

DGII/EDU/FNFE-OJ(2024)10
Original: English
Strasbourg, 10 October 2024

The European Space for Citizenship Education

Sustaining democracy through quality citizenship education

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

17-18 October 2024

Humboldt University, Graduate School, Festsaal, Luisenstrasse 56, Berlin

The event is organized by the Council of Europe and co-funded by Germany and the Council of Europe

Working languages: German and English (interpretation will be provided)

To mark the dual 75th anniversaries of the Council of Europe and German Basic Law (Constitution), the Council of Europe Education Department, in partnership with the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Movement, the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK) and the European network for Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (DARE), is organising an event in Berlin to promote a European vision of shared democratic values and principles through citizenship education.

The event will be an occasion to showcase the longstanding work in Germany in and around citizenship education, place it within a broader European context and look towards the future through the creation of a European Space for Citizenship Education.

The European Space for Citizenship Education - intended to be a hallmark of citizenship education for the promotion of democratic values and principles in and through quality citizenship education – was agreed at the 26th Standing Conference of Ministers of Education in September 2023 as part of the Council of Europe Education Strategy 2024-2030 *“Learners First – Education for Today’s and Tomorrow’s Democratic Societies”*, with a focus on renewing the democratic and civic mission of education.

Specific objectives of the event include:

- Launch the preparatory phase of the European Space for Citizenship Education
- Introduce the German translation of the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC)
- Highlight initiatives in Germany putting the RFCDC into practice
- Consult with civil society on the European Space for Citizenship Education
- Raise the visibility of the CoE’s standards and materials in this field, as well as good practices

Participants: In addition to the organizers outlined above, specialized European networks promoting citizenship education will participate, as well as the Federal Agency for Civic Education and members of civil society. Participants will mainly be from Germany, but also some European policy makers will be invited. The CoE Secretariat will be represented by the Director of Democracy as well as its Education Department. About 80 participants are expected.

Background

The creation of a European Space for Citizenship Education is foreseen to provide a comprehensive framework ensuring quality citizenship education across Europe. It will aim to define a shared understanding of citizenship education as well as the fundamental values and principles that form the backbone of quality citizenship education, addressing both current and future challenges.

It will also seek to foster collaborative endeavours among member States committed to upholding democratic values and principles.

The European Space for Citizenship Education is driven by a strong political will, as demonstrated by the [Summit of Heads of State and Government in Reykjavik](#) in May 2023 and the outcomes of the 26th Standing Conference of Ministers of Education in September of the same year. These events have collectively called upon member states to commit themselves to a democratic future shaped by education.

The European Space for Citizenship Education will include all the relevant acquis of the Council of Europe, such as the [Charter of Education for Democratic Culture and Human Rights Education](#) and the [Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture](#) (RFCDC). It is envisioned that the European Space for Citizenship Education will serve as a comprehensive resource hub, promoting democratic values and principles through high-quality citizenship education policy documents, educational resources and materials.

The event in Berlin will contribute to the two-year preparatory phase to develop the European Space for Citizenship Education through a co-creation process. This will include a series of consultations over the next two years with the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU), specialised networks and civil society. The two-year development process is designed to be both realistic and inspirational, ensuring that the initiative remains grounded in practice while striving for significant educational change and innovation.



Figure 1. Key areas of the European Space for Citizenship Education

This event therefore marks a crucial milestone in advancing European citizenship education to make the European Space for Citizenship Education a reality.

PROGRAMME

Working languages: German and English (interpretation will be provided)

Thursday, 17 October 2024

Timing	Agenda items
9:00 – 9:30	<p>Opening of the first day of the event: 75th commemorations of the Council of Europe and the German constitution</p> <p>Welcome speeches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simona Koß, Member of the German Bundestag and Chair of the Federal Agency for Civic Education (BpB)'s Board of Trustees - Matjaž Gruden, Director for Democracy, Council of Europe <p>Moderated by Sarah Keating, Head of the Formal and Non-Formal Education Division, Council of Europe</p>
9:30 – 10:30	<p>High-level round table on the role of education in strengthening a culture of democracy among Europeans</p> <p>Moderated by Villano Qiriazzi, Head of Education Department, Council of Europe</p> <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Luz Martinez Seijo, MP Spain and Chair of the subcommittee on culture, education and democratic values at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) - Marie-Anne Persoons, Chair of the CoE Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU) - Thorsten Altenburg-Hack, Director General of the Office for Education within the Authority for School and Vocational Training in Hamburg - Bernd Hüttemann, Secretary General of the European Movement Germany - Matjaž Gruden, Director for Democracy, Council of Europe
	Group photo
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 11:15	<p>A European Space for Citizenship Education</p> <p>Sarah Keating, Head of the Formal and Non-Formal Education Division, Council of Europe</p>
11:15 – 12:15	<p>Round table on the role of civil society and youth in the European Space for Citizenship Education</p> <p>Moderated by Georg Pirker, Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe (DARE network, AdB)</p> <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monika Oberle, Goethe University Frankfurt, Am Main

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helle Becker, Transfer für Bildung e.V. - Sophia Oppermann, Gesicht Zeigen e.V. - Andrea Szukala, Deutsche Vereinigung für Politische Bildung e.V. (DVPB) 			
12:15 – 13:45	Lunch at Humboldt University Mensa Nord, Hannoversche Straße 7, Berlin (7-minute walk)			
13:45 – 14:00	Introduction to Workshops on the European Space for Citizenship Education Salvador Sala, Head of the European Space for Citizenship Education Unit, Council of Europe			
14:00 – 15:30	Workshop - Parallel discussions on the European Space for Citizenship Education - Civil society role for its development <i>What role for education actors and civil society from formal and non-formal education in the development of the European Space?</i> <i>Which principles of citizenship education guide your activities? What values and principles are needed for quality citizenship education in Europe?</i> <i>How do you currently assess the quality of your activities? What evidence is needed to develop quality citizenship education in Europe?</i> <i>What kind of forms of cooperation would be most useful for a quality citizenship education? How to involve education actors and how can we cooperate with them?</i>			
	Workshop 1 Room A Moderator Natia Natsvlashvili Rapporteur Liz Moorse	Workshop 2 Room B Moderator Nils Zimmermann Rapporteur Hanna Lorenzen	Workshop 3 Room C Moderator tbc Rapporteur tbc	Workshop 4 Room D Moderator Ulrike Wolf-Jontofsohn Rapporteur Bernt Gebauer
15:30 – 16:30	Panel with rapporteurs to discuss the feedback from workshops Moderated by Özge Erdogan, D-N-K, German National Committee for international youth work, followed by discussion.			
16:30 – 16:45	Conclusions of the first day By Rapporteur General, Sabine Jenni			
17:00 - 18:30	Networking event and cocktail			
18:30	End of the first day			

Optional cultural event: 18.30 – 20.15: Optional guided tour through the government district Berlin (German Bundestag; Federal Chancellery ; Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe; Federal Council).

Guide: Sebastian Mitte (Junior Ambassador –YouBo - Federal School Competition „Acting Democratically“/Demokratisch Handeln).

Friday, 18 October 2024

Timing	Agenda items		
9:00 – 9:30	Opening of the second day of the event Villano Qiriazzi, Head of Education Department, Council of Europe Keynote speech on the Council of Europe Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture By Hermann Josef Abs, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany		
09:30 – 10:00	Official launching of the German language version of the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC) Moderated by: Bernt Gebauer, Hessian Ministry Education, Wiesbaden Participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fatih Demircan, Federal Agency for Civic Education - Markus Gloe, University of Munich - Patricia Hladschik, Zentrum polis – Politik Lernen in der Schule 		
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break		
10:30 – 11:30	RFCDC in practice – parallel workshop exchanges Participants from formal and non-formal education are invited to share and showcase materials and experiences		
	Workshop 1 <i>Moderator</i> Hugo Wester	Workshop 2 <i>Moderator</i> Sigrid Steininger	Workshop 3 <i>Moderator</i> tbc
11:30 – 12:00	Conclusions of the event Rapporteur General Closing of the event Villano Qiriazzi, Head of Education Department, Council of Europe		
12:00	End of conference		