

Closing the empowerment gap through citizenship education

How to address educationally disadvantaged groups

European Conference
17 – 19 November 2011
Warsaw, Poland



Background and Aims

This year's NECE conference focuses on the complex changes regarding civic participation and its effects on socially disadvantaged groups. All over Europe, citizens tend to refrain from traditional political participation, which is reflected by decreasing turnout rates in elections and a growing disenchantment with politics. One criticism is that – increasingly influenced by private or narrow-topic interest groups – governments and political institutions all over Europe (and in other western democracies as well) are losing legitimacy. Populist sentiments and a general sense of powerlessness are rife as trust in democracy ebbs. 'Post-democratic' tendencies – as described by Colin Crouch – seem to dominate formal institutions of democracy. At the same time new ways of getting involved in politics and society by using social media and digital technologies are gaining importance. This development could be considered a positive one, interpreted as proof that democracy is still alive and kicking. Critics claim, though, that these tendencies can lead to a further weakening of democratic institutions. As regards citizenship education it has to be admitted that these

new forms of political participation are to a large extent determined by access to education, and by income and skills. Engagement with the wider public may become dependent on small 'single issue' groups, spin doctors and advertising professionals. A rising number of socially disadvantaged groups and individuals may become excluded from participation in civil society and political processes and suffer from a conspicuous 'empowerment gap'.

Experts and activists in the fields of citizenship and cultural education, youth and social workers, NGO representatives will meet in Warsaw to focus on a central question: How can citizenship education become a suitable tool for closing the empowerment gap?

Conference contributions will include theoretical and practical approaches from Europe, both in school and in out-of-school or informal learning environments. The conference format will be both participatory and interactive.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 17 November 2011

02:30 pm Registration at the Fabryka Trzciny

03:00 pm **Discovering the neighbourhood: Searching for clues of the past in Warsaw (optional)**

Before the beginning of the conference, the participants have the possibility to learn more about the city district "Praga" and its inhabitants. By using the method of "Geocaching" the participants will discover the district and will experience how they may use this method in their own educational practice. "Geocaching" is a treasure hunting game where GPS is used to find hidden treasures.

Conference moderators:

Almut Möller, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

Matthias Haß, Political Scientist (Germany)

05:00 pm Welcome Coffee & Networking Forum

05:30 pm **Opening**

Jacek Michalowski, Representative of the Chancellery of the Polish President

Welcome

Thomas Krüger, Federal Agency For Civic Education (Germany)

Alicja Pacewicz, Centre for Citizenship Education (Poland)

06:30 pm **Keynote**

"Transnationalisation and Post Democratic Structures: What does it mean for Citizens' Participation and Civil Society in Europe?"

Benjamin Barber, Political Theorist (USA)

PROGRAMME

07:30 pm Opening Panel
“Closing the empowerment gap through citizenship education: How to address educationally disadvantaged groups”

Benjamin Barber, Political Theorist (USA)
Barbara Malak-Minkiewicz, IEA (the Netherlands)
Joanna Rajkowska, Artist (Poland)*

Discussion

Reception & Music Programme at the Fabryka Trzciny

Friday, 18 November 2011

09:00 am Open Forum:
Exchange – Encounter – Getting to know

The ability to experience spaces and opportunities is important for the development of new methods and approaches achieving educationally disadvantaged target groups. The Fabryka is a special cultural and social area and should not only be envisioned as a venue but to be “captured” by the participants independently. In a playful manner, the participants experience a variety of meeting spaces and theme rooms at the Fabryka, in order to have an unusual interaction with the other guests, the location and the specific area.

10:45 am Coffee Break & Networking Forum

11:15 am Presentation of “NECE – Networking European Citizenship Education”

Introduced by
Petra Grüne, Federal Agency for Civic Education (Germany)
Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk, ProDemos (the Netherlands)
Manfred Wirtitsch, Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture (Austria)

Presentation of the Fellowship Programme
“Shaping Europe - Civic Education in Action”

Introduced by
Carsten Lenk, Robert Bosch Stiftung (Germany)
Christiane Toyka-Seid, Programme Manager (Germany)

11:30 am Access to (Citizenship) Education and its Impact for Political and Civic Participation

Erik Flügge, Sinus Sociovision (Germany)
David Kerr, Birkbeck College, University of London (UK)

Discussion

01:00 pm Lunch Snack

02:30 pm Parallel Workshop Session

Workshop 1: Learning Environment – School/ Quality Assurance

Workshop 2: Learning Environment – School

Workshop 3: Learning Environment – Community and Urban District Work

Workshop 4: Learning Environment – Media and Social Networks (Web 2.0)

Workshop 5: Learning Environment – Non-formal Citizenship Education

Workshop 6: Learning Environment – Non-formal Citizenship Education/ Milieus and Social Area

Workshop 7: Learning Environment – Vocational Training

Workshop 8: Learning Method – a playful Access to Citizenship Education (Outdoor, 2.30 – 6.00 pm)

Parallel to the indoor workshop session the participants have the opportunity to participate in an “Urban Game for Citizenship Education”. The goal of this workshop is to show the usefulness of urban games as a method of teaching democratic values and how such a method can support the access of educationally disadvantaged groups to citizenship education.

04:00 pm Coffee Break

04:30 pm Rerun of the Parallel Workshop Session 1–7

06:00 pm Break

06:30 pm Impressions and Results of the Day

07:30 pm Dinner buffet

08:30 pm Cultural Programme at Fabryka Trzciny



PROGRAMME

Saturday, 19 November 2011

09:30 am **Networking Panels**

I) Lobbying Strategies

Maria Ochoa-Llidó, Council of Europe (France)
Pavel Chacuk, ODIHR (Poland)

Moderation:

Georg Pirker, DARE Network (Europe)

II) From Lifelong Learning to Education for Europe

Ana Serador, European Commission (Belgium)
Aydan Iyinguengör, European Union – Agency for Fundamental Rights (Austria)

Moderation:

Györgyi Toth, Active Citizenship Foundation (Hungary)

III) Lost mission? The educational role of civil society organisations in Central and Eastern Europe

Krisztina Arató, ELTE University (Hungary)
Matej Cepin, Social Academy (Slovenia)
Petia Kabakchieva, Bulgarian Academy of Science (Bulgaria)
Grzegorz Makowski, Institute of Public Affairs (Poland)

Moderation:

N.N.

IV) EU Funding – the “Europe for Citizens” Programme

Marta Dąbrowska, Europe for Citizens Point (Poland)

11:00 am Coffee Break

11:30 am **Key Lecture**
Perspectives of Equality and Civic Participation in a Global Society

Discussion

12:30 pm Farewell by the organisers

Petra Grüne, Federal Agency for Civic Education (Germany)

Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk, ProDemos (the Netherlands)

Alicja Pacewicz, Centre for Citizenship Education (Poland)

Manfred Wirtitsch, Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture (Austria)

Lunch Snack

02:00 pm Sightseeing Tour (optional)

A European conference organised by



The Federal Agency for Civic Education/ bpb (Germany)



Center for Citizenship Education (Poland)



The Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture (Austria)



House for Democracy and the Rule of Law (the Netherlands)

in co-operation with



Institute of Public Affairs (Poland)



The Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe Network



Civic Education Centre (Czech Republic)

and the fellowship programme „Shaping Europe - Civic Education in Action” for young Europeans – a co-operation between the bpb and the Robert Bosch Stiftung

supported by

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