

## New NECE – General Information for Application

### 1. Short description

Continuation of the NECE project (*Networking European Citizenship Education*) and expansion of NECE's current activities, to be determined in a competition of ideas.

The earliest start of the project is 1 October 2022. Subject to the availability of funds, funding will be granted for a period of three years. The BpB reserves the right to extend the grant under the same conditions by one year without a call for tenders. This option is limited to two years.

The grant volume is € 500,000 max. per year.

The competition of ideas is open to organisations, associations and consortia (institutions) with legal capacity. Applicants must have a seat and be active in at least two countries within the EU. Natural persons are not eligible to apply.

Applications containing the necessary documents (see below) must be submitted per e-mail to the Federal Agency for Civic Education, Events Department, Adenauerallee 86, 53113 Bonn, [new-nece@bpb.de](mailto:new-nece@bpb.de) by 5 September 2022.

Pre-checks of concepts and submissions are not possible. A decision will be made in October 2022 at the latest.

### 2. Aims

The aim of the competition of ideas is the selection of a grant recipient to continue the NECE- Networking Citizenship Education project, which was initiated by the Federal Agency for Civic Education and implemented and developed together with European partners. The objective is to achieve a broader European and transnational perspective and management of the project. A transnational, European approach must be ensured. The working language is English.

### 3. Object of funding / the competition of ideas

**Continuation and further development of an innovative version of NECE- Networking European Citizenship Education, taking into account the existing character of the project, its current status and the contents listed.**

Brief description of NECE

MISSION STATEMENT\* Our Challenges The challenges to today's societies are complex and manifold –from global power shifts to pressure on liberal democracies as a result of real and perceived inequalities, from new uses and misuses of technology to climate change. This particularly holds for Europe and its neighbors South and East, with our diverse historic experiences, political systems and civic cultures. More than ever connectivity and interdependence are shaping our relations within and outside of Europe. For citizenship education, this situation poses high demands, but at the same time it offers a rich reservoir of experiences and a huge potential for exchange and synergy from the local to the

transnational level. Our Goals Therefore, partners from seven European countries have initiated NECE – Networking European Citizenship Education is a knowledge hub and a platform for cooperation and exchange. Independent of political constellations it is the aim to identify political, societal and cultural trends to build common strategies for citizenship education. This is put into life through the annual NECE conference which provides an open forum for debate and knowledge exchange for practitioners, scholars and the interested public. It forms a transnational community of stakeholders of formal, nonformal and informal citizenship education from Europe and other countries. The conference identifies educational practices that address contemporary issues in European societies and beyond. It helps to deliver innovative answers of citizenship education to contemporary challenges. Transnational workshops and focus groups work on specific topics provide a forum for equal debates and knowledge exchange via digital platforms and face to face. NECE has an encompassing understanding of citizenship education which considers a wide variety of educational practices inside and outside of schools. It is an enduring and critical process of reflection and deliberation on the ideas, structures and practices of contemporary democracy. Citizenship Education should strive to politically socialize communities and individuals and encourage critical democratic ideas and practices. The NECE community advocates a stronger prioritisation of citizenship education at national, European and international level. NECE collaborates with CE networks from other regions (NECE Mission Statement <https://www.nece.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/NECE-Mission-Statement.pdf>). For further information see [www.nece.eu](http://www.nece.eu).

The following two core activities of the existing project are to be continued under the grant:

- NECE Conference: Annual organisation of a multi-day European conference on CE in Europe, with the aim of discussing current political and societal developments as well as shared challenges and presenting topics, approaches, trends, state-of-the-art research and actors of CE. The conference is to take place every year as an in-person (and/or hybrid) event and should be conceived for at least 300 persons (digital events can be for an audience of any size).
- NECE Campus: A series of digital events that take place in the run-up to the conference and which primarily present new projects and approaches of CE in a peer-to-peer context.

The above activities are to be developed further and linked to other measures designed to:

- Expanding the community (equal representation of all regions of Europe, representation of neglected actor groups) into more European and non-European countries,
- Increasing visibility in wider parts of societies and politics,
- *Raising awareness of the significance of CE at the European and national level*, and of the development and implementation of *good quality citizenship education* through political decision-makers.

Further aims and pathways towards optimisation should be put forward by the applicants.

Principles:

Both the theory of CE, and with this the sciences relevant to political education, and its practice should be retained as the core of the network. Another fundamental aspect that will

be evaluated is the balance that is struck between retaining existing elements and adding new, innovative activities.

#### **4. Eligibility**

Eligible entities are legally constituted organisations, associations and consortia with their registered office in the European Union. They must have proven experience and competence in CE. Applicants must have a seat and be active in at least two countries within the EU.

State organisations, foundations and natural persons are not eligible to apply.

#### **5. Nature, scope and duration of funding**

Funding is made available for a time-limited project that is to be planned and implemented under the conditions outlined above.

Funding will be made available in the form of a project grant in line with the principles of §§ 23, 44 of the Federal Budget Code (BHO) and related administrative provisions, as well as the general ancillary provisions for grants (ANBest-P) to cover the necessary expenses of the grant recipient for individual, time-limited projects.

Funding is principally made available as part-financing (co-financing or financial shortfall financing) in the form of a non-refundable grant. Please note that information provided in the application on own funds is binding which includes benefits in money's worth (i.e. work, infrastructure etc.). Once committed, own funds cannot be reduced retrospectively (subsidiarity principle).

In exceptional cases, the grant may be given as a full grant if the purpose of the grant can only be delivered at the necessary level if the Federal Office for Civic Education covers all applicable expenses.

The grant volume is € 500,000 max. per year. Only staff and material costs directly related to the project are eligible for funding.

Subject to the availability of funds, the BpB reserves the right to extend the grant under the same conditions by one year without a call for tender. This option is limited to two years.

A flat administration charge of up to 5% of the eligible expenditure can be charged

Funding will not be made available if the grant recipient has an economic interest in delivering the grant purpose.

Applications for funding can be made for the period of 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2025.

The BpB reserves the right to observe and evaluate the project for the purpose of quality assurance and knowledge transfer. It expects the grant recipient to work constructively with the BpB for this purpose.

Grant recipients are expected to be ready to participate in accompanying network meetings for the purpose of technical exchange, quality assurance, networking and knowledge transfer.

Incomplete submissions cannot be considered.

There is no right to funding. The BpB expects to select the successful applicant by 30 September 2022.

## **6. Application and assessment**

Applications can be submitted between 11 July 2022 and 5 September 2022. Only complete applications submitted within the application period will be considered.

Applications for continuing the NECE project must contain the following:

- A meaningful written application (to be submitted in word and pdf format) taking into account the catalogue of questions that has been made available (see New NECE Key Questions 2022). The word limit is 2,500.
- Evidence of legal capacity,
- A full three-year expenditure and financial plan,
- Short biographies of the applicants.

Applications must be submitted uncollated per e-mail. Submissions must be received at the BpB, Events Department, Adenauerallee 86, 53113 Bonn, [new-nece@bpb.de](mailto:new-nece@bpb.de) by 5 September 2022.

Pre-checks of concepts and submissions are not possible.

Applications will be assessed by a jury based on a catalogue of criteria (see New NECE key questions for further information).

## **7. Evidence of grant use**

Conformity of use of the grant received must be proven after conclusion of the project by supplying evidence in line with No. 6.4 ANBest-P. The BpB reserves the right to ask for interim evidence after one year, giving three months advance notice.

## **8. Contact**

Please address any queries to:

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