adding one more stone to the edifice of intercultural learning and non-formal education.

[http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&lang=EN&produit\\_aliasid=2694](http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2694)

### Debating Europe

It is an online platform that lets you discuss your ideas with Europe's leaders! We want to encourage a genuine conversation between European policy makers and citizens – and that means encouraging ideas and then having experts respond with feedback. We'll try to get both supportive and critical reactions to your ideas, and provoke as much back-and-forth discussion as possible between you and the experts taking part in the project. Debating Europe is a project in partnership with Friends of Europe, Europe's World, the European Parliament, Microsoft and Gallup

<http://www.debatingeurope.eu/2011/12/19/is-a-european-identity-possible/>



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