

A preparatory workshop for the NECE Conference in Thessaloniki 2015

Federal Agency for Civic Education

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Thessaloniki, Greece

Biographies



Marinko Banjac has been a teaching assistant in Political Theory at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana since 2007. He has held the position of a researcher at the same faculty since September 2009. His research interests include political theory, theories of citizenship as well as (im)migration, education and multiculturalism in the European Union. He has written several articles on these topics. He was one of the leading researchers on a major citizenship education project co-funded by the European Social Fund, entitled Citizen(ship) in a New Age.

Currently, he is involved in the implementation of the LLP project (Jean Monnet Action (KA 1) - Information and Research Activities for 'Learning EU at School') entitled 'Engaging the Youth - Building the Future'.



Ulrike Bretschneider works as a project consultant at agency lab concepts in Berlin. Before she worked as a junior manager in Public Relations for contemporary photography. She studied Art Education, Philosophy and Art History. Furthermore, she completed an additional training in Fundraising and Project Management. During her academic studies she worked for the culture centre Gasteig München GmbH and the Museum Villa Stuck.



Petr Čáp is a civic education trainer, evaluator and researcher. Currently, he works as a community-led local development adviser at the Czech Government's Agency for Social Inclusion. Formerly, he worked as a director of the Civic Education Centre at Masaryk University in Brno (Czech Republic). He is actively engaged in development of civic education programmes for public libraries in rural areas, postcolonial global citizenship education and popular education programmes with the Homeless Action Group.



Maja Dobiasz is coordinator of educational programs in the field of antidiscrimination (School of Tolerance, Leaders of Tolerance) and cultural education (Kulthurra! Art workshops in schools) at the Centre for Citizenship Education. Anthropologist and culture animator. PhD candidate in Institute of Polish Culture, Warsaw University. Prepares PhD thesis on alternative education in Poland after democratic breakthrough of 1989. Author of educational materials, textbooks and articles. Author of "Anthroposophic healing civilization. Myth utopia reality" an anthropological monograph book based on ethnographic research. Leads workshops for teachers and

students.



Petra Grüne has been in charge of the Federal Agency for Civic Education's Events Department since 2005. She has been working at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb since 1991 in a number of different fields and positions. Together with Christoph Müller-Hofstede, Petra Grüne is responsible for the NECE Initiative promoted by the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb).



E.M. (Eddy) Habben Jansen is deputy director of ProDemos – House for Democracy and the Rule of Law, The Netherlands. He is responsible for the ProDemos visitor's programme in Parliament. He recently wrote a book on the Dutch buildings of government and also the Dutch edition of 'Politics for Dummies'. He has been working in civic education since 1992, previously as a project manager and editor. He was involved in the development of StemWijzer (VoteMatch) since 1994. Working on many other election projects, e.g. mock elections for schools. Since 2008 he co-ordinated the development of the new educational centre of ProDemos in The Hague, including programmes for secondary schools, a number of exhibitions and the development of the building in The Hague. Other previous positions include chairman of the Netherlands Committee for Multilateral Youthwork, volunteer for Liberal International and advisor to NCDO, the Dutch expertise and advisory centre for citizenship and international cooperation.



Aris Kalogiros studied German language and literature at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and has a Master Degree in German Literature and Cultural Studies. Specializing in the field of audio-visual translation, he lectured for two semesters "translation and subtitling" at the Department of German Language (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) and worked for several years at a subtitling & translation company as well as a freelance subtitler. He is part of the cultural department at the Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki since 2011.



Despina Karakatsani has studied History at the University of Athens (BA, 1989) and obtained her PhD from the University Paris 8-Saint Denis (Sciences of Education, 1998). From 2000 to 2004 she worked in Higher Education as a Lecturer in History of Education at the University of Crete. From 2005 to 2009 Despina Karakatsani taught at the University of Democritus-Thrace and at the Institution of Teacher Training in Athen. Since 2004 she has been teaching at the Department of Social and Educational Policy of the University of the Peloponnese situated in Corinth. Since January 2015 she is the Dean of this Department. Despina Karakatsani teaches citizenship education at the undergraduate and postgraduate level in the Master's Program 'Migration-Social Discrimination and Citizenship' of her Department. Her research interests include citizenship education and multiculturalism, the history of pedagogical theories, human rights education and democracy, which she works on not only within her institution but also with colleagues internationally. She has been following CiCe activities and publications since 2000, as well as having been actively involved in several working groups.



Alona Karavai works for MitOst e.V. (www.mitost.org). and is responsible for cooperation projects with Ukraine and Russian Federation as well as leading the project „Dialogue for change“ (www.dialogue-for-change.org) which is being funded by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Besides of that she is developing and implementing instruments for capacity building for the coordinating organizations of totally 12 programs of democratic citizenship education in the regions of Central, Eastern and Southern Europe, CIS countries, Caucasus and Northern Africa. Since 2004 she is working as trainer / facilitator in local as well as international projects of political and democratic citizenship education. She is co-author of some publications on the field of non-formal citizenship education as well as one of the founders of the Ukrainian organization „Insha Osvita / Other Education“ which is currently promoting / advocating non-formal education as well as working on quality management instruments for the democratic citizenship education in the country.



Alexandra Kroupi studied law in Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) (2004–2009) and then she continued her studies in a master level, in the Law School of AUTH, specializing in Penal Law and Criminology (2010–2013). In August 2014 Alexandra Kroupi completed a second master's in Maastricht University, in the Netherlands, where she was specialized in International Law with emphasis in Human Rights issues. Since 2011, she has been a member of the Bar Association of Thessaloniki. Since January 2015, she has been partly working and partly offering volunteering services in Antigone – Information and Documentation Centre.



Charikleia Manavi holds a BA in Education, Philosophy & Psychology, a MS in Education, Social Pedagogy & Social Anthropology and she is working towards her Ph.D in Training & Continuing Education for Guidance Counsellors in Inter-cultural Approach to Career Counselling. She is certified Adult Educator (National Certification Qualifications & Vocational Guidance), Assessor in Educational Committees for Instructor & Administrative staff of Vocational Guidance & Counselling Services and Assessor in Certification Committees for Adult Training. Her master thesis was an empirical research about the organization of adults' training in a local authority level. She has been involved in various nationwide and European projects in the areas of developing local strategies for the promotion of education, employment and citizenship. She collaborates with educational institutions, training centers, NGOs, public administrations and local authorities. As a Vocational Counsellor at PRAKSIS NGO she works in the Project: "Plus to Minus" trying to help families facing unemployment to return to the labour market.



Sandra Mayer, project assistant at the agency lab concepts in Bonn, studied "Regional Sciences of Latin America" majoring in political science and studying international law as a subsidiary subject at the University of Cologne. During her academic studies she worked for several months on various projects for the NGO Proyecto Mosaico Guatemala in Central America. Since 2007 Sandra Mayer has been supporting lab concepts especially in the fields of international cooperation, sustainability and European politics. She is also involved in the coordination of NECE projects.



Christoph Müller-Hofstede has been a consultant at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb) since 1988. Currently he is running a national project aimed at establishing new formats of citizenship education for young people with a migrant and/or Muslim background in German schools. Together with Petra Grüne, Christoph Müller-Hofstede is responsible for the NECE initiative promoted by the Federal Agency for Civic Education.



Corinna Noack-Aetopulos is the Director of Programmes at the CDRSEE. She earned her degree in European Business Administration with honours in Berlin and Cambridge. The subject of her dissertation was Cross-Cultural Management in International Joint Ventures. Before, she joined the Civil Society Sector, and started to work on democracy and reconciliation, she was part of various strategic planning teams in the German retail industry with the assignment to develop strategies for increasing companies' competitiveness.



Anja Ostermann is managing director and project manager at the agency lab concepts in Bonn-Berlin, Germany. She worked as a freelance editor for the German Federal Agency for Civic Education. Anja Ostermann was responsible amongst other things for the publication of the "Länderbericht USA" (Country Report USA, 1992, 1994, 1998, 2004, 2007). Since 1995, she has been actively involved in the design and the implementation of various educational and cultural formats, especially for public sector clients. Anja Ostermann has provided process guidance/academic support in the Europeanization of cultural and citizenship education and the formation of political and cultural education networks. She has studied Comparative Literature, History, German Language and Literature, Business Administration and Italian at the University of Bonn and St. Andrew's University in Scotland.



Peter Panes studied German language and literature, philosophy and journalism in Heidelberg and Berlin. He was an overseas lecturer at the Goethe-Institut Finland, a lecturer of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) at the University of Lisbon and a co-founder of a German-Portuguese association active in the fields of publishing and culture. Peter Panes was a fellow at the University of Kassel in "German as a foreign language" and, from 1986 on, he worked at the Goethe-Institut Headquarters in Munich. He was the Director of the Goethe-Institut in La Paz, Bolivia, the Goethe-Institut in Schwäbisch Hall and Rothenburg, Germany, and from 2010 on, of the Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki, Greece.



Babis Papaioannou is a youth worker based in Thessaloniki. He is one of the pioneers of youth working in Greece with a Master from the Department of International and European Studies of the University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece in "European Youth Policy". He works for the General Secretariat for Youth, of the Greek Ministry of Education. Before he was the Coordinator of Thessaloniki European Youth Capital 2014. From 2000 to 2002 he was the first Greek, who was elected as bureau member of the European Youth Forum, the biggest youth NGO platform in Europe and official partner of European Union on youth issues. He is board member of UNESCO Youth Club of Thessaloniki, Fair Trade Hellas and President of the Civil Society Observatory of Central Macedonia. He is specialized on youth active participation, social networking and building youth policy in local level.



Julia Pfinder is coordinating the network “Verstärker: Netzwerk zielgruppenspezifische Bildungsarbeit” on behalf of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb. She graduated in Political Science, Law and Intercultural Communications. She works as a freelance project manager, trainer and consultant in the field of education and participation. With her emphasis on civic education, intercultural understanding, international youth exchanges as well as sustainable development, she has worked e.g. for bpb, the Society for International Cooperation and the state capital of Munich. Julia Pfinder managed the nationwide youth participation project “Aktion09” in 2009. The concept being based on the peer-to-peer-approach, 60 disadvantaged youths were qualified as multipliers to implement their own projects and activities for other adolescents.



Sigrid Steininger, a graduated historian, is head of the Unit for Citizenship Education at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs. As Austria's EDC/HRE (Education for Democratic Citizenship/Human Rights Education) coordinator, she has been closely involved with the Council of Europe's EDC/HRE programme since 2002. In preparation for the “European Year of Citizenship through Education” (EYCE) she drew up and initiated the Citizenship Days in 2003, which have been held annually since then. Sigrid Steininger has also gained experience on an international level in her function as Austrian educational coordinator in FYROM and Kosovo (1999-2002), on election observer missions and due to her activities at the Council of Europe. The book “EDC in Europe – Challenges for Austria” has been published in August 2006. An encyclopaedia on politics for kids co-edited by Sigrid Steininger was issued in October 2008 (revised and updated edition 2010).



Despina Syrri has been Visiting Fellow at the Amsterdam Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Immigration Policy Institute Director of Research and International Cooperation. She has worked from 1988 to today with International Organisations and NGOs in Southern Africa, East Europe and South East Europe, Reuters News Agency, Athens News Agency, South East Europe Research Centre, Berlin Migration Netzwerk, British Council, Refugee Studies Centre, EastWest Institute on issues of post-conflict development, migration, refugees, borders. She taught Political Science and Political Anthropology at the American College of Thessaloniki. She published journal articles and book chapters in Greek, South Slavic and English, authored research papers and documentaries. She has been involved in developing post-graduate degrees at EU level on Humanitarian Action (EUPHRA EC project), in research at Europe's periphery with ELIAMEP, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, is directing Symβiosis and the CoE affiliated Civic School for Political Studies in Greece, and is a member of the Thessaloniki Migrants' Integration Council.



Athanasia Telliou studied International and European Economics and Politics (University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki). In 2009, she got her masters degree in human rights and democratisation (European Inter-University Center, Lido, Venice) and the following year, her masters degree in political theory and rights (Department of Political Science, University of Crete). In 2012, she completed a one-year pedagogical studies (School of Pedagogical and Technological Education, Patra). From September 2012, she has been working in ANTIGONE NGO as a project officer. Among her other responsibilities, she also work for her organisation as a non formal education trainer coordinating workshops on human rights and non discrimination addressed to children and youth. She is interested in democratic education for the promotion of active participation, particularly in disadvantaged groups.



George N. Tzogopoulos is a Research Fellow at Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) and Center International de Formation Européene (CIFE). He is also the founder of chinaandgreece.com and the author of the books US Foreign Policy in the European Media and The Greek Crisis in the Media. Also a regular columnist in Global Times (China) and a Visiting Lecturer at the European Institute in Nice.



Fernando Vallespin is Political Science Professor at the Universidad Autonoma in Madrid, where he has been director of the Centre for Political Theory, chairman of the Political Science Department and Vice-chancellor of the University. From 2004 to 2008 he has been President of the Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, a government related and publicly founded institute for public opinion and opinion polls. He is currently Academic Director of the Ortega y Gasset Foundation, President of the Spanish Political Science Association and author of several books and more than a hundred academic articles and book chapters. His main area of interest is Political and Democratic Theory. He is a staff columnist at the Spanish newspaper El País.



Stefanos Vallianatos holds a Ph.D. from Lancaster University (U.K.) in the field of International Politics with special reference to the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean. Currently, he is the head of the Department of International Relations of the Hellenic Foundation for Culture and coordinator of the Greek National Network of the Anna Lindh Foundation. He has taught Middle East Politics and History and Politics of the Balkans at the International Centre for Hellenic and Mediterranean Studies. He, frequently, publishes, makes presentations and gives lectures on issues related to developments in the wider Middle East, on Civil Society and Social Movements in the Mediterranean, and Greek Foreign Policy in the area, whereas he has also developed and executed several relevant projects, including projects related to intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean and educational ones.



Chrysanthos Vlamis is a project manager holding a bachelor's degree from the University of Piraeus in International and European Studies, M.A. in Media and Communication from the Technische Universität Berlin and M.A. in Political Sciences from the National Kapodistrian University of Athens. He is currently project coordinator at the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation Greece with main responsibility in activities against racism and discriminations and the development of the Sustainable Energy Youth Network in Greece. Research, activism and practice fields: underdevelopment and exploitation in the global south, resource politics, energy cooperatives, natural cooking, capoeira.



Michaela Zervidou has completed her Master of Arts degree in Turkish Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Michaela Zervidou focused on the underlying trends that dominate Turkish politics, history, society, culture and economy as well as foreign policy. Her undergraduate education in Balkan Studies, at the University of Western Macedonia in Florina, Greece, has broadened and enriched the scope of her research to areas such as the social anthropology of Southeast Europe, as she concentrated on the humanitarian aspects of the region. Michaela Zervidou came to the CDRSEE as an intern and soon became an integral member of the staff. Prior to joining the CDRSEE, she worked at the Society for Macedonian Studies in Thessaloniki, translating Greek and Turkish documents.