

EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP IN EUROPE

CONCEPTS AND CHALLENGES FOR ACTION

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

➤ **NECE as part of the movement for citizenship education in Europe**

- European and international intergovernmental organisations put citizenship education on their agenda
 - Council of Europe Heads of State and Government, 1997
 - EU Commission study, 1998
 - EU work programme “Education and training 2010”, working group G
 - OECD Education Ministers informal discussion, March 2004
 - EU informal Education Council, Rotterdam, July 2004
 - UN preparation of new World Programme on human rights education
 - Council of Europe 2005 European Year of Citizenship through Education

INTRODUCTION

➤ **NECE as part of the movement for citizenship education in Europe**

– Studies on citizenship education

- Council of Europe, final reports of 1997-2000 project on education for democratic citizenship (EDC)
- Council of Europe, All-European study on policies of EDC, 2003
- EU Dutch Presidency, Citizenship - made in Europe: living together starts at school, July 2004
- Eurydice study, Citizenship education in schools in Europe, July 2004
- EU Commission Working group G monitoring of progress in member countries

INTRODUCTION

➤ OBJECTIVES

- TO PROVIDE AN INTRODUCTORY OVERVIEW
- TO PRESENT AND DISCUSS
 - concepts, motivation and issues of EDC, so as to provide common reference points for discussions
 - challenges for action, so as to provide some suggestions for future developments

INTRODUCTION

➤ THREE THESES

- Concepts and practices of citizenship education in Europe are characterised by both common concerns and diversity
- A shared approach to citizenship education is emerging in Europe : EDC
- Diverse action is necessary to turn national and European political objectives and discourse into effective reality

Citizenship education in Europe : common concerns and diversity

23-26 September 2004

7

NECE Conference,
Santiago de Compostela

Citizenship education in Europe : common concerns and diversity

➤ In common : why citizenship education ?

- Democracy needs learning to live together with shared values and common rules
- The “crisis of legitimacy” of democracy
- Challenges and threats

Citizenship education in Europe : common concerns and diversity

➤ In common : why citizenship education ?

Political and civic apathy

Lack of confidence in democratic institutions,

Corruption, racism, xenophobia, aggressive nationalism, intolerance of minorities, discrimination and social exclusion,

Major threats to the security, stability and growth of democratic societies

Protect the rights of citizens, awareness of their responsibilities

Maintain and safeguard democratic societies

Council of Europe, EDC recommendation 12 (2002)

Citizenship education in Europe : common concerns and diversity

➤ In common : why citizenship education ?

Recent changes affecting the social and cultural condition of our societies

Globalization, immigration, communication technology and individualization

New challenges to the existing mechanisms by which norms and values that are the basis for social cohesion, are transferred to next generations of citizens

Enhance social cohesion

Presidency conclusions, Informal meeting of Ministers of Education, July 2004

Citizenship education in Europe : common concerns and diversity

➤ Diversity in concepts and practices

active citizenship

civic education

political education

citizenship education

citizenship learning

social studies

democracy learning

learning to live together

tolerance education

intercultural education

human rights education

education for democratic citizenship

Citizenship education in Europe : common concerns and diversity

➤ Diversity in concepts and practices

- Citizenship is polysemic and contested
- Citizenship learning is contextual and tailor-made

Citizenship education in Europe : common concerns and diversity

➤ Diversity in concepts and practices

- Organisation in the formal curriculum : subject-based, cross-curricular, obligatory, optional, time
- Educational policies : educational aim, distinct policy, one component of overall educational policy

EDC : a shared approach is emerging

“In the late ‘90s, although approaches varied, most European countries adopted education for democratic citizenship as the common reference point for all learning democracy processes. “

Council of Europe All-European study on EDC policies, 2003

EDC : a shared approach is emerging

➤ Comprehensive approach combining and integrating several components

- Multifaceted concept of citizenship
- Educational governance
- Aim of educational policies
- Learning objectives
- Learning methods
- Learning environment

EDC : a shared approach is emerging

- **Multifaceted concept of citizenship** : legal, political, cultural, social, economic dimensions; status and social role; rights and responsibilities; individual and collective dimensions; a co-citizen
- **Educational governance** : value-based education system; leadership style; accountability
- **Aim of educational policies** : living in a democracy as overarching mission of education
- **Learning objectives** : culture of human rights and democracy; social and political literacy; lucidity; empowerment for participation
- **Learning methods** : didactic triangle; social learning; practice-based learning; democratic learning
- **Learning environment** : explicit values; stakeholder participation; open the learning environment

Challenges and action for effective EDC

- EDC concepts and understanding
- EDC status in formal education
- The compliance gap of EDC in schools
- Lifelong learning for democratic citizenship
- Research and advocacy

Challenges and action for effective EDC

➤ EDC concepts and understanding

- Complexity
- Human rights education; diversity
- The global dimension
- Dissemination of the comprehensive and integrated approach

Challenges and action for effective EDC

➤ EDC status in schools

- Time
- Subject based or crosscurricular
- Basic skills
- Assessment

Challenges and action for effective EDC

- **Effective EDC in schools : the compliance gap**
 - Implementation measures
 - Training of teachers, headmasters and other educational staff
 - Quality assurance

Challenges and action for effective EDC

- **Lifelong learning for democratic citizenship**
 - Explicit policy statements
 - Coordination of areas of LLL for democratic citizenship
 - Support to non formal citizenship learning for young people and adults

Challenges and action for effective EDC

➤ Research and advocacy

- relating human and social capital and the contribution of EDC
- analysing forms of participation and related learning strategies as EDC is not just about political involvement.
- measuring EDC outcomes and assessing the impact of EDC, as is currently done in England with longitudinal study over nine years
- examining the feasibility of a PISA study for EDC
- mapping out and analysing policies and practices of lifelong learning for democratic citizenship similarly to the Council of Europe EDC policies study
- collecting, analysing and disseminating good practices of EDC, highlighting what works, what doesn't work and why

CONCLUSION

➤ **A case for networking and European co-operation**

- Learning, joining forces and lobbying
- Accountability
- Critical mass for effectiveness and impact

