



**«LEARNING AND LIVING
DEMOCRACY»**

2005

**THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF CITIZENSHIP
THROUGH EDUCATION
(EDC)**

➤ 1997-2000:

- ✓ Definition of concepts;
- ✓ Inventory of needs;
- ✓ Production of educational material.

➤ 2001-2004:

- ✓ Dissemination in the member states;
- ✓ Creation of network.

➤ 2005: European Year of Citizenship

First phase: 1997-2000

- ⇒ 10-11 October 1997: Launching of the project “Education for Democratic Citizenship” (EDC)

by heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe’s member states.

- ⇒ Aim:

Promote citizens’ awareness of their **rights** and **responsibilities** in a democratic society.

First phase: 1997-2000

Objectives:

- ➔ Define concepts;
- ➔ Identify basic skills;
- ➔ How to acquire these skills and pass them on.

First phase: 1997-2000

Operational Results:

- ➔ Increased understanding of EDC concepts, practices and methods;
- ➔ Analysis of grass-roots projects in communities and schools and co-operation between the citizenship sites;
- ➔ Production of various studies and teaching material;
- ➔ Creation of a network of decision-makers, experts, practitioners, non governmental organisations (NGOs).

Political results:

- Adoption of the “Resolution on results and conclusions of the completed projects” (Cracow 2000);
- Recommendation Rec (2002) 12 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on education for democratic citizenship.

Second phase: 2001-2004

Aim:

Continue to bridge the gap between policies and practice.

Objectives:

- Apply the results of the first phase into policies and practices.
- Focus the programme of activities on four pillars:
 - ECD policy development;
 - Creation of networks;
 - Communication and dissemination;
 - Preparation of the European Year of Citizenship through Education, which will be organised in 2005.

Second phase: 2001-2004

Target groups:

- ⇒ Policy makers and local authorities;
- ⇒ Teachers, trainers, pupils, pupils' parents and specialists in the education sector;
- ⇒ NGOs and communities.

Second phase: 2001-2004

Activities:

- ⇒ Dissemination activities;
- ⇒ Organisation of conferences, seminars and training activities, study visits and exchange;
- ⇒ Realisation of comparative studies;
- ⇒ Compilation of policy texts and examples of good practice;
- ⇒ Production of teaching material.



**2005 – The European Year of Citizenship
through Education**

13 and 14 December 2004

Sofia, Bulgaria

Launching of the "Year"

*Learning and living
democracy*

Objectives of the “Year”

- ➡ Promote awareness of the fundamental role of education in the development of citizenship.
- ➡ Encourage the participation of citizens in a democratic society:
 - *Political dimension* – participation in decisions making;
 - *Legal dimension* – being aware of and exercising citizens’ rights and responsibilities;
 - *Cultural dimension* – respect for all people and fundamental democratic values; contributing to peaceful and intercultural relations;
 - *Social and Economic dimension* – combat exclusion and promote social inclusion.

(continued)

Objectives of the “Year”

- Promote the implementation of Recommendation Rec (2002) 12 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on education for democratic citizenship;
- Disseminate the results of the second phase of the project (2001-2004);
- Increase Council of Europe’s visibility and illustrate its know-how and experience in the education field;
- Provide an opportunity for member states to take over ownership of the project.

And... share the wealth of knowledge.

Who is the "Year" for?

- ➔ Education policy deciders;
- ➔ Professionals having a specific interest in the subject;
- ➔ Actors in the field of higher education, decision makers at local level;
- ➔ General public.

Political bodies involved in the “Year” at the European level

- ➔ Ad hoc Committee of experts (15 members);
- ➔ Steering Committee of Education;
- ➔ Steering Committee of Higher Education and Research;
- ➔ Steering Committee for Human Rights;
- ➔ EDC Steering Group;
- ➔ EDC coordinators;
- ➔ Joint Council on Youth;
- ➔ Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- ➔ Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

Partnerships

- ➔ Different sectors of the Council of Europe, notably the entire DG IV (Directorate General – Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport);
- ➔ Governments;
- ➔ International and intergovernmental Institutions (European Commission, Unesco, OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- ➔ NGOs.

And to strengthen our action...

**Council of Europe Good Will Ambassadors
for citizenship and human rights education.**

Activities in member states:

Ideas for possible approach:

Implementation of an organising committee to:

- ✓ promote the aims of the Year;
- ✓ motivate and assist different governmental and non-governmental actors;
- ✓ identify needs and expectations with regard to the "Year", monitor its impact, develop follow-up activities;
- ✓ support the inclusion of education for citizenship and human rights in curricula;
- ✓ co-ordinate the activities to achieve a coherent programme.

What can the Council of Europe offer?

- ⇒ Legislative assistance to member states in the field of EDC;
- ⇒ Assistance to member states and relevant NGOs with the organisation of teacher/ multiplier training seminars;
- ⇒ Instruments for the acquisition of knowledge, skills, attitudes and values;
- ⇒ Communication tools and codes of good practice (EDC pack);
- ⇒ Up-to-date EDC database on legislation policy and other policy documents.

Gain for the Council of Europe:

- ⇒ Increase its visibility;
- ⇒ Demonstrate its skills and competencies;
- ⇒ Illustrate its capacity of action in the field of education.

Visions without actions are just dreams.

Actions without visions are just a pastime.

Visions combined with actions can
change the world.

For more information

EDC Division

<http://www.coe.int/edc>

**Directorate General IV, Education, Culture
and Heritage, Youth and Sport**

**Division for Citizenship and Human Rights
Education**

F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 35 29

Fax: + 33 (0)3 88 41 27 88

Agneta Derrien: agneta.derrien@coe.int