

Council of Europe Conference

“Competences in Action”

RFDC: moving towards a competence-based approach to teaching and learning

Thursday 14 November 2019

Parallel Rotating Workshops

Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFDC):

the key tool for a democratic school culture

Workshop: RFDC Portfolio

Background

The Council of Europe is in the process of developing a Portfolio for use in relationship to the RFDC. The Portfolio will provide learners with the opportunity to compile evidence about the development of their competences for democratic culture, and evidence about their proficiency in using these competences in democratic and intercultural situations. The Portfolio will also provide learners with the opportunity to reflect on their developing competences, and to think about how they will further develop their competences in the future. The Portfolio is ideally suited for formative assessment, but it may also be used for summative assessment.

Two versions of the Portfolio are in the process of development: a Younger Learners version (for children up to approximately the age of 10-11 years) and a Standard version (for learners from approximately 10-11 years upwards). Both versions are accompanied by a Guide for Teachers, which introduces and explains the Portfolio to teachers who may be considering using it in their teaching. The Guide also provides guidance on the respective roles of the teacher and learner in the use of the Portfolio, and offers suggestions on how the contents of the Portfolio may be compiled by learners.

Main objectives

The workshop will be used to introduce participants to the set of underlying principles on which the RFDC Portfolio is based, and to inform participants about some of the distinctive features of the two Portfolios and the guidance for teachers.

Workshop participants will then be divided into small groups to discuss a number of questions, including: What are teachers' responses likely to be to the RFDC Portfolios? What are the principal challenges facing a teacher who wishes to use the RFDC Portfolio? Do these challenges differ for teachers in primary and secondary schools? How can these challenges best be addressed? What can the Council of Europe do to assist and support the use of the Portfolios by teachers? The responses to these questions will be collected at the end of the workshop, and will be used to inform future work on the Portfolios.

Expected Outcomes

The main outcomes to be achieved include:

- An initial evaluation of the RFCDC Portfolios.
- The identification of the principal challenges facing teachers who wish to use the Portfolios.
- The identification of possible strategies for addressing these challenges.
- The identification of possible actions that may be taken by the Council of Europe to assist and support the use of the Portfolios by teachers.