

N E C E

★ NETWORKING EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

newsletter

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01/09

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EDITORIAL

DEAR READERS,

For just under five years, the NECE – Networking European Citizenship Education – has been working on a continuous basis to network the various citizenship education initiatives within European societies. The essential aim of NECE is to render citizenship education structures, concepts and topics transparent and accessible for institutions, NGOs and individuals in Europe. The profound transformation undergone by European societies as a result of the expansion of the European Union, globalization and migration processes is changing the environment for citizenship education radically: a Europe that is coming together needs, more than ever, a European civil society that is capable of thinking transnationally and in terms of Europe, as well as of articulating itself politically. Therefore, citizenship education itself has first to go through a cumulative process of Europeanization before it is able to live up to these challenges. The still substantial walls that lead to the isolation of both the parties involved and their individual national discourses must be broken down. Unfortunately, the barriers remain high.

NECE works as an informal and non-institutionalized network: it combines the activities of the Federal Agency for Civic Education towards the networking of European players and organizations on the one hand; and, on the other hand, aims to raise the profile of citizenship education at the European level and to initiate both transnational and European debates and projects. With regular conferences and workshops which bring together European experts and practitioners, a data base of experts and organizations (www.nece.eu) and online dossiers, NECE supports the transfer of scientific discourses from the respective subject area into the practical imparting of citizenship education. These initiatives aspire to enhance the qualification and skills acquisition of multipliers of citizenship education.


We are now adding a further offering to this range: Learning more, familiarizing, sharing and comparing – these are major aims pursued by the NECE newsletter. From now on, three times a year, it is going to introduce players, organizations and projects in citizenship education in Europe, provide a glimpse into current professional debates, report on important events and provide information on the most interesting dates and publications on the subject. Published by the Federal Agency for Civic Education and enriched by guest commentaries and articles by currently twelve European correspondents, the newsletter's aim is to continue to combine the knowledge of, and forge links between, experts in the field of citizenship education as well as to become an important and constant information tool in the often complex citizenship education landscape in Europe. It thereby forms a supplement to the European networking and supports exchange within the growing network of NECE initiatives.

With this first edition of our newsletter we would also like to refer you to the network's online relaunch. At www.nece.eu, you will shortly be able, on an ongoing basis, to take a look at the latest activities, retrieve documentation from our conferences and make use of the NECE data base in order to look for and find citizenship education experts, projects and organizations according to geographical and topical focuses. Also we would like to point out, that the next NECE Conference is going to take place from December 3-5, 2009 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

It is our hope to prompt debate and sharing – our intention to highlight useful information and facts that are worth knowing. We wish you productive reading and will be delighted to hear your ideas, suggestions and helpful hints.

As always, we're happy to receive any feedback, contributions or comments!

With warmest 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. In view of the recent elections to the European Parliament, in this edition we would like to present the network VoteMatch Europe.

VoteMatch 09

by Jochum de Graaf, Institute for Political Participation (IPP), the Netherlands

The turnout for the 2009 European Parliament elections was the lowest since direct election for the assembly began 30 years ago but was still higher than predicted by some polls. This makes the application of a pan-European VoteMatch even more necessary. The numbers of the absolute unique visitors and page views show that the results – in all 12 EU countries where VoteMatch has been launched – surpassed the results from 2004 and marked a huge success. In the Netherlands more than 1.17 million voters completed the test which is over 200% more than in 2004.

In Germany more than 1,57 million voters tested the Wahl-o-mat, which is twice as much as in 2004, and more than 110 thousand were the users in Poland, or 20% more than 5 years ago. The first European VoteMatch was launched in 2004 by answering 30 statements with ‘agree’, ‘don’t agree’ or ‘don’t know’ one could see what European party or fraction most met ones political preference. The European VoteMatch is still online at www.votematch.eu.

Why VoteMatch?

In June 2008 the Institute for Political Participation (IPP) in the Netherlands and the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb) in Germany, established with around 15 participants from other EU-countries the network “VoteMatch Europe” at the NECE Conference in Strasbourg. When in November 2008 it became clear that no European funding for the project was available, the decision was made to try and realize a ‘pan European’ VoteMatch, like in 2004, where the result of the questioning leads to the European



groups in the European Parliament. CafeBabel, the Paris based multilingual current affairs online magazine, did express the wish to participate in the project and to have the pan European VoteMatch installed in six different languages on their website EU-Debate2009.eu. In a workshop in Cologne, organised under the NECE-flag by the bpb, end of March 2009, some twenty participants from the VoteMatch network were discussing the theses that should be taken in the VoteMatch Europe.

Next to this it became clear that there will be most probably ‘national’ VoteMatches in the following countries: Netherlands (StemWijzer), Germany (Wahl-O-Mat), Great Britain (Vote Match), Austria (Wahlkabine), Czech Republic (Kohovolit CZ), Ireland (Vote Match), Italy (Cabine Eletorale), Poland (Latarnik Wyborczy), Bulgaria (Glasovoditel), Romania (Testeaza-ti votul!), Slovakia (Kohovolit SK) and Hungary (Te kitvalasztanal?). All these tools were made available by mid May. The launch of the VoteMatch Europe, organised by the bpb, took place on a special Parliamentary Evening in Brussels, 29th of April, where MEPs tested the voting tool in front of the media.

Aim of VoteMatch

VoteMatch Europe 2009 is an educational tool. It has the potential to promote European citizenship, to better inform citizens about elections for the European Parliament (EP), teach voters about the programmatic differences between the contesting parties and to increase the voter turnout. By realizing VoteMatch in all EU-member states not only a network between organizations in all participating EU-countries will be established, but also a platform will appear through which all users can get acquainted to the different opinions on all important European issues in the participating countries.

More information is available at www.votematch.eu



INTRODUCING

In every edition we will introduce European organizations involved in the field of citizenship education.

A Soul for Europe

The initiative “A Soul for Europe” began with the first Berlin Conference in 2004. It aims to see Europe use its cultural assets more effectively and to a greater degree, while applying culture as a strategic factor in Europe’s development – at local, regional and national levels as well as at the level of central European institutions. The initiative is making a fresh start in 2009. In the future, it will have at its centre a “Strategy Group”, a network of purposeful, young Europeans who play an active role in culture in their home country. Stephanie Maiwald, Project Manager in Berlin, answered our questions.

NECE:

Which aims and prospects are involved in the decentralized network?

Maiwald:

The rejuvenation and the decentralization of the initiative “A Soul for Europe” are the consequential outcome of our work in recent years and we are looking forward to the input we will receive as a result of this new structure. The Strategy Group – the young core of the initiative – consists of around 50 activists from the cultural, political and educational sector from 15 different countries. They are practising civic commitment by developing their own ideas and impetus to improve the European integration process and join forces to help make greater use of culture than hitherto for the day-to-day business of the European Union - in giving Europe a soul. The new offices of the initiative have already been reliable project partners in the past and the new legal structure of a European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG). “A Soul for Europe” unites the Felix Meritis Foundation in Amsterdam, the Cultural Front Belgrade, the Foundation Future Berlin, the European House for Culture in Brussels, Setepés in Porto and the Stichting Caucasus Foundation in Tbilisi officially under one roof.

NECE:

How does “A Soul for Europe” communicate Europe’s cultural diversity? How can European citizens participate in your activities?

Maiwald:

All our projects are led by the idea that Europe can only be brought forward by the European citizens themselves. With different projects we try to implement the importance of the cultural factor in all fields of policy beyond the cultural sector, from social to foreign affairs. With our Forum X-series for example, we practise a new model of interaction between civil society and the political sphere: the constructive cooperation of “A Soul for Europe” with its Steering Committee, consisting of members of the European Parliament, and with the Intergroup “A Soul for Europe” in the European Parli-



ament exemplify the performance of a “culture of democracy”. We have won politicians as important partners in this process.

NECE:

How would you describe in two sentences the contribution of a “A Soul for Europe” for a European citizenship education?

Maiwald:

In the context of these events we are observing that, as a result of our work, active local players are discovering the European dimension of their own activities. And to give another example: We developed the manual “Cities and Regions - Their cultural responsibility in Europe” for cultural players as well as for regional politicians and urban planners for the practical implementation of their European task. In this context we plan to install a workshop model in cooperation with NECE to test the impact of this manual with practitioners in the cities and regions.

More information is available at: www.asoulforeurope.eu

REPORT

„Education for Sustainable Development is not an option, it is an obligation!“

Impressions of the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Bonn (March 30 - April 2, 2009) and the challenges for citizenship education.

by Manfred Wirtitsch, Federal Ministry of Education, the Arts and Culture, Austria

The World Conference 2009, held in Bonn/Germany with more than 700 participants, gave us a good overview of the advances of the UN Decade for ESD (2005-2014) in different regions and countries all over the world. National strategies and action plans have been implemented in several countries; in a considerably high number of countries, first steps towards ESD have been taken by governmental bodies. One crucial challenge was to be made clear: there is a need for a global common understanding over what ESD does in fact mean. It could be UNESCO's role as lead agency to develop guidelines and roadmaps for a successful second half term of the decade. A number of countries have gained knowledge and created models of required competencies and skills for successful steps towards ESD in the national education systems. It should also be another important activity of UNESCO to compile and simplify these models to 3-5 competence areas, which can be developed further in more and more detail at different sublevels.

A common understanding of citizenship education is to empower the individual to participate in a democratic society. ESD, from the perspective of citizenship education, should be to empower democratic societies in dealing with limited global resources. The challenge for citizenship education, in fact, is in finding a democratically balanced policy and governance, dealing with the variety of gender and social aspects, the interests of young and old, interests of developing versus industrialized countries. Citizenship education needs to foster the individual's democratic and political competencies as various role models emerge: knowledge-gaining skills, method skills, decision-making skills, the ability to act and, finally, future-oriented global responsibility of the individual and society. As a result of the Conference the Bonn Declaration was adopted resoundingly: „We now need to put this knowledge into action!“

More information is available at:
www.esd-world-conference-2009.org

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BEST PRACTICE

How can the concepts and methods of imparting citizenship education at the European level be rendered transparent? Here we introduce projects which are intended to exemplify and clarify how empowerment and qualification of different target groups by means of citizenship education can work.

The Nadodrze Revitalization Project in Wroclaw (Breslau), Poland

What is Nadodrze?

Nadodrze district is the most neglected and dangerous part of Wroclaw (Breslau), but charming, with a special backdrop of 19th century tenement houses as well. The municipality of Wroclaw has started wide-ranging activities to renovate this infrastructure in order to stimulate development, civic engagement and to make this district attractive for tourists, artists and citizens. But not only renovation or road repair will change the image of this place. The main point is to change permanently the image of Nadodrze district, revive the area, stimulate social engagement and cultural activities. So many various aims are to be realized in the concept of sustainable development with the various partners and players involved as there are governmental institutions, architects, NGOs, citizens and volunteers.

Project description

The Foundation House of Peace, a participant within the Local Acting Group and in partnership with Municipality, Settlement Coun-

cil, Lower Silesia Chamber of Craft and other NGOs, is looking for participants for a one-year project in the context of Nadodrze district revitalization. The project will last from September 2009 to August 2010 and will be realized via the European Voluntary Service (EVS) programme. All included activities are based on local community action programmes. Taking part you will spend one year with nine other volunteers and support teams looking for solutions to change the image of the district and changing it as well.

Project organization

The Foundation House of Peace deals with local activities for social activity, multicultural events, collecting memories, workshops for children, educational training for adults. In summer 2009 there will be open a new infopoint for tourists, citizens and other organizations in order to gather information about activities, showplaces and cultural events in Nadodrze. The Nadodrze Revitalization Project is to be an example of what district work / district management can do to appeal to people from different backgrounds and empower them to play a role and participate via active collaboration that is relevant to everyday life: the intention is to prompt them to commit themselves personally to shaping their living environment. As a result, not only do they play an active part in community life and show a commitment for their own needs and concerns, they also show solidarity with their living environment and the people who live there. In the face of declining social cohesion in society, these projects are therefore gaining more and more significance. The NECE conference on December 3-5, 2009, in Vilnius, Lithuania, will elaborate this impact of citizenship education to aspects of social cohesion in Europe. See also under Events.

More information is available at:
<http://nadodzerevitalization.wordpress.com>



POLICY NEWS

This rubric will provide regular information about news and political decisions that are relevant for the agenda setting of citizenship education.

The European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU-MIDIS)

The survey results of the European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU-MIDIS) were published in April 2009. This is the first ever EU-wide survey of ethnic minority and immigrant groups' experiences of discrimination and victimisation in everyday life. The survey reveals that discrimination, harassment and racially motivated violence are far more widespread than recorded in official statistics and that the overwhelming majority does not report these incidents to any competent body or to the police. The second key message is the high degree of resignation among minorities and immigrants in the EU and the third one is that the Roma are emerging as the group most vulnerable to discrimination. The survey shows the extent and nature of the problems of discrimination in Europe in a very detailed manner.

Thus, policy-makers can use the data as an approach to addressing these problems in a targeted and effective way, for example as assistance in developing effective policy responses, reporting and improving the recording of racist crimes and discrimination cases and finally in targeting support measures and funds at those groups that need it the most. Reports from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) have consistently shown that there is a severe lack of data on minorities in many countries because the composition of Member States' populations is becoming increasingly diverse. Therefore, the FRA conducted a major representative survey (executed by GALLUP), interviewing selected ethnic minority and immigrant groups in all of the 27 member states of the EU.

More information is available at:
<http://fra.europa.eu>

Grundtvig projects: budget for 2009 raised considerably

The budget for the Grundtvig EU adult education programme has been raised considerably in comparison with 2008. The projects' focuses for this year are the topics of key skills, quality, attractiveness of the offerings, validation, people with learning disadvantages and senior citizens.

More information is available at:
www.infonet-ae.eu

European Citizens' Consultation 2009

This year's European Citizens' Consultation is run by a unique consortium of more than 40 independent European partner organizations, led by the Belgian King Baudouin Foundation. In the run-up to the 2009 Euro-elections, the European Citizens' Consul-



tation 2009 (ECC 2009) is giving citizens a voice in the debate over how to respond to the current economic and financial crisis by providing a platform for pan-European dialogue on the challenges facing the EU.

More information is available at:
www.european-citizens-consultations.eu

A new era of EU policies for youth - Commission adopts a new strategy for youth

The Commission has adopted a new EU strategy for youth policy for the coming decade. Entitled „Youth – Investing and Empowering“, the new strategy acknowledges the fact that (1) young people are one of the most vulnerable groups in society, especially in the current economic and financial crisis, and (2) in our ageing society, young people are a precious resource.

More information is available at: www.youth-partnership.net

INFORMATION

Events

July 10, 2009, University of London, UK

Conference on Human Rights and Citizenship Education

This conference is the third to be held under the auspices of the International Centre for Education for Democratic Citizenship, University of London and provides an opportunity to present work in progress and participate in debating the role of human rights as universal standards underpinning education, civil society, democracy and therefore citizenship. The conference will bring together national and international researchers, policy makers and education professionals from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines.

More information is available at: www.bbk.ac.uk/icedc/events

July 10 - 12, 2009, Mansfield College, Oxford, UK

8th Global Conference "Environmental Justice and Global Citizenship"

This inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary conference aims to explore the role of ecology and environmental thinking in the context of contemporary society and international affairs, and assess the implications for our understandings of fairness, justice and global citizenship. 'Environmental justice' is conceived broadly as reflecting not only justice in the context of human communities but also towards other species, ecosystems, habitats, landscapes, succeeding generations and the environment as a whole.

More information is available at: www.inter-disciplinary.net/calendar-of-events

Summer 2009 in Kljuc, Bosnia-Herzegovina

EUROPE ON AIR, Methods for European Citizenship Education and Innovation in Youth Participation

The aim of the training course is to bring together trainers, youth workers and interested young people to discuss the meaning of European Citizenship, possible ways to break the issue down for practice in international youth work and to come up with creative ideas and support for practitioners in the international youth field. Partners: Programme countries from EU and neighbouring partner countries from South Eastern Europe.

More information is available at: www.caleidoscop.org/news

September 2 - 5, 2009, Lisbon, Portugal

9th European Sociological Association Conference ESA 2009

The aim is to consider whether we can look at European society as an increasingly cohesive entity or whether divisions of nation, class, ethnicity, region, gender and so on continue to be more salient. A particular focus of the conference will be upon the role of sociology in helping to understand the European area and how sociologists from different countries and different traditions can work together to meet this challenge.

More information is available at: www.esa9thconference.com/news

September 29 - 30, 2009, Gothenburg, Sweden

DARE announces workshop at the conference „Active Citizenship in Europe“

„Simulation Games Interconnecting History Education and Citizenship Education in Adult Learning“ is the title of a workshop DARE is contributing to this conference aiming to develop methods for active citizenship, with a focus on non-formal learning. The conference will be held in conjunction with the informal meeting of European education ministers in Gothenburg during Sweden's EU presidency. Hosts are the European Association for Education of Adults (EAEA) and the Swedish Adult Education Association (SAEA).

More information is available at: www.studieforbunden.se/Pages/english.html

September 29 - October 9, 2009, Athens, Greece

The role of civil societies in the processes of rapprochement and reconciliation (France-Germany, Greece-Turkey)

The objective of this Postgraduate Research Seminar is to cast light on the role of the civil society in the inter- and trans- national relations, and analyze the degree of autonomy of societal actors as compared to state actors, as well as the interdependence between the two.

More information is available at: www.efa.gr/seminaires/seminaires2009/seminaires_2009_01_en.pdf

Training Courses on European Citizenship (2009-2010)

Following the successful EC Training Courses in 2008/2009, a new series of four European Citizenship Training Courses will be implemented from November 2009 to June 2010. Each training course is expected to gather together approximately 25 participants from across Europe for one week.

More information is available at: www.youth-partnership.net

Preview

December 3 - 5, 2009, Vilnius, Lithuania

NECE Conference: "The Impact of Citizenship and Cultural Education on Social Cohesion"

The conference aims to encourage active discussion between those in academia and those in practice in citizenship education on the domains of social cohesion in Europe. Within this context, it will involve both the comparability of concepts and topics and the description of access pathways and target groups in both school-related and extracurricular education for young people and adults. On the NECE website you will find shortly a call for proposals, projects and posters that could be presented at the conference in December. Or get in contact with the conference management to receive the application form: nece-vilnius@lab-concepts.de

More information will be available at: www.nece.eu

INFORMATION

Publications

Reclaiming Democracy: Civil Society and Electoral Change in Central and Eastern Europe

Pavol Demes, Joerg Forbrig, (eds.), published by the German Marshall Fund of the United States, 2007

A remarkable sequence of democratic changes has swept through Central and Eastern Europe in recent years. In Slovakia and Croatia, Serbia, Georgia and Ukraine, postcommunist politics had increasingly departed from the democratic reforms initiated after 1989. Neo-autocrats in the five countries found themselves challenged by democratic alliances of opposition parties, civil society groups and citizens at large. These asserted a democratic choice over the future of their countries and, by way of peaceful mobilization, returned democratically elected governments to office. The book provides a cross-section of perspectives on recent democratic breakthroughs in Central and Eastern Europe, like PORA and the Orange Revolution in Ukraine, the Rose Revolution in Georgia or OK 98 - a campaign of Slovak NGOs for fair and free elections. Focussing on structures as much as on key collective as well as individual actors, the articles give a vivid impression of the heterogeneity of these still ongoing, quite incommensurable processes.

More information is available at: www.gmfus.org/publications/article.cfm?id=273

Transformed Institutions - Transformed Citizenship Education? Remarks on the Current Situation in Spain

Gonzalo Jover, Concepción Naval, An article published in 2008

Educational systems are placing great emphasis on the need to generate a sense of citizenship. The article deals with this issue within the concrete framework of the recent history of Spain (from 1990 to current day) and refers to three points: The institutional framework of citizenship education, the concepts of citizenship present in the school curriculum and public debate; the state of research into citizenship education. Based on the analysis of the situation in Spain, the article draws several conclusions regarding international research projects on citizenship education.

More information is available at: www.jsse.org/2007-2/pdf/naval_institutions.pdf

German-French history textbook

Edited by Daniel Henri, Guillaume Le Quintrec and Dr. Peter Geiss

The first part of the German-French history textbook was published in 2006. The second part followed in 2008. This was the first time that the two countries had succeeded in elaborating a common view on history. The dossier analyses the strengths and weaknesses of the book and provides an introduction to the history of the project.

More information is available at: www.gei.de/index.php?id=1298

Citizenship Education Curricula: The Changes and Challenges presented by European and Global integration

In 2009, the Journal of Curriculum Studies will publish a series of articles from European Education Policy Network (EPPN) members on the theme of „Citizenship Education Curricula: The Changes and Challenges presented by European and Global integration“.

More information is available at: www.educationpolicy.eu/?page=specialissueoncitizenshipeducation

Project Funding / Call for Proposals

Under the Lifelong Learning Programme Support for European cooperation in education and training

The call addresses national ministries in charge of education and training, other public bodies but also stakeholders' organizations - such as associations or private bodies - at the European or national level active in the field of lifelong learning. Supported will be proposals that a) raise national awareness of lifelong learning strategies and of European cooperation in education and training, and b) proposals that support transnational cooperation in the development and implementation of national and regional lifelong learning strategies. Activities must start between January 1, 2010, and March 31, 2010. The maximum duration of projects is 12 months.

Application deadline: August 14, 2009

Raising Funds for Active Citizenship Projects

A document which sets out potential sources of funding for active citizenship projects with learners. It provides information regarding a number of organizations that are offering funds to young people to carry out well thought-out and well planned active citizenship projects. The organizations have different criteria, but the one thing they have in common is that they all require young people to be at the heart of the project planning and delivery.

More information is available at: www.citized.info/?strand=3

More information is available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2009:098:0016:0019:EN:PDF>

INFORMATION

Inter-ethnic relations in South-Eastern Europe. A report on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia

Caroline Hornstein-Tomic, published by Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Berlin due 5/2009 (German language)

The report focuses on institutions, mechanisms and measures dealing with ethnic diversity in the respective countries of the region. It sketches the imprint of ethnic identification on the constitutions, parties and parliaments, languages, educational and cultural policies, as well as economic life. On the basis of qualitative research and literature / discourse analysis the report outlines the current situations, describes the atmosphere, and comments on the prospects of interethnic relations and democracy development. It concludes with recommendations for democracy building and citizenship education.

More information is available at: www.kas.de/proj/home/pub/41/1/dokument_id-13999/index.html

Links

East-West Initiatives Internet platform

NGOs from Germany, Ukraine and Belarus will be able to introduce their NGO and find project partners here. Under the rubrics "News", "Dates" and "Events", information can be shared and contacts and services sought or offered purposefully in a "forum". There is also a "forum" available in which views can be exchanged. This service is provided by the Association for International Exchange and Education in Dortmund, is free of charge, and registration on the site is easy and non-binding.

More information is available at: www.ost-west-initiativen.de or www.ost-west-ngo.by or www.ost-west-ngo.com.ua

Research Group "Citizenship Education" at the University of Navarra

General information on the research line of this Research Group and the project "Education for communication and social cooperation. Knowledge, attitudes and citizenship skills" that is currently under way (2007 to 2010).

More information is available at: www.unav.es/adi/servlet/Web2?course=2000000167&action=verWeb&pagina=11931&idioma=2

European Website for Integration

This new website was launched April 2009 and will provide a one-stop access point for documents, funding information, news and events on migrant integration, a repository of good practices, presented in a clear and comparable way, exchange of information and networking between stakeholders through the contacts directory and the find-a-project-partner tool. The website will help to integrate issues of citizenship and citizenship education as discussed within the NECE framework into the existing networks of integration agencies and stakeholders in Europe.

More information is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/ewsi/en/index.cfm>

MitOst e.V.

Here you will find information on the activities of MitOst Association and a link to a brief presentation on the expert debate on perspectives for non-formal Citizenship Education in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe in Prague in April 2009.

More information is available at: www.mitost.org/citizenship_education.html

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