

NECE – Networking European Citizenship Education “EYCE 2005: National Experiences – European Challenges”

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Country profile IV. France

Recent troubles in France - the land of “Liberté” (freedom), “Egalité” (equality), “Fraternité” (brotherhood) since the French revolution in 1789 - have reactivated the debate about citizenship and civic education with teenagers demonstrating violently in the streets, burning their neighbours’ cars, their schools and babies’ day-nurseries.

Has French formal education failed in its historical role in citizenship training ?
Is “school” (formal education) the only place for citizenship training and active citizenship ?
Adult Education Associations in France and Europe believe that Life-Long Learning can change the “individual” into a “citizen”.

I will first present Civic Education in French formal education , the institutional players for the European Year of Citizenship through Education in France and their propositions.

I will then mainly focus on the part Adult Education plays for active citizenship through education describing :

- actions in different “Universités Populaires” (Folk’s High Schools) in France such as the “University for the citizen” ,
- the new French law about Individual Right for Life-Long Learning
- the conclusions of the yearly Conference of the French “ Association for Adult Education” held in France last month on the theme : “ From the individual to the citizen” with a European workshop about “Active Citizenship through Education”.