

CIVIC EDUCATION AND THE TRAINING OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS

Course organized by the Italian Government
under the auspices of the Council of Europe

PROGRAMME



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FLORENCE, NATIONAL CENTRE OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH
AND DOCUMENTATION, PALAZZO GERINI, VIA BUONARROTI, 10

18th - 23rd September 1961

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I. INTRODUCTION

Note on the Council of Europe courses

Since its creation in 1949, the Council of Europe has held continuous series of courses, symposia and conferences on various themes of European interest.

The number of such courses has considerably increased in recent years so that they now form an important part of the cultural programme each year prepared by the Committee of Cultural Experts and subsidised by the Cultural Fund.

These courses may be classified as follows:

- Youth (out-of-school activities)
- Physical Education and Sport
- Cinema and Television
- Education (teaching)
- Presentation of Europe and the European idea.

In this last series, the Council of Europe has organised the following courses:

- Bruges, 1952 - a course for secondary school inspectors;
- Nancy, 1954 - a course for primary school inspectors;
- Saarbrücken, 1955 - a course for university professors;
- Twickenham, 1957 - a course for teachers in various branches of education.

The Florence course may be roughly classified under this last category of courses.

The basic documentation received by participants includes the conclusions of the Bruges and Nancy courses. Although they are in some respects out of date, they may contain some material of use for the discussions in Florence.

The Council of Europe Secretariat would also draw attention to the fact that some courses in the education series have led to publications. Thus the results of the Sigtuna course (1958) on "Differentiation and Guidance in the Comprehensive School" were published in English by Messrs. Almqvist & Wiksell of Stockholm and in French by the Paris Institut

Pédagogique National, while a synthesis of the six conferences on the revision of history textbooks has been brought out in no less than eight languages by Messrs. Sijthoff of Leyden (Netherlands) under the title "A History of Europe?" in the series of works known as "European Aspects".

II. FINAL PROGRAMME

1. Purpose of course

To try to establish a common basis for European civic education. Preliminary consideration of methods of co-ordinating activities in member countries for the training of European citizens.

Since the aim of European civic education is to train the "civis europeus", the latter ought, it seems, to possess characteristics common to citizens of all European countries. While differences in traditions, customs and culture make a valuable and necessary contribution to the enrichment of European civilisation, points of contact and common interests must be found on which a cultural unity, at first intellectual, and eventually also economic and political, may be founded.

To discover common features and take steps to ensure that different features may contribute to creating a new cultural unity must be the essential aim of European civic education.

2. Subjects of study

- (a) Methods and techniques of civic education in the member countries: training, information and organising methods;
- (b) Comparative study of such methods and techniques;
- (c) Preliminary consolidation of methods, techniques and values with a view to planning civic education common to all member countries.

3. Duration and place

The course will be held at the headquarters of the National Centre of Educational Research and Documentation, Palazzo Gerini, via Michelangelo Buonarroti 10, Florence, from Monday, 18th, to Saturday, 23rd September 1961.

Participants will be accommodated at the Hotel Capitoletto, Viale G. Amendola 34 - Tel. 67.52.01.

4. Organisation

The Ministry of Education (Department of Cultural Exchanges) will make the necessary arrangements in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On 18th and 19th September, Professor G. Calò, of the University of Florence, President of the National Centre of Educational Research and Documentation, will be in charge of the course and will make the opening speech. On the following days, Professor Calò's duties will be taken over by Professor E. Petrini, Director of the National Centre of Educational Research and Documentation.

Interpretation will be provided in English and French, and into both these languages from German and Italian.

5. Method of work

The Italian delegation will draw up a working paper to be sent to delegations, on the basis of replies to the questionnaire sent with the draft programme [Doc. St 6 (61) 1 rev.]

A critical examination of this paper should provide pointers for common action; these pointers will form the basis of the conclusions of the work of the course.

French and English versions of the paper will be distributed before the beginning of the course.

6. Timetable

Monday, 18th September

10 a.m.

- Palazzo Vecchio (Sala dei Gigli):
official inauguration.
- Opening speech (Professor G. Calò).

4 p.m.

- Palazzo Gerini: plenary meeting.
Drawing up of programme: working parties will consider first two subjects of study [Point 2 (a) and (b)] to prepare the ground for conclusions on the third subject of study [Point 2 (c)] which will be considered in plenary session.
Setting up of two working parties.
Meeting of working parties.

Tuesday, 19th September

- 9.30 a.m. - Working parties.
- afternoon - Free - Visit town.
- 8.30 p.m. - Official dinner.

Wednesday, 20th September

- 9.30 a.m. - Conclusions reached by working parties.
- 4 p.m. - Plenary meeting. Debate on third subject of study [Point 2 (c)].

Thursday, 21st September

- 9.30 a.m. - Plenary meeting. Continuation of debate. Appointment of Drafting Committee.
- afternoon - Local excursion.

Friday, 22nd September

- 9.30 a.m. - Drafting Committee.
- 4.30 p.m. - Drafting Committee.

Saturday, 23rd September

- 9 a.m. - Plenary meeting. Discussion of conclusions proposed by Drafting Committee. Final report: conclusions and recommendations.
- 1 p.m. - End of course. Departure of delegates (Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning).

7. Enrolment and reservations

Arrangements have been made to receive delegates at the Hotel Capitole, Viale G. Amendola No. 34, from the afternoon of Sunday, 17th September.

Delegations are asked to send, as soon as possible, the names, titles and addresses of participants to the Secretariat of the course (Ministry of Education, Department of Cultural Exchanges, Via Napoleone III, No. 8, Rome).

The Secretariat of the course will function at the National Centre of Educational Research and Documentation, Florence, from Sunday, 17th September.