

April 2006

Learning and living
democracy

Education Newsletter

Editorial

Democracy and the Council of Europe



Democracy is much more than a set of rules and procedures. Real democracy is rooted in a democratic culture, and education has much to contribute to the transmission of this culture to new generations. Education cannot perform miracles. It cannot alone make our societies more inclusive, secure and prosperous overnight, but it does help people to acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes.

The Council of Europe's message to those involved in citizenship education is that democracy cannot be taught "from the top". It must be learned through experience at school, in the local club or even in the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg. Indeed, the Council of Europe itself has often been likened to a school for democracy – not only for member states, but also for politicians and civil society.

The Council of Europe was established in 1949 to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law throughout the war-torn European continent. Europe has changed since then, but our original task is still valid as our 46 member states learn how to cope with new challenges. "Learning and living democracy" was the motto of the 2005 Council of Europe Year of Citizenship through Education. These words sum up what the Council of Europe is about. The European Year of Citizenship through Education has come to an end, but our work is not over. The "scene" is set, the "script" has been written and the "actors" know their roles. Now is the time for action. At the Council of Europe Summit in May 2005, we were asked to increase our efforts in the field of citizenship and human rights education. A new programme of activities for 2006-2009 has been prepared. We rely on all our partners to make a success of this new programme.

The commitments of governments can sometimes be compared to New Year resolutions. They are sincere, but often fragile. And this is where the Council of Europe comes in – to remind and to help our members to comply with their own decisions and promises.



TERRY DAVIS

Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Results and prospects

When you finish reading a good book you feel both happy and sad. You have enjoyed the story, you have learned something, and you have probably become a little bit wiser.

At the same time, you have reached the end, and turning the last page is a bit like saying "good bye" to a close friend.

...(continued page 2)

Special issue on "Citizenship through Education"



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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Results and prospects (continued)

The European Year of Citizenship through Education, which was launched in Sofia (Bulgaria) in December 2004, will end formally at the Evaluation Conference in Sinaia (Romania) on 27 and 28 April 2006. And while the "Year" meant a lot of hard work for many of us, it was also an inspiring and fruitful experience.



*Maud de Boer-Buquicchio,
Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General*



*Launching conference of the "Year",
Sofia, 13-14 December 2004*

An evaluation of the Year will be conducted in the first half of 2006, which means that it is too early yet to judge the real impact of this initiative. However, the response has been encouraging. Of the 48 signatory states of the European Cultural Convention, 40 or more (85%) have participated in implementing the Year, through more than 600 reported activities. They have based their activities on their own priorities and concerns while fitting them into the general objectives of the Year. The

Council of Europe framework documents and instruments have been translated into a number of languages, disseminated to various target audiences and published on national websites devoted to the Year. A wide range of professionals (decision-makers, educators, representatives of civil society) were brought together in the co-ordinating committees for the Year. Some countries focused on awareness-raising, while others put more weight on teacher training, curriculum reform or specific projects for young people. The action plans developed and implemented by the member states show that there is a clear interest and commitment to EDC and HRE as means of promoting the key values of the Council of Europe. The next task in this field will be to ensure sustainability of this work.



The Year has enabled the Council of Europe to strengthen existing working relations and to establish new ones both within the Organisation and with external partners. The co-operation established with the European Commission, UNESCO and OHCHR and with a large number of NGOs will certainly continue in the years to come.

The success of the "Year" has to be sustained and built upon. The Evaluation Conference of the Year, to be held in Romania in April 2006 will launch a new EDC/HRE project. Our governments are convinced that it will produce benefits: it is a safe

investment. It has now been agreed to continue the project till 2009. The new phase will deal with policy development, with particular focus on social inclusion. This will include reflection on how to ensure full access to education for those at the margins of our societies. Work on teacher training will be developed, as teachers are the key actors in citizenship education. Another priority area is democratic governance at school. This is the first time that a systematic approach will be applied to the development of tools and guidelines on how to make our schools genuine sites of citizenship where everyone's rights are respected, decisions are made democratically and learning methodology is empowering, challenging and creative.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners, supporters and all those interested in citizenship and human rights education for their contributions and support. As you can see, while the "Year" is coming to an end, new horizons are opening up in front of us. And maybe the "Year" should not be compared to a whole book, but rather to a chapter in a thriller which ends at the most intriguing and decisive moment... To be continued.



Contact:

Ólöf ÓLAFSDÓTTIR
olof.olafsdottir@coe.int



International and European activities

Winning teachers' hearts and minds – the key to successful democracy learning at school

A conference on "Teacher Training in Education for Democratic Citizenship" was held in Strasbourg from 15 to 17 June 2005.

The conference brought together policy makers, heads of teacher training institutes, teacher trainers and school directors. About 120 participants from 46 member states shared their experiences, assisted the Council of Europe in formulating future teacher training programmes and made recommendations for teacher training in EDC/HRE in the member states.



Ana Magraner
European
Commission



From left to right: Mady Delvaux-Stehres, Minister for Education and Vocational training (Luxembourg), César Birzea, Director of the Institute of Education Science (Romania), Ove Korsgaard, Associate Professor, The Danish University of Education

The conference also provided an opportunity for a study on "Citizenship Education at School in Europe" prepared by Eurydice to be presented by the European Commission for the first time.

EDC Co-ordinators meet in Dubrovnik

From 14 to 16 April 2005, the network of EDC Co-ordinators met in

Dubrovnik at the invitation of the Croatian authorities. The meeting focused on the sustainability of the EDC project and on the use of the EDC Pack, which is a set of practical guidelines for educational practitioners and decision makers. The co-ordinators also discussed the evaluation of the "Year" and co-operation with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in relation to the World Programme for Human Rights Education.



EDC co-ordinators

Higher Education Governance between democratic culture, academic aspirations and market forces

Representatives of the ministries of education, higher education institutions and students' organisations met in Strasbourg on 22 and 23 September 2005 to discuss democratic governance in higher education and to make recommendations on its key elements. The conference presented the results of two years' work and offered a platform for debate.



Europe, cinema and citizenship education

In November 2005, nine films were shown at the *Odyssée* cinema in Strasbourg as part of the *Citizenship Education through European Eyes* film

festival. The European panel decided by a majority to award the European Democratic Citizenship Prize to *Va, vis et deviens* for its message attacking discrimination and promoting cultural diversity and mutual respect.



Va, vis et deviens

Second prize went to *Paradise now* for the quality of its cinematography and its strong message, particularly its analysis of the roots of blind violence and its strong condemnation of terrorism.

Citizenship education and parliamentarians: two worlds apart?

On 7 and 8 November 2005, a parliamentary workshop on "Education for Democratic Citizenship" was organised in Belgrade under the Council of Europe's Presidency of the Stability Pact Troika. The discussions centred on the parliamentarians' role in promoting education for citizenship, including the adoption of relevant legislation, monitoring its implementation and maintaining dialogue with education practitioners.

Christine Muttonen
Austria, SOC Parliamentary Assembly



International and European activities *(continued)*

Promoting democracy learning within communities

The role of local and regional authorities in democracy learning was among the questions discussed at the 6th Forum of Cities and Regions of South-East Europe (Sinaia, 8-9 December 2005). The Final Declaration encourages "parliamentarians and local and regional elected representatives"... to promote EDC and contribute to its sustainability. The Declaration, speeches and documents are available on the website of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities: <http://www.coe.int/congress>.

Contact:
Agneta DERRIEN
EDC@coe.int



The majority of EYF-funded pilot projects and international youth meetings deal with themes closely linked to education for democratic citizenship, for example human rights education, intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, youth participation and citizenship education. Since 1972, EYF has been providing financial support to European youth activities run by youth NGOs and networks at local, regional, national and international levels. Visit the EYF web site for more information: www.coe.int/youth.

Contact:
Karen PALISSER
Eyf@coe.int



Supporting youth projects



In 2005, the European Youth Foundation (EYF) of the Council of Europe allocated nearly €1.5 million to 140 projects in 32 member states.

"Young Active Citizens" Award

On 30 January 2006, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, handed over the "Young Active Citizens"

Award to the winners from Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Russia and UK, Northern Ireland. In 2005, the Award aimed to recompense projects - designed and put into practice by young people - which provide examples of citizenship education methods and tools. The winning projects address various aspects of citizenship, including young people's awareness of human rights, integration of young people from minorities and communication between young people and politicians.

In 2006-2007, as a contribution to the European Youth Campaign For Diversity, Human Rights and Participation, the Award will be focused on projects encouraging young people to participate in building peaceful societies based on diversity and inclusion. Further information is available at the following address: www.coe.int/youth



Contact:
Galina KUPRIYANOVA
Youth@coe.int

The "Year" in the member states



Activities carried out in the member states during the "Year" varied from conferences and workshops to simulation games and on-line projects. While most events were organised in the framework of secondary education, attention was also given to both formal and non-formal life-long learning. The examples below illustrate the diversity and outreach of these initiatives.



“Year” in the member states *(continued)*

“The State where the Children’s Voice Is Heard”

A national forum was organised in Ukraine to bring together secondary school students, policy-makers and media representatives. Young people from all over the country had a unique opportunity to communicate with one another and discuss important political and social issues with government and local authority officials and journalists. As a result the students produced a paper with their views of the problems and possible solutions. The paper was sent to the national parliament and government and published in the national and regional press.

Bridging policy and practice

An international conference comprising interactive workshops, keynote presentations and social events was organised in England for British and European audiences to showcase the best of emerging EDC practice in the UK. The conference contributed to raising awareness and deepening understanding of EDC policy and practice, and consolidating national and international partnerships.

Innovative curriculum development

Norway held a national web-based hearing on developing national curriculum on democracy and pupil participation. Not only teachers and trainers but also pupils were involved in the hearing. The curriculum is to be implemented during the next school year. In Croatia, a group of university professors and researchers elaborated an interdisciplinary university curriculum in the field of human rights and democratic citizenship for students of pedagogical faculties. The experimental implementation began last November.

European Year of Citizenship through Education – connecting people...

A network of regional co-ordinators was created in Poland to disseminate information about the “Year”, share experiences and initiate common projects. The participants held several meetings-training events during the year, each devoted to particular aspects of EDC, and discussed regional reports and future activities. The work of regional co-ordinators helped to design and implement the “Year” in Poland.

Human beings are not for sale

A project on “Human Trafficking – Modern Age Slavery” was carried out by Croatian students to raise awareness among young people at risk about human trafficking and potentially dangerous situations. The students collected statistical data, organised an opinion poll and prepared an overview of existing policies and NGO activities. As a result, an action plan was developed to draw attention to the problem and develop the skills required to deal with it.



Contact:
Anna SITNIKOVA
EDC@coe.int

I am a Citizen of Europe

On 26 September 2005, the Information Office of the Council of Europe in Moldova organised an award ceremony of the country-wide contest entitled “I am a Citizen of Europe”. The panel reviewed about 300 drawings and 200 essays, most of which were included in a publication entitled “We are the Citizens of Europe”. The aim of the contest was to encourage children and young people

to reflect on their rights and responsibilities in a democratic society.

Your Vote – Our Citizenship

The Council of Europe Information Office in Tirana and the UK Embassy in Albania, in co-operation with the Albanian Youth Parliament organised in June an awareness-raising campaign addressing Albanian voters. The campaign involved 40 000 pupils from 8 to 12 years old from 12 regions of the country. Following a special class on democracy and citizenship, the pupils were invited to write a message to their parents on a postcard “Your Vote – Our Citizenship”, asking them to participate in elections and thus to contribute to the future of the society.



Reaching a wider audience

A fair on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Open Days were organised in October by the Council of Europe Information Office in Yerevan. The aim of the events was to raise awareness of citizenship education, and to improve access to documents and publications on the subject. The Centre also translated and published the key materials and developed an EDC webpage.



Civil society

Democracy learning: what role for NGOs?

In April 2005, over 100 national and international NGOs took part in a conference on "The role of NGOs in the field of Education for Democratic Citizenship". A wide range of national and international NGOs attended the conference, which was organised in the framework of the Polish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The conference allowed for an exchange of innovative practice and to formulate a Declaration with recommendations to the Council of Europe, NGOs and governments. This Declaration was subsequently submitted to the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe (Warsaw, 16-17 May 2005).



Innovative events take place all over Europe

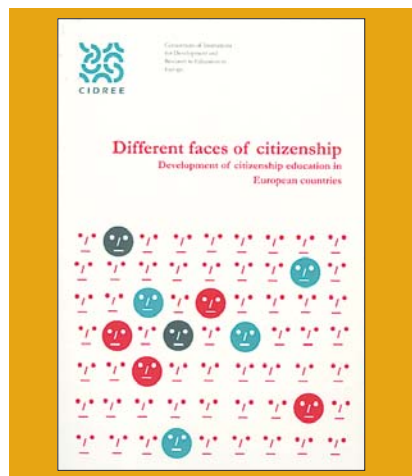
Throughout 2005, NGOs organised a wide variety of activities ranging from

youth parliaments to campaigns and publications. The *Union for Culture and Professional Future in Europe* organised a meeting for European pupils to discuss how they imagine Europe in the years to come. *D@dalos Sarajevo* published a Newsletter on EDC for teachers, teacher trainers, NGO staff and volunteers in several languages of South East Europe. In the summer, about 400 participants from 22 different countries were brought together in Werbellinsee (Germany) by exchange organization *Youth for Understanding*. In workshops and simulation games held as part of the Young Europeans' Seminar 2005 the participants learned to solve conflicts in a peaceful manner.



Keeping up-to date with recent trends

"Different faces of citizenship" is the title of the book published in 2005 by the *Consortium of Institutions for Development and Research in Education in Europe*.



The publication looks at the recent trends in citizenship education, outlines the main principles and shows how they are put into practice in different European countries.

Further information:
www.cidree.org

Promoting citizenship through adult education

In November 2005, the winners of the Grundtvig Award 2005 were announced by the *European Association for Education of Adults* (EAEA) at a ceremony in Lillehammer (Norway). The 2005 award aimed to recompense a project in adult education on the theme of active citizenship, and the winner was the project "Raccontare l'Europa". A special award was given to the project "Learning each other's historical narrative: Palestinians and Israelis", submitted by the Peace Research Institute in the Middle East (PRIME), Beit Jala, Israel.



Further information
is available at the following address:
<http://www.eaea.org>

NGOs and the Council of Europe

Non-governmental organizations are an essential part of the democratic process. Since its foundation the Council of Europe has developed working relations with non-governmental organizations, which directly represent the general public, are relays for efficient mutual communication, can furnish advice and take action. The NGOs with



Civil society (continued)

participatory status played an active role in the design and co-ordination of the European Year of Citizenship through Education.

Further information on NGOs and the Council of Europe is available at the following address:
<http://www.coe.int/NGO>



Terry Davis addresses international NGOs



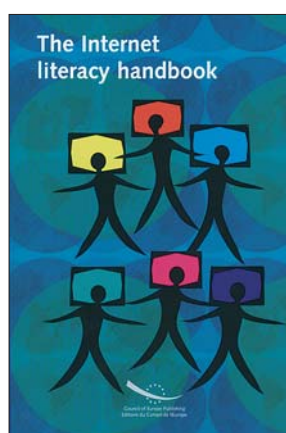
Contact:
 Yulia PERERVA
yulia.pererva@coe.int

Books in brief



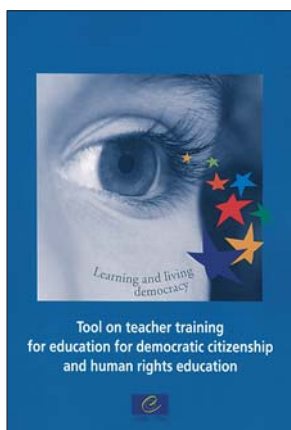
The School: a democratic learning community, 2005

Democracy needs to be learnt and it can be learnt. This publication looks at students' participation at school, including legal provisions, curricula, obstacles to participative teaching and learning, and examples of good practice.



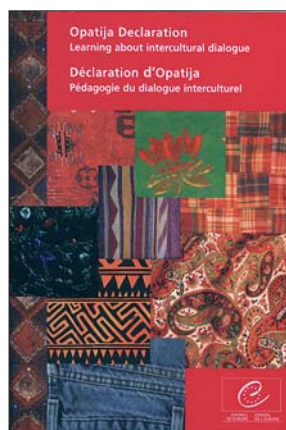
The Internet literacy handbook, 2005

21 fact sheets on Internet use, from searching for information to setting up blogs through to e-shopping and e-citizenship, to name just a few. Flash version available at: <http://www.coe.int/media>



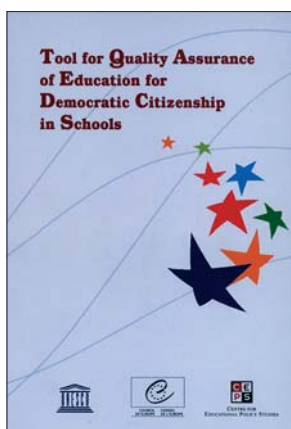
Tool on teacher training for Education for democratic citizenship and human rights education, 2005

Ideas, guidelines and examples of good practice for teachers and teacher trainers.



Opatija Declaration: Learning about intercultural dialogue, 2005

The European Ministers for Cultural Affairs specify their role and responsibilities in promoting dialogue between people of different origins and backgrounds.



Tool for quality assurance of Education for democratic citizenship in schools, 2005

UNESCO, Council of Europe and Centre for Educational Policy Studies (Ljubljana)
 The English version can be downloaded at the EDC website at:
www.coe.int/edc



Council of Europe Award "Young Active Citizens" 2005

Active participation by young people in the European Year of Citizenship through Education.



Flash info

World Programme for Human Rights Education

In January 2006, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) sent a joint letter to the Ministers of Education in the 46 member states of the Council of Europe on the launch of the first phase of the Action Plan of the UN World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005-2007), which the Council of Europe will monitor at the European level.

Learning and living democracy: the way ahead

The conclusions of the European Year of Citizenship through Education will be drawn at the Evaluation conference in Sinaia (Romania) on 27 and 28 April 2006. The conference – entitled “Learning and living democracy: the way ahead” – will bring together representatives of the 46 member states and international institutions and organisations. The aim of the conference, which is being held in the framework of the Romanian chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, is to share good practice and to identify priorities for future work. The conference will also be a contribution to the Action Plan of the UN World Programme for Human Rights Education.

EDC Co-ordinators meet in Moscow to assess the Year and prepare the future

One of the achievements of the EDC project was the setting up of a network of EDC co-ordinators appointed by the Council of Europe member states. Their main function is to foster the development of EDC in their country and to liaise

between national activities and the Council of Europe. The EDC Co-ordinators meet at least once a year. Their next meeting will take place in Moscow, Russia, on 10 and 11 March 2006. The meeting aims to assess the European Year of Citizenship through Education, to prepare the Evaluation Conference of the “Year” and to discuss the next phase of the EDC project (2006-2009).

European Citizenship in Youth Work

The “Year” is over, but the issue of citizenship education is very much on the agenda. Since 2001, the Partnership Programme of the Council of Europe and the European Commission has been organising training activities dealing with European Citizenship in youth work framework. Plans for this year include:

- An evaluation meeting in March on the last years’ activities organised in cooperation with the National Agencies of the YOUTH programme of the European Commission.
- Six new European Citizenship courses between May and October 2006.
- The experience will then be evaluated and used in the production of a practical HANDBOOK on European Citizenship Education, hopefully to be completed in early 2007.

Further information:

<http://www.training-youth.net/INTEGRATION/TY/TCourses>

“Learning and living democracy for all”:
Council of Europe Programme of Activities 2006-2009
on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights

Calendar

- 10-11 March 2006, Moscow – EDC co-ordinators meeting
- 27-28 April 2006, Sinaia (Romania) – “Learning and living democracy: the way ahead”: Evaluation conference of the European Year of Citizenship through Education
- 22-23 June 2006, Strasbourg – Forum on the responsibility of higher education for democratic culture and human rights
- June 2006 – Launching of the “All Different – All Equal” campaign

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under the direction of Olöf OLAFSDOTTIR
Head of Department of School and Out-of-School Education
Council of Europe
olof.olafsdottir@coe.int/Bulletin.Education@coe.int

