



★ NETWORKING EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

NECE Conference 2014

1914 - 2014: Lessons from History? Citizenship Education and Conflict Management

16 - 18 October 2014
Vienna, Austria

www.nece.eu

Conference Venue:
Europahaus, Linzer Straße 429, Vienna

A conference organised by



In co-operation with



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:



Background and Aims

One hundred years after the start of the First World War, this 'great seminal catastrophe of the 20th century' (George F. Kennan), the NECE initiative is organising its annual conference in Vienna. The focus of the conference will be on current crises and conflicts inside and outside Europe. Internationally renowned experts, such as **Aleida Assmann**, **Ivan Krastev** and **Philipp Blom** have already confirmed their participation and will enter into a dialogue with the participants.

Heinz Fischer, President of the Republic of Austria, will open the conference on 17 October.

The 2014 NECE Conference will address challenges in Europe against the background of its history of war and conflict in the 20th century. It will ask how citizenship education can deal with the great variety of conflicts in and around Europe today. These include conflicts at Europe's periphery (Russia, Ukraine, Egypt) and the influx of refugees at the shores of the Mediterranean. Inside Europe political and social conflicts in the wake of the economic crisis have led to a serious loss of trust into the European project. The results of the 2014 European elections have given rise to fears that the populist earthquakes in France, the United Kingdom and other countries will have an impact on the European Union's future agenda. The implicit consensus that shaped the citizens' attitude towards 'Europe' for a long time is fundamentally called into question. Nationalistic and xenophobic resentments represent a risk for Europe's democratic constitution. The economic crisis has turned into a political one.

European philosophers from Hobbes to Kant dealt with peace and war in human societies centuries ago. However, it was not until after the catastrophes of the 20th century that European elites developed a 'culture of constructive conflict management' with the European Union as its most important institutional expression. During this period, citizenship education focussing on human rights and democracy was developed. The variety of citizenship education formats and initiatives ideally provide citizens with opportunities for reflection, for dialogue, but also for controversial debates in order to negotiate, attenuate and solve the conflicts that inevitably arise in democracies.

The 2014 NECE Conference offers a platform for pursuing current issues in citizenship education in Europe: Are our current patterns of thinking and discourse still appropriate for dealing with the particular challenges and crises of the European democracies today? Workshops at the conference will deal, among other aspects, with the following questions:

- How can new arguments and methods for dealing with the populist movements in Europe be developed?
- What citizenship education instruments can be utilized for managing and solving conflicts? What role can dialogic approaches and attitudes play? Are there limits to intervention, for instance, in Ukraine or Egypt?
- What are the tasks of citizenship education in terms of analysing power structures and fostering the participation of citizens? How much controversy can citizenship education bear?
- How can we develop formats for handling conflicts, diversity and democracy as an 'institutionalised uncertainty' (Jan Werner Müller)?

Programme draft

Thursday, 16 October 2014

- 2:30 pm Registration
- 3:15 pm **Welcome address**
Manfred Wirtitsch, Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs (Austria)
- 3:30 pm **Warming up: Dancing the waltz**
 A waltz dancing lesson is offered to help warming up for the conference ahead.
- 5:00 pm Welcome coffee & opening of the exhibition "10th anniversary of NECE"
- 5:15 - 6:15 pm Consultation panels & partner workshops
 In this session you can either participate in one of the Consultation panels or alternatively in one of the offered partner workshops.
1. Consultation Panels
 Amongst other, here will be offered a workshop about the new fundraising and resource acquisition in citizenship education with regard to the EU programmes
 2. Partner workshops
 Workshops will be offered by the NECE Focus Group "Vote Match Europe", the ERSTE Foundation, Robert Bosch Stiftung and eurotopics.
- 6:30 pm **Opening address**
Thomas Krüger, President of the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Germany)
- 6:45 pm **1914 - 2014: Lessons learnt from the past? Conflicts about identity and history in Europe today**
Aleida Assmann, University of Konstanz (Germany)
Philipp Blom, Author of the book "The Vertigo Years - Europe 1900-1914" (Germany)
Margaret MacMillan, University of Oxford, St Antony's College (United Kingdom)*
 Discussion
- 8:30 pm Reception

Friday, 17 October 2014

09:00 am Opening of the project market – Networking

10:00 am **Opening address**
Heinz Fischer, Federal President of Austria

Followed by

Keynote speech

1914 - 2014: European conflicts - European prospects and challenges for a European civil society

Vesna Pusić, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs (Croatia)*

12:00 pm Lunch break

01:00 am Project market – Networking

01:30 pm **Introduction in the parallel workshop session**

Conflicts in and around Europe: What should be the role of citizenship education?

Lynn Davies, University of Birmingham (United Kingdom)

02:00 pm **Parallel workshop session: Part I**

Workshop 1: Exploring the power of concepts in war and peace

Taking the First World War as an example, the workshop will demonstrate how concept learning can serve as an approach in citizenship education to explore the dynamics of conflicts and war. How could concepts like 'fatherland' and 'honour' contribute to war euphoria all over Europe in 1914? Would this be possible today? The members of the NECE Focus Group CLEAR (Concept Learning for Empowerment through Analysis and Reflection) will share their experiences with concept learning related to the history of the First World War and will discuss how key concepts can shed light on important societal conditions.

Inputs:

Claudia Lenz The European Wergeland Centre (Norway) & **Lise Kvande**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway)

Workshop 2: Dialogue and citizenship education: Conceptual and practical approaches

DIALOGUE is inseparably linked with the human being: our identity and social cohesion can only be generated through dialogue. It has played an important role in the development of conflict mediation methods and in peace studies for a number of decades. The potentials of this approach for citizenship education will be explained and also brought to life in a practical way in training units with the participants.

Facilitator: Sigrid Peuker, Trainer and Consultant (Germany)

Assistance: Mona Qaiser, Dialogue at School (Germany)

(www.dialogmachtschule.de)

Moderation: Christoph Müller-Hofstede, Federal Agency for Civic Education (Germany)

Workshop 3: Conflicting identities? The role of identities in conflicts and in citizenship education

Identities can play a catalytic role in different conflicts. Social conflicts as well as violent clashes are not conceivable without opposing identities. Conflicts can be played out within a society or in the international context. In this workshop we are going to discuss how citizenship education needs to be designed in diversified societies. How can citizenship education generally deal with the adversarial potential of different identities in order to prevent conflict?

Inputs:

Lynn Davies, University of Birmingham (United Kingdom)

Ulrike Niens, Queen`s University Belfast (United Kingdom)*

Moderation: Ondrej Matejka, The Institute for the study of Totalitarian Regimes/ Civic Education Center (Czech Republic)*

Workshop 4: The rise of populism in Europe: What should we know? How should we react?

The recent elections of the European Parliament have demonstrated that the debates concerning European integration and membership of the EU are more polarized than ever before. Numerous euro-sceptic and populist parties have arisen, drawing on the frustration of many citizens with the economic, social and fiscal consequences of the crisis. This workshop will examine the causes of the rise of populism in Europe. In a second part of the workshop, theses will be developed on how to successfully respond to populist arguments.

Inputs:

Ivan Krastev, Centre for Liberal Strategies (Bulgaria)

Nick Startin, University of Bath (United Kingdom)

Moderation: Florian Hartlieb, University of Bonn (Germany)*

Workshop 5: Conflicting ideas of Europe: The role of values in citizenship education

Democratic fundamental consensus is at stake in multiple cases. In what kind of Europe do we want to live and on what values should Europe's future identity be based? Who has sovereignty of the interpretation of the democratic and value-based shaping of Europe's future? Where do the current challenges lie for Europe's democratic constitution? The focus of the workshop will be the role of citizenship education as one of the keys to the permanent reflection on Europe as a fundamental emancipatory and democratic project.

Inputs:

Vedran Dzihic, The Austrian Institute for International Affairs (Austria)
Kris Grimonprez, KU Leuven (the Netherlands)*

Moderation: Alicja Pacewicz, Center for Citizenship Education (Poland)*

Workshop 6: Towards a xenophobic Europe? Intolerance and racism in European societies: Responses by politics and citizenship education

Amid Europe's economic and social crisis, a general climate of intolerance and xenophobia, an often-diffuse 'fear of others' appears to be spreading. How can racism and xenophobia be prevented more effectively than before and what measures are necessary in order to change the migration-hostile climate of opinion? How can the relevant arguments of populist and migration-sceptical citizens be encountered? This workshop analyses the political and economic causes of the rise of migration-hostile currents and will attempt to formulate recommendations for citizenship education to appropriately deal with racism and intolerance at the European level.

Inputs:

John Springford, Centre for European Reform (United Kingdom)*
Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos, The European Fundamental Rights Agency (Austria)
Sarah Isal, The European Network Against Racism (Belgium)*

Moderation: Petr Cap, Civic Education Center (Czech Republic)*

Workshop 7: From national narratives to shared memories: Is a Pan-European memory possible?

Memories and the political discourse on history and the past are a dangerous game and can disrupt not only the fabric of societies, but also spark international conflicts. How can the perspectives of ‘Others’ be incorporated into a country’s national history? Is there a European standard for dealing with ‘history’? Where does action still need to be taken? The workshop is going to develop basic hypotheses and make recommendations for further citizenship education projects.

Inputs:

Andrea Mork, European House of History (Belgium)

Benedikt Widmaier, Haus am Maiberg - Akademie für politische und soziale Bildung (Germany)*

Moderation: Tomaz Pusnik, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)*

Workshop 8: The role of conflicts and power structures in citizenship education

Democracy is not a legal vacuum – political power is the reflection of tense relationships between the executive power and citizens’ will, which demands active participation and co-consultation in existing power structures. This workshop elaborates on the role of conflict in concepts and practices of democracy and citizenship. It critically reflects on contexts of formal and non-formal citizenship education. Do we need to critically examine the established concepts of learning democracy in schools and the dominant discourse on democracy and political participation? The workshop presents inputs and case studies in order to spark a debate with practitioners and experts of citizenship education.

Inputs:

Vedrana Spajic-Vrkas, University of Zagreb (Croatia)

Yael Ohana, IKAB-Bildungswerk e.V. (Germany)*

Moderation: Marinko Banjac, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)*

Workshop 9: Enlightenment or propaganda tool? Conflicts and the role of the media

Media of all kinds can heighten, prolong or help to solve conflicts. At the same time, state and non-state players alike are spending more and more resources on controlling media and the internet. How can citizenship educators assert themselves in this disputed field, how can they develop individual competences and impart these to citizens? Drawing on examples from selected countries, the workshop will highlight the opportunities, risks and potential instruments of citizenship education in dealing with digital and non-digital media.

Inputs:

Dirk Auer, balkanbiro (Serbia)

Chris Burns, Journalist*

Nenad Sebek, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC, Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Moderation: Christian Mihr, Reporter ohne Grenzen (Germany)*

Workshop 10: Citizenship education in conflict regions: Challenges, options and dilemmas

The civil war-like conflicts in Ukraine, the war in Syria and the violent escalation of the political conflicts in Egypt serve as exemplary demonstrations of intrastate conflicts turning virulent directly at the external borders of the EU. What role can citizenship education play in this alliance, in the countries concerned and in the member states of the EU? How can and should citizenship education and initiatives react to these conflicts, both in the member states of the EU itself and in the crisis-ridden countries? In this workshop, civil society representatives from Ukraine, Russia and Egypt will describe particular challenges and dilemmas they face in their work.

Inputs:

Nelly Corbel, The American University in Cairo - AUC (Egypt)

Ayder Khalilov, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/ project "Democracy and Human Rights in Ukraine" (Ukraine)

Inna Berezkina & Lena Nemirovskaya, Moscow School of Civic Education (Russia)

Moderation: Louisa Slavkova, Sofia Platform - Bridging Europe and the Middle East (Bulgaria)

Workshop 11: Peace education and reconciliation work as twin fields of citizenship education?

This workshop, which is organised by DARE (Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe), will explore the interrelations of peace education and reconciliation work in Education for Democratic Citizenship (EDC). It will map the field and various approaches, formulate common aims and try to establish links between educational fields, thus contributing to a better common understanding of our aims, missions and visions for a strong civil society.

Input: Borislava Daskalova, Bulgarian Network for Human Rights Education (Bulgaria)

Moderation: Ragnar Müller, Gesellschaft Agora (Germany)

03:30 pm Coffee break – project market – Networking

04:00-6:00 pm **Continuation of the parallel workshop session: Part II**

Saturday, 18 October 2014

09:30 am **World Café: Outcome and perspectives**
What can we learn from the conference results for our concrete work in conflict management and citizenship education – perspectives and recommendations?

11:30 am **Current conflicts in Europe and the future of European democracy. Recommendations and comments by**
Philipp Blom, Author of the book “The Vertigo Years - Europe 1900-1914” (Germany)
Ivan Krastev, Centre for Liberal Strategies (Bulgaria)
Luuk van Middelaar, Philosopher (the Netherlands)*

Conclusion and farewell by the organisers

01:00 pm Lunch break

02:00 pm Sightseeing tour (optional)

03:00 pm Meeting of the NECE Focus Groups Part I

04:30 pm Coffee break

05:00 pm Meeting of the NECE Focus Groups Part II

06:30 pm End