

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

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Education for democratic citizenship (EDC) in the Netherlands

1. EDC has proven to be effective, under certain circumstances, for social and political participation
2. A cross curricular approach of EDC is not sufficient. The quality of teachers is crucial for the effects of EDC. A separate and compulsory subject and specially trained teachers deliver better results for social and political participation
3. National policymakers should be informed about the best way to optimize EDC effectiveness
This can best be done by a campaign of NGOs active in this field
4. EDC can play an important role in integrating immigrants in society
5. The most important element of EDC is media literacy
6. Service learning should be an integral and standard part of EDC
7. A well functioning civil society is essential for democracy. Where necessary NGOs should, for its continuity, receive financial support from governments