

fOCUS europe

September, 2013

Spotlighting European developments and projects

SPECIAL EDITION

In the framework of the European Year of Citizens 2013

YOURopa project and conference

Projects, concepts and ideas about Active
European Citizenship

- Learning skills and citizenship
- Active engagement and citizenship
- Human rights and social solidarity
- Volunteering and citizenship
- And more...

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focus europe

IMPRINT

Editor in Chief

Petra Kampf

Co-editor

Piotr Sadowski

Design and Layout

Manuel Kleinböck / dieGrafikZone
www.dieGrafikZone.at

Print

Manuel Kleinböck / dieGrafikZone
www.dieGrafikZone.at

Printed with vegetable inks on FSC paper

Cover picture

CSV enables young people to volunteer, gaining skills to make a real difference in their communities. ©CSV



**Lifelong
Learning
Programme**

527995-LLP-1-2012-AT-GRUNDTVIG-GAM

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



Focus Europe

A spotlight for ideas and innovation

Dear readers!

Since 1983, the European Union has dedicated every year to a special theme, giving a particular emphasis to one overarching topic or target group. Thus, in 1983, it began with the European Year of SMEs and the Craft Industry. Now, in 2013, 21 years after the EU Citizenship was established in the Treaty of Maastricht, and shortly before the European elections in 2014, the European Union has put its citizens in the spotlight by dedicating 2013 to the European Year of Citizens. During this year all aspects of EU citizenship should get a special focus, together with all opportunities and challenges surrounding the future development of Europe, in order to build a vision of how the European Union should be in 2020.

Therefore, the main aims of this European Year are to raise EU citizens' awareness about:

- The EU-level rights guaranteed to EU citizens
- The policies and programmes that exist to support and exercise those rights
- Civic and democratic participation in Union policies

These aims should be achieved and Europeans should be encouraged to become more active citizens by not only involving them, but also engaging them in discussions on issues that affect them.

This special edition of the Focus Europe magazine is dedicated to the European Year of Citizens 2013 and aims to give an overview on the very broad range of topics related to EU Citizenship. On the following pages you can find out about different approaches, activities and projects that contribute to the discussions raised by the European Year 2013.

Moreover, I would also like to invite you to inform yourself about the YOURopa project: "Promoting concepts and ideas of Active European Citizenship (AEC)", and especially about the YOURopa Conference that took place in June 2013 in London and served as a platform for exchanges, networking and sharing experiences with relevant stakeholders from different European countries.

The following pages do not only include a documentation of this event, but also present good practices of EU funded cooperation projects that were selected by the YOURopa project and invited to participate in the conference, as well as the project exhibition that accompanied the event.

Reflecting on the YOURopa motto, "Get active! Join in!", I wish you an interesting reading experience with this special Focus Europe edition.

Petra Kampf

YOURopa coordinator



BE A PART OF IT!

Useful facts to know

www.europa.eu/citizens-2013

The EU has **28 member states** since Croatia joined the Union in July 2013. This makes a population of **508 million** on a total area of **4.5 million km²**. **24 official languages** are spoken in the European Union with its headquarters located in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg. Of all 28 Member States **17 have the Euro as common currency**.

What does it actually mean to be a Citizen of the European Union?

European Union citizenship confers several rights in addition to those granted by national citizenship.

These rights are enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Treaties and include the following:

- To move and reside freely within the territory of the EU
- To vote and to stand as a candidate in European Parliament and municipal elections in the Member States of residence
- Any EU citizen in a non-EU country where his/her own national state has no representation is entitled to protection by the diplomatic or consular authorities of any other EU state
- To petition the European Parliament and complain to the European Ombudsman
- To launch or participate in a "European Citizens' Initiative" whereby one million citizens from a minimum of 8 Member States can together invite the European Commission to submit appropriate proposals on issues falling within its competence.

If European citizens encounter obstacles in exercising their rights as citizens of the EU, they can contact "Your Europe". This is a service designed to help EU citizens move, live, study, work, shop or simply travel in other EU countries without hindrances.

For more information about their EU rights, European citizens can call for free on **00 800 67 89 10 11**, visit europa.eu/youreurope or contact one of the 500 Europe Direct Information Centres around the European Union (more Info: europa.eu/europedirect/).

If citizens encounter a misapplication of Internal Market laws by public authorities, they can contact the EU's SOLVIT service. For more information, go to www.europa.eu/solvit/.

IT'S ABOUT EUROPE
IT'S ABOUT YOU

Join the debate



European Year of Citizens 2013
www.europa.eu/citizens-2013

YOURopa – Promoting Concepts and Ideas of Active European Citizenship (AEC)

E.N.T.E.R.'s contribution to the European Year of Citizens 2013 in cooperation with CSV & Volonteuropa

Petra Kampf, E.N.T.E.R., (AT)

The European Commission designated 2013 as the European Year of Citizens. Throughout the lifetime of the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), this has been a theme which concerns many major European funding programmes dealing with education, training, youth, culture and citizenship.

It is also relevant for both young people and adults, in both formal and non-formal learning contexts. This means that, on the one hand, a lot of money was invested – and is still being invested – to promote the quality and quantity of AEC, its benefits and added value in the LLP.

However, there are many other programmes also focusing on this issue: most of all, Europe for Citizens, as well as Youth and Culture.

YOURopa project set the following main objectives:

- Raising general public awareness about the issue of AEC in Europe, including the presentation of general EU policies, of opportunities, risks, chances and benefits in this context, as well as the introduction of adult education providers and educational counsellors specialised in this field.
- Attracting citizens from all over Europe to the concepts, opportunities, benefits and possibilities of AEC, and encouraging them towards pro-active engagement.
- Promoting European policy and funding opportunities related to AEC.
- Supporting EU projects which in their activities deal with AEC, to disseminate their project ideas and to build reliable networks for stakeholders and target groups.
- Providing several platforms where all relevant target groups and stakeholders (e.g. adult education providers, policy makers ranging from local to EU level, social partners, NGOs and associations representing the interests of AEC, representatives of EU funding bodies etc.) can meet, discuss and push forward the issue of AEC in Europe.

YOURopa Project put AEC for one year in the focus of all activities, in order to demonstrate how much European Commission policy and programmes have already achieved in funding AEC-oriented projects, and to inspire possible future improvements at the same time.

The following is an overview of the main activities that were carried out:

- Collection of 30 good practice projects
- Organisation of a two-day conference, with a project fair, in London, on 26-27 June 2013
- Publication of a special edition of the European Magazine FOCUS EUROPE on AEC
- Production of YOURopa video clip

All products are available at <http://youropa-project.eu>

YOURopa Conference

In the Framework of the European Year of Citizens 2013

Petra Kampf, E.N.T.E.R., (AT)

The YOURopa Conference was organised by CSV in cooperation with E.N.T.E.R. (as well as supported by Volonteuropa and the European Year of Citizens Alliance) from 26-27 June 2013 in London as one of the main activities during the YOURopa Project.

The event provided an ideal platform for target groups and stakeholders to discuss not only the important topics regarding Active European Citizenship (AEC), but also to gain information about 30 selected good practice projects promoting different citizenship aspects.

As part of an intensive research, YOURopa screened EU projects from different funding programmes dealing with AEC and collected them in a project pool. Afterwards an international team of experts selected 30 of the most promising projects according to defined criteria such as content innovation, target group relevance, inclusivity, presentation and accessibility, to mention but a few.

The selection results showed the dominance of specific thematic areas that were also used to thematically cluster the good practice projects, as well as to structure the conference.

1. Learning skills and citizenship
2. Active engagement and citizenship
3. Human rights and social solidarity
4. Volunteering and citizenship

During both days a project exhibition was held where all selected projects were represented with a stand to display their products and developments. During coffee and lunch breaks this area was used for active exchange and networking. Otherwise, the first day was devoted to keynote inputs and thematic workshops.

The keynotes were related to the same main topics (see above) as those of the workshops. All good practice projects were assigned to their thematically related workshop and had the opportunity to either present their activities in a formal presentation, or during the workshop discussions with all participants.

The second day started with some short welcome addresses that offered the participants additional citizenship aspects, challenges and perspectives for discussion that have not been covered before. Overall, however, the main activity of the day was reserved for interactive open space activities.

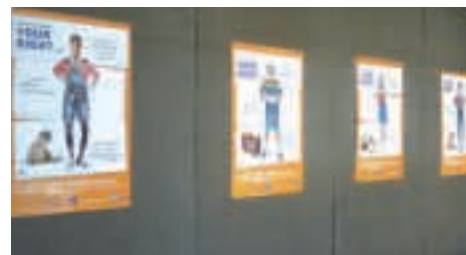
PROGRAMME

Day 1: Wednesday, 26 June 2013

- 09:30 – 10:00** **Registration – Conference Lobby**
Conference Opening – Plenary Session – Max Nasatyr Room
- 10:00 – 10:15** **Welcome and Introduction**
Through Action
Director of Social Action, Volunteering, Policy and Fundraising at CSV;
Board Member of Vlaamseactie, United Kingdom
- 10:15 – 10:45** **Keynote: Volunteering and Citizenship (with Q&A)**
Charlotte Calkins
Director of CEV European Volunteer Centre, Belgium
- 10:45 – 11:15** **Keynote: Active Engagement and Citizenship (with Q&A)**
Leanne Hughes
Director of Campaigns and Research, Electoral Reform Society, United Kingdom
- 11:15 – 11:45** **Coffee Break/ Exhibition – Conference Lobby, Fred Miller & Lil Patrick Rooms**
- 11:45 – 12:15** **Keynote: Human Rights and Social Solidarity (with Q&A)**
Leanne Hughes
Legal Project Manager, The AIRE Centre, United Kingdom
- 12:15 – 12:45** **Keynote: Learning Skills and Citizenship (with Q&A)**
David Johnston
Vice-President of EUCS-ELL, Belgium
- 12:45 – 13:00** **Introduction to the Afternoon's Workshops**
- 13:00 – 14:30** **Lunch Break (Roof Terrace)**
Thematic Workshops
- 14:30 – 17:00** **Parallel Workshops (with Coffee Break)**
- A: Learning Skills and Citizenship – South Bank 1 Room**
Moderated by:
Christina Thompson
External Representative of World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts – Europe
Region, Belgium; Board Member of the European Alliance for Volunteering, Belgium
- B: Active Engagement and Citizenship – South Bank 3 Room**
Moderated by:
Paola Tordella
Rapporteur on Volunteering and EU Policy at EESC & President of the European
Alliance for Volunteering, Belgium
- C: Human Rights and Social Solidarity – Max Nasatyr Room**
Moderated by:
Leanne Hughes
Regional Manager at CSV, United Kingdom; President of AYSO, Belgium
- D: Volunteering and Citizenship – South Bank 2 Room**
Moderated by:
Leanne Hughes
President of Lotta Volunteer Centre, Italy; Vice-President of CEV, Belgium & Board
Member of European Alliance for Volunteering, Belgium
- 17:15 – 18:30** **Drinks and Canapés Reception (Roof Terrace)**

Day 2: Thursday, 27 June 2013

- 09:30 – 10:00** **Plenary Session**
- 10:00 – 10:50** **Arrival and Coffee – Conference Lobby, Fred Miller & Lil Patrick Rooms**
Welcome Keynote Addresses – Max Nasatyr Room
Svenja Rieckmann
Director, AYSO, Belgium
Leanne Hughes
Head of Development and Labor Life, Mental Health Foundation, United Kingdom
David Johnston
Associate, AECOP Consortium United Kingdom
- 10:50 – 11:20** **Coffee Break – Conference Lobby, Fred Miller & Lil Patrick Rooms**
- 11:20 – 13:00** **Open Space – Retsa Methodology – Max Nasatyr Room**
Introduction and Explanation of the Open Space & Networking
Chloe Caffery-Rodgers
Cambridge University, United Kingdom
- 13:00 – 13:15** **Closing Plenary Session – Max Nasatyr Room**
- 13:15 – 13:30** **Conclusions from the Workshops**
Andrew Hogg
Communications Officer, CEV, Belgium
- 13:30** **Final Remarks**
Richard Anderson
Board Member and Chair of the Equalities and Diversity Committee at Bar Standards
Board, Non-Executive Director at Genesis Housing Association; Former Director
General of the Office for Civil Society; CSV Trustee, United Kingdom
- End of the Conference and Networking Lunch (Roof Terrace)**



RESULTS FROM THE KETSO NETWORKING SESSION

Chloe Clifford Astbury, KETSO, (UK)

On the second day of the YOURopa Conference on promoting Active European Citizenship, the participants used Ketso (www.ketso.com) methodology to share their ideas about Active European Citizenship and discuss volunteer work across borders.

As a result of this highly interactive facilitated session, three areas emerged as priorities for facilitating cross-border volunteering in the EU. Firstly, good communication between like-minded organisations in different countries was seen as crucial. It would have a range of benefits, including the sharing of best practices, the identification of cross-border issues and mutual advertising (in newsletters or through social media, for example). Different ways of improving inter-organisational communication were proposed, including creating and joining networks of like-minded organisations or running joint training programmes for organisation members and staff.

Secondly, language was seen as a significant barrier to volunteering across borders, and language courses and training were deemed a priority. Finally, the interplay between volunteering and policy came up, and different means of influencing policy were suggested. These included using the media to highlight positive stories from volunteer projects in order to garner public support, and putting in place systems to evaluate the impact of policy changes in order to determine their effectiveness.

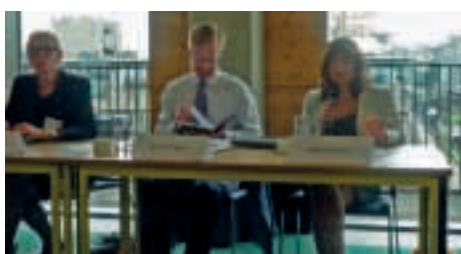
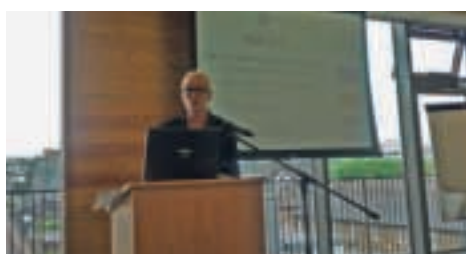
EVENT IMPRESSIONS

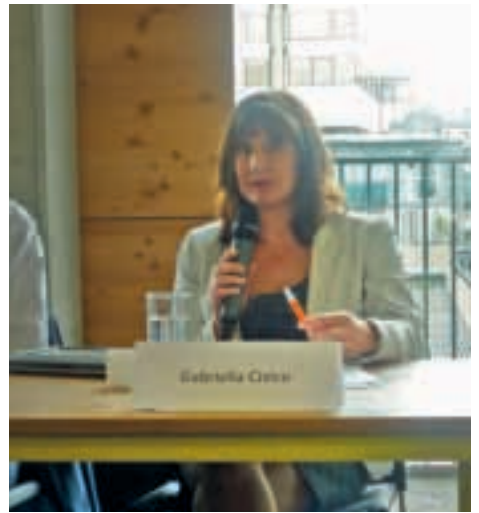
Matt Rowlands, Martin Pokorny, media consulta, (UK)

The YOURopa Conference brought together almost 100 representatives of NGOs and public sector institutions from 20 European countries to focus on the opportunities that European Citizenship provides to the citizens of the European Union with an emphasis on volunteering, human rights, active engagement and learning skills.

Oonagh Aitken, Director of Social Action, Volunteering, Policy & Fundraising at CSV, said: "The YOURopa Conference is an important European Year of Citizens event as it demonstrates that everyone has the right to be an active citizen and contribute to their community. For over half a century CSV has been committed to promoting opportunities in which every person can actively participate to build strong and inclusive communities." During the discussions, Darren Hughes (Electoral Reform Society, UK) highlighted that national governments tend to take credit for the positive achievements of the EU and blame it for the matters that can be unpopular in their country. Therefore "we need to take measures that will also build feelings of belonging to the European Union among its citizens," Hughes said.

Transnational projects play a vital role in bringing the European citizens closer to the European institutions and reinforce an exchange of knowledge and experience among the European organisations. Thirty good practice examples from across Europe supported by a range of EU programmes were presented during the conference. "Working on projects with partners from the other EU countries has broadened my horizons and definitely increased my feeling of being European," Barbara Coulson, participant at the conference, said.





Partnerships and cooperation during the European Year of Citizens 2013

Oonagh Aitken, CSV, (UK)

Community Service Volunteers (CSV) is the UK's largest volunteering and learning charity. Our vision is of a society where everyone can participate to build strong and inclusive communities. Social justice is at the heart of what we do and we enable people to have a positive stake in society by providing volunteering and learning opportunities.

This year we celebrate our 50th anniversary; and it coincides with the European Year of Citizens 2013 (EYC13). Some of the events in our 50th programme are also relevant to the Year. We are celebrating our 50th at a time when our services are needed more than ever, given the financial crisis, rising unemployment, especially among young people, and austerity measures which are being felt across the European Union.

Earlier this year, we had the privilege of organising a seminar at St George's House, Windsor, to debate and discuss the topic of 'Civil Society and Citizenship in Times of Austerity, Transformation and Transition.' We were able to bring together a diverse group of participants from national and local government, civil society organisations, academia and foundations. We were also joined by Conny Reuter, Secretary General of SOLIDAR. The conclusions of our debate resonate with the emerging recommendations of the three EYC13 working groups which have been set up by the EYC13 Alliance. Participants focused on continuing to support and maintain community life, extending the effective reach of the third sector and contributing to a new narrative for the common good. In the UK, a number of participants from our seminar are collaborating on the development of this new narrative which will be a 'call to action' to inspire agencies in all sectors, the general public and political parties to discover practical solutions and take positive actions to transform lives



CSV's 50th Reception at St James's Palace, 15 July 2013

CSV RSVP volunteer Colin Mason introduces

Her Majesty The Queen to Monica Rose, another CSV RSVP Volunteer

and develop the common good. We hope that this new narrative will eventually become a pan-European movement and that the principles of self-interest, solidarity and the connected society, of responsibility, agency and ownership, and of stewardship, early action and investment for the common good, can be adopted and shared across the European Union.

CSV also provides the chair and secretariat for Volonteurope, a network of 46 civil society organisations from 18 countries. As part of our programme in EYC13, we organised a successful conference, YOURopa, which showcased 30 successful active citizenship projects from across Europe and provided a platform for debate and discussion about European citizenship, again focusing on the themes of the three working groups mentioned above.

Our follow-on contribution to EYC13 will be the production of a report on European Citizenship and Social Inclusion which will link the themes of the last four European Years – Combating Poverty, Volunteering, Active Ageing and Citizens.



Volunteering & Citizenship

Gabriella Civico, CEV European Volunteer Centre, (BE)

Volunteers are like windmills - They are Europe's greatest source of renewable energy and are loved by some and disliked by others. Like windmills, they need energy (funding) and maintenance (organisational & policy support). Just as windmills cannot provide Europe with all its energy needs, volunteers are not a complete solution to society's needs.

The Policy Agenda on Volunteering in Europe (PAVE), developed and published by European networks active in volunteering during the European Year of Volunteering (2011) highlights that:

"The current economic and social situation has not reduced the willingness of European citizens to exercise and demonstrate European values through volunteering".

The document notes that this expression of active citizenship through volunteering shows that:

"The spirit of volunteering runs deeper than financial cuts and economic hardship and generates social capital that while almost impossible to accurately measure is an intrinsic and necessary aspect of life. Times of hardship provide increasing occasions for citizens to demonstrate their selflessness acting in solidarity with one another. The widespread wish to be active citizens in society, rather than passive consumers, is clearly demonstrated through the diversity of people who volunteer their time and expertise when and where it is needed." (PAVE EYV 2011 Alliance, 2011)

CEV emphasizes that its members, national and regional volunteer centres and support agencies play an increasingly critical role in ensuring that the quality of volunteering remains high even in times of austerity. CEV believes that funders should not neglect the support for this infrastructure and works with other stakeholders to try to ensure that increased demands on volunteers during this challenging economic period is supported with appropriate and adequate funding mechanisms.

The impact achieved by quality volunteering can obviously be helped or hindered by different volunteering policies at all administrative levels. CEV continues to promote the implementation of the recommendations in PAVE for an enabling environment in Europe for volunteering. Together with other European networks active in volunteering CEV aims to ensure the legacy of EYV 2011 in the European Year of Citizens 2013 especially by engaging with the EYCA at both European and national levels. The launch by CEV of the European Volunteering Capital competition should also act as a catalyst to take PAVE and the legacy of EYV 2011 further to the local level enabling even more citizens to participate in quality volunteering activities with a lasting impact on their communities.



CEV
European Volunteer Centre

The making of a dementia-friendly community

Janet Crampton, AESOP Consortium, (UK)

AESOP Consortium's research into what makes a dementia-friendly community discovered that there are four essential elements that make the culture, the environment, the structures and the resources conducive to being age-/disability- and, above all, dementia-friendly.

Any community, organisation, village or town needs to ask itself how it measures up to how the place, the people, the networks and the organisation of resources support a more dementia-tolerant and helpful quality of life.

Looking at four key elements as a way of understanding people's place in their chosen community, their chosen role and considering the role of others in helping them contribute.

When considering place, it's not just a matter of how buildings are designed and accessed and whether or not the signage is clear (though this is enormously important), but thought must be given to how people

feel about the spaces and places they want to use – are they welcoming, do they feel safe, are they accessible by public transport, is their purpose obvious?

For some people, familiarity with green spaces, parks, landmarks such as rivers, castles, churches, market squares etc. have been part of their lives for many years and have been where they have worked, socialised, shopped. Has your town or community given thought to the significance of these places to help people orientate themselves and find their way around? Do you preserve and protect the sorts of environment where people can go together to enjoy activities and be active members of society?

People are of course at the heart of all of this. But it's not just the people with dementia, it's a much wider range of people, starting with their immediate families and carers. But it also acknowledges the important role of the wider community in terms of their awareness of dementia and their tolerance of it. How have their attitudes and behaviours been shaped? What training are they given in understanding what it's like to have dementia? Do they understand the effect stigma or unempathetic responses cause people to withdraw from situations they find painful, and increase their social isolation? Do employers acknowledge that their staff may be dealing with dementia at home, in their families, or amongst their customers?

There is a clear role for the professionals and practitioners who regularly come into contact with people with dementia to remove the 'medicalisation' of their responses and become more community-focused and outcomes-orientated in the way they engage and treat people. They have a specific role in treating disease but they also have a role in encouraging people to maintain family, friendship and social links.

We must look at how the resources are organised. It's not just about health and social care resources, though there does need to be clarity over investment/realignment of their priorities; but it is for the wider commercial and business sectors to appreciate that older people with long-term conditions still want to be members of their chosen communities and often still have the 'buying-power' to do so.

Using technology in more thoughtful ways actually helps people – but unthinking applications of technology can also confuse. Electronic and technological resources should be harvested to empower people to manage their own affairs and their own health for longer.

And finally, harnessing the power of networks in terms of their effect on relationships, opportunities, service provision and learning about people's experiences is a powerful means to responding better. We need to build on a 'champions' model of local leadership and peer support to help people stay connected or re-connect to their various chosen networks in ways that support people to remain independent and exercising some control of how they live their lives. AESOP has worked with several places to achieve a more dementia-friendly status



Key messages on the European Year of Citizens 2013

Geoff Scaplehorn, EUCIS-LLL, (BE)

EUCIS-LLL is a European Civil Society Platform with some 35 pan-European associations, all working to enhance and develop the concept of Lifelong Learning. EUCIS-LLL has proposed, therefore, a number of key messages for the European Year for Citizens to ensure that Citizenship Education is continued beyond formal education.

Firstly to equip all citizens with basic skills is the prerequisite for removing obstacles to active participation in society. To value citizenship education is a key to engaging citizens in EU democratic life.

To make learning abroad a reality for all through the new Erasmus+ programmes 2014-2020 and to acknowledge and support civil society organisations in their role in bridging the gap between the EU and its citizens.

It is essential to focus on basic skills & literacy for adults, to foster inclusive education systems by developing tailor-made learning opportunities in a lifewide and lifelong learning perspective and to target disadvantaged groups.

Intercultural learning can contribute to a better integration of migrants and intergenerational learning would make our ageing populations more active.

Important is the role of Open Educational Resources to promote e-learning to stimulate social inclusion. EU2020 outlines headline targets to reduce Early School Leaving and emphasises the importance of attracting non-traditional learners into Higher Education.

It becomes increasingly vital to monitor better "the citizenship outcomes" of EU mobility programmes and to recognise the contribution of civil society organisations as non-formal education providers in developing those "citizenship skills" and empowering learners, especially in the framework of volunteering activities.

It is also important to make educational institutions democratic settings in themselves. There needs to be more comprehensive reflection upon the consequences of the economic and social crisis and how it continues to affect citizens so seriously.

Citizenship Education programmes are well-developed throughout Europe in the formal learning sector, but there are few programmes designed for the Lifelong Learning Community. The aims of such programmes should include

- Social, political and civic institutions
- Respect for and safeguarding the environment
- Defending one's own point of view
- Conflict resolution
- Citizens' rights and responsibilities
- Participation in the local community
- Critical and independent thinking
- Effective strategies to combat racism and xenophobia
- Future political engagement

Once again we must call upon Civil Society organisation to develop and run such citizenship education programmes as they are better placed and more experienced at informing and working with the Lifelong Learning community.

media consulta Finds Strength in EYC Partnerships and Projects

Matt Rowlands, media consulta, (UK)

media consulta is a proud PR and communications partner of the European Commission in promoting the ideas and principles of the European Year of Citizens 2013 to all EU member states.

As a communications partner media consulta has forged some excellent partnerships for cooperation in raising the profile of the European Year of Citizens 2013.

They are working with dedicated organisations such as CSV and focussing on their activities that are contributing to the aims and objectives of this European Year to deliver profile raising campaigns in the UK and European media and online.

media consulta recently worked with European Network for Transfer and Exploitation of EU Project Results (E.N.T.E.R) and CSV on the promotion of the YOURopa Conference and project showcase in London (26-27 June).

"Not only were we able to touch base with a range of grassroots projects from all over Europe ranging from those using theatre in Italy to the Red Cross from Austria, but we picked up a series of contacts for potential news and feature information to promote the cooperation around the European Year of Citizens that are actively linked to the UK," says Matt Rowlands, media consulta (UK) country director.

media consulta would also like to take this opportunity to introduce you to other elements of the European Year of Citizens; the Faces of the Year in the UK and Transeuropa festival which also give life to the ideas and meaning of the Year. European Year of Citizens Faces of the Year are members of the public that want to share their positive experience and relationships with the EU and European citizenship.

In the UK we have Jacob and Laura. "It is important to embrace cultural diversity in the unified European Union," Jacob from ASHA Centre says. Laura is a European Voluntary Service volunteer for CSV in the UK. She says that participation in the Youth in Action Programme has given her a different perspective of the world, and even her own culture, as well as the opportunity to promote the European citizenship among young people.

The Transeuropa Festival is another exciting activity that is related to the European Year of Citizens in the UK. The festival will take place in London (16-20 October) and will focus on the topic of 'making a living'. It will analyse, through a variety of cultural tools, the ways that young people are involved in society in Europe.

If you are interested in these activities, or you wish to discover more about the European Year of Citizens in your region, please visit the official website of the year at www.europa.eu/citizens-2013

To contact media consulta in the UK please call: **+44 (0)207 960 6872** or email: m.rowlands@media-consulta.com

People with dementia as active citizens

Toby Williamson, Mental Health Foundation, (UK)

It is estimated there are 800,000 people with dementia in the UK and 9 million in Europe. These numbers are set to rise as Europe's population increases in size and lives longer – age is the most consistent risk factor for most types of dementia. Historically, people with dementia have not actively participated as citizens in their communities.

This is beginning to change as several European countries have developed national policies, services, research and other initiatives involving people with dementia, and some with early stage dementia have become active in getting their voice heard through the media, training, conferences, and campaigning.

The Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project (DEEP) is a four year project in the UK that is supporting the development of groups led by or actively involving people with dementia that are influencing and improving policies, communities and services affecting their lives.

It has identified a number of groups around the country where people with dementia are active citizens involved in this work. The project is led by an organisation called Innovations in Dementia, supported by a

national NGO, the Mental Health Foundation, and funded by another NGO, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

More information about DEEP, including a report on the first year of the project, information about the groups and films showing people with dementia from some of the groups talking about their activities, is available at: www.dementiavoices.org.uk

More information about the Mental Health Foundation is available at: www.mentalhealth.org.uk



Rock the Union

Together we change Europe!

Hans Mund, Rock the Union, (BE)

This is the only true European tour through 28 European Union Member States, into 123 cities <http://goo.gl/maps/bkmsV> to raise awareness about the European Parliament elections in May 2014. We are a team of five people who understand that only if we as citizens and organisations cooperate, will we be able to change the European Union.

We start on 15 September 2013 in the Belgian capital of Brussels and will come with our red English double-decker to nearly every city in the European Union which has more than 100,000 citizens. In each city we will have four events to which we invite everyone. We have breakfast discussions, afternoon information sessions with artists and civil society actors, panel debates and the Rock the Union Party. Our aim is to share experience, ideas, wishes and demands:

- We want you to be critical;
- We want you to say what is happening in your environment;
- We want you to tell us your solutions.

We will collect them and present them as tasks to the newly-elected European Parliament in Strasbourg. We think and believe that only we, the citizens of the European Union, together, can work out what the Union needs to change towards a future we all want to live in. We start the tour as five people but we will do it with all of you.

More information is available here: <http://rocktheunion14.blogspot.be>

Help us to raise the funds now <http://ulule.com/rock-union>.



Get ACTIVE!

Join in!

PROMOTING CONCEPTS AND IDEAS OF ACTIVE EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP (AEC)

YOUropa Conference

in the Framework of the European Year of Citizens 2013

CIAC

Creativity and Innovation for Active Citizenship

Ana Dervishi, Irena Topalli, Beyond Barriers, (AL)

The training course CIAC, Creativity and Innovation for Active Citizenship, gathered 26 participants from different youth organisations from the EU and SEE countries, and was implemented by Beyond Barriers association on 12-19 November 2009 in Durres, Albania.



Thirteen youth organisations participated in the project and each one of them was responsible for sending two participants to the event. The project was designed to explore the concept of citizenship in general and European citizenship in particular. The training fulfilled the need for gaining knowledge on the theme of citizenship and for gaining practical tools on how to be active citizens, as well as to promote active citizenship at local, national and European levels through the use of multimedia.

The training session was constructed as a triangle. In one of the corners was our understanding of citizenship (we shared information on what

AT A GLANCE

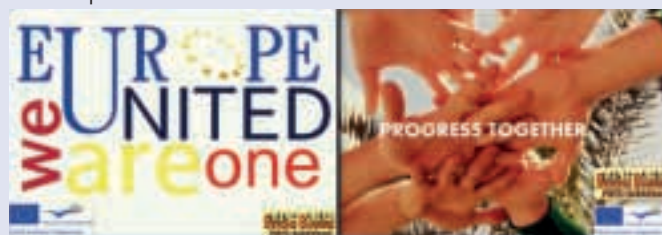
Programme:	Youth in Action
Co-ordinator:	Beyond Barriers Association, (AL)
Main outcome:	Training course
Website:	beyondbarriers.org

participants understood about this concept, how it has evolved during the centuries, the different types of citizenship, such as local, national, global citizenship, as well as European citizenship).

In the second corner of the triangle we talked about youth work and the role of the young generation in being active citizens and promoting European citizenship as a concept that is based on voluntarily chosen European identity, open for all citizens that are willing to build a new Europe.

In the third corner of the triangle, focusing on multimedia, the participants were provided with concrete and practical tools on how to include and promote the concepts of citizenship and European citizenship in their projects by using multimedia in youth work.

As practical skills, participants worked with multimedia tools such as editing and sound, camera usage and Adobe Premier. At the end of the training the participants created a short movie with snapshots of the training course and two jingles with a message from the participants about European citizenship.



CIVIC MINDS

Kateřina Riley, Art Movement, (CZ)

The CIVIC MINDS (CM) project aimed at exploring new methodologies capable of promoting active interaction and discussion between citizens on matters related to EU policies that affected their daily life.

The citizens in the EU countries were engaged in discussions and events that allowed the promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity, while contributing at the same time to intercultural dialogue, but also in discussions about the European policies and the future of the EU. They became familiar with key issues regarding the EU policies and they were invited to express their opinions in a fully aware way.

EUROPE

What are we? What are we like? What shapes our emotions and attitudes in today's confusing times? How does present-day society form us? What values do we believe in?

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Europe for Citizens
Co-ordinator:	Art Movement, (CZ)
Main outcome:	Training course
Website:	www.artmovement.cz

CM was an untraditionally conceived set of photographs, films and workshops focusing on the essentials – people in Europe and their emotions.

CM ambition's were to arouse emotions, provoke questions, provide opportunities to examine ourselves and our surroundings and make a confrontation with it.

CM introduced diverse people from all over the Europe: We all come from one planet, we are connected, we influence each other. Every human being

carries his or her own story, reveals him or herself, narrates, and wants to share emotions. Every action causes a reaction – by our activity, we transfer our feelings and energy into our surroundings.

We wanted to show that everyone is equal in expressing emotions, even though they may have different opinions, or come from different races and different countries.

CM travelled through partner's cities, various countries CZ, SK, AT, PL. CM only cost visitors their time, as there were no entrance fee.



CIVICO

A Guide to help teachers to foster civic competences amongst students

Giulia Rigoli, ASEV, (IT)

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	ASEV, (IT)
Main outcome:	Guide on Developing Civic Competence Amongst Students
Website:	www.civicoproject.eu

The project CIVICO was a two-year Comenius project aimed at promoting civic themes amongst European Students, using a Guide addressed to teachers and based on active didactics and containing high quality lesson plans on civic education topics. The consortium which undertook this project was composed of experts on education and didactics coming from Italy, Poland, Bulgaria and Denmark. They worked together in order to create a flexible tool that takes into consideration the cultural and social differences, exploitable from all the European Countries (it is translated into ten languages: English, Polish, Danish, Bulgarian, Italian, Swedish, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese). The Guide aimed to be not only a simple didactic instrument, but also an inspiration for all the educators interested in enhancing the potential of their students to become active and aware citizens.

Aim of the Guide

The primary objective of the Guide is to provide teachers at middle schools and high schools with materials to teach civic education, in particular civic competence, among students aged 14+.

Target Group

The Guide is addressed mainly to teachers at middle schools and high schools. A group of beneficiaries is not limited to teachers of subjects that are closely related to civic education themes, such as civics, history and social science etc. The proposed scenarios can be also incorporated into lessons on a variety of other subjects. The Guide may also be of interest to persons who are engaged in the subject of civic education, as well as those who may contribute to the effectiveness of teaching, including relevant non-governmental institutions working with young people. Lesson plans included in the Guide are intended for students aged 14-19. Each lesson plan contains hints related to the appropriate age of students.

Concept of the Guide

The Guide is not a handbook as such. Its character is more of a tool supporting the existing programmes of education and materials focused on civic education. The purpose of this Guide is to increase awareness, encourage reflection and inspire actions. There are many materials on civic education available on the European education market, but they present rather the rudiments of civics, elements of knowledge of a political system of a country or provide information about the structures of the EU. The aim of the authors of this Guide, first of all, was to develop pro-civic attitude

among young people. It is impossible to effectively foster civic skills and attitudes only by means of traditional methods such as lectures, readings and homework exercises. A civic education needs to be a "school of democracy" – it must exceed the model of unilateral transfer of knowledge and move towards a participation and dialogue-oriented model of education. The teacher is a guide and an agent. That is the reason why the lesson plans presented in this Guide refer to active forms of teaching. During the course students should relate to the real civic life problems, participate in debates and polls, and undertake various social activities.

STRUCTURE OF THE GUIDE

- Chapter I, a few words about CIVICO project.
- Chapter II, a structure of the Teacher's Guide and its purpose.
- Chapter III, a selection of the most popular definitions of civic education and civic competences.
- In Chapter IV, briefly presented is the place of civic education in the school systems of four partner countries (Italy, Denmark, Bulgaria and Poland) and how it is taught.
- Chapter V explains why teaching of civic competence in schools is so important and what the latest European Union guidelines on this issue are.
- Chapter VI provides direct instructions on how to use the Guide and how to systematise the lesson plans.

Then follow the indexes of lesson plans, listed accordingly to the subject and the country of origin. In the end there is a presentation of the 40 lesson scenarios designed to develop and enhance civic competencies of students.

For more information on the project and to download the Guide for free visit the CIVICO's web-site, civicoproject.eu and the Facebook page [facebook/civicoproject](https://facebook.com/civicoproject).



DARE NETWORK

Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe

Tanveer Parnez, BEMIS, (UK)

- The DARE Network currently consists of 51 member organisations from 25 countries in Europe
- A European wide network of NGOs, academic research and other organisations focusing on HRE for Democratic Citizenship
- Promotes deeper understanding of HRE/EDC
- Seeks to create an environment in which organisations can thrive/benefit from common services and the pooling of experiences and expertise

The Project was funded by Grundtvig for Active Engagement and Citizenship in Relation to HRE/EDC (2008-2010). Partners: Germany, UK/ Scotland, Italy, Budapest, Lithuania, Slovenia.

Key Highlights

- Intercultural Dialogue - Challenge for Democratic Active Citizenship and Human Rights Education (Vienna Conference 2008)
- DARE recommendations to the Education and Culture Commission of the European Parliament (April 2009)
- Active Citizenship Education as Guiding Principle for Lifelong Learning, Assessment Strategies in Non-Formal EDC/HRE (Vilnius, July 2010) Policy Recommendations (Vilnius, July 2010)

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	AdB - Arbeitskreis deutscher Bildung, (DE)
Main outcome:	Network
Website:	www.dare-network.eu

ADDED Value to the Project

- DARE's Synchronized Days
- Presenting a hearing on EDC/HRE in the European Parliament. Building new partnerships and engaging more NGO's to the Network. Providing up coming information on EDC/HRE and the EU Commission to its members

Special Interest Groups

Blue Lines were developed from all activities delivered by partners on EDC/HRE in relation to conferences, workshops and policy recommendations, which provided opportunities for practitioners and EU policy makers. DARE produces its own Newsletter, DARE Blog, on EDC/HRE, Launched Dare e-Academy. Currently have members and partners from across the 27 Member States and created its profile and recognition in EUROPE amongst policy and decision makers alike.



YOU TOO ARE EUROPE

The European Year of Citizens - 2013. How timely! Europe

Joanna Krawczyk, Evens Foundation, (BE)

Citizens throughout Europe are not exactly in love with the EU these days. The EU is divided, riven with conflict; as the Irish poet WB Yeats put it, "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold ... the best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity". People lash out at their chosen scapegoat: from political parties and national governments to immigrants and ethnic groups, from Germans to 'lazy southerners', from 'Brussels' to the EU as a whole to international finance. If one believes in simplistic, irrational solutions ('Brussels' is the source of all evil, get rid of all immigrants, etc.) it is easy to be single-focused and passionate.

However, the citizens in the I AM EUROPE project believe that lashing around in blind or blinkered anger will take us precisely nowhere; that hard, critical but constructive work is needed to come up with wise and workable solutions to improve European democracy. A return to economic growth is

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Europe for Citizens
Co-ordinator:	Evens Foundation, (BE)
Main outcome:	Methodologies and communication strategies
Website:	www.iameurope.eu



Photo credits: Evens Foundation: Ania Pelc/Mikael Norberg

unlikely to remove the division and distrust. The EU needs to profoundly change the ways it deals with its citizens. But we are Europe; therefore it is we who must change. Living democracy is a way of life, a civic culture in which citizens participate creatively in public life, achieving solutions that combine insights from diverse perspectives and experience.

Democracy is not what we have, but what we do. And I AM EUROPE is all about doing democracy. For the Evens Foundation, the European Year of Citizens offered an opportunity to imagine a concrete response to the call for Europeans to participate more in the development of the EU. In collaboration with its partners from eight EU countries, the Foundation initiated the I AM EUROPE project – an investigative quest to explore how to enhance citizens' involvement in shaping the future of Europe. The project was built on the knowledge and experience of citizens, and organisations engaged in local civic initiatives.

From January to June 2013, 225 of these European citizens from the eight countries gathered in different locations to exchange, evaluate and (re)invent participation tools to enlarge citizen influence on EU policy-making. At the end of this long and winding road, I AM EUROPE bloomed in Brussels: the results of this process were presented at the final conference in The Egg, Brussels, where the participating citizens share their ideas, concerns and recommendations with a panel of citizens, experts and policy-makers.

In autumn 2013 we will present our proposals at the European Parliament, and, hopefully, together with policy-makers start working on their implementation. Keep your fingers crossed!

Iameurope
JOIN THE DEBATE SHARE YOUR IDEAS GET HEARD



OPEN CITIZENSHIP

Stimulating debate on citizenship issues in Europe

Lisa Pettibone, Citizens For Europe e.V., (DE)

Open Citizenship is a hybrid journal for people concerned with citizenship, migration and political participation in the European Union. Published twice a year, Open Citizenship is distributed through libraries, conferences and our professional network. The journal combines scholarly work with commentary and information valuable to civil society actors, academics and decision-makers.

Created in 2010, Open Citizenship is a project of Citizens For Europe, a non-profit association based in Berlin that seeks to foster the development of an inclusive and participatory European Union. The journal seeks to realise this vision by providing useful information for civil society actors, academics and decision-makers within the EU.

The journal seeks to promote dialogue between different actor groups throughout Europe, which is why we publish in English. In this sense, Open Citizenship is not a traditional journal: we aim not only to share information, but to effect political and social change. We want to bring together different voices, particularly those often missing from the debate, in order to promote

AT A GLANCE

Programme: Youth in Action, others
Co-ordinator: Citizens For Europe e.V., (DE)
Main outcome: Journal
Website: citizensforeurope.org

real dialogue and active citizenship. We aim to provide content that is high quality, accessible to our audience and important to current debates.

The journal is a platform to realise our vision for Europe, one that includes cosmopolitan citizenship and full political participation in the European Union. Our journal seeks to foster democracy, justice and inclusion.

Read the journal online at: opencitizenship.eu

For subscription information, please go to:
citizensforeurope.org/projects-activities/open-citizenship-the-journal/

Open Citizenship

PPP

A Citizens Pact for European Democracy

Alessandro Valera, European Alternatives, (IT)

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Europe for Citizens
Co-ordinator:	European Alternatives, (IT)
Main outcome:	Journal
Website:	euroalter.com/ppp2011

European Alternatives (EA) strives for the development of a transnational civic society which is able to influence decision-makers across Europe. Since 2011, through the People Power Participation project, EA has organized citizens' consultations that have involved thousands of citizens and residents across Europe.

This bottom-up effort to bridge the infamous democratic deficit in Europe managed to empower citizens to take action, to participate in the development of a European political sphere and to ensure the 2014 European Parliament elections are truly trans-European, rather than a sum of national logics. The Citizens Pact, launched in December 2012, brings together a coalition of citizens and organisations joining in to advocate for concrete demands for the Europe they want to live in. You can find our set of principles by clicking here.

We believe that no way out of the economic, social and political crisis in Europe can be found without putting citizens at the centre of the decision-making process and having European debates that go beyond national perspectives. Building on three years of citizens' consultations organised by European Alternatives throughout Europe, the Citizens Pact gathers citizens, civil society organisations and local authorities from all over Europe around the realisation of a Citizens Manifesto by the end of 2013, where a shared set of demands for change in EU decision-making will be formulated, on topics ranging from employment and welfare to civil rights and economic and political reforms. Many other organisations and citizens' groups will join in the Citizens Pact with their own activities and local actions: a plurality of methods will be used for a shared goal – more democracy in Europe.

The road towards a Citizens Manifesto for Europe

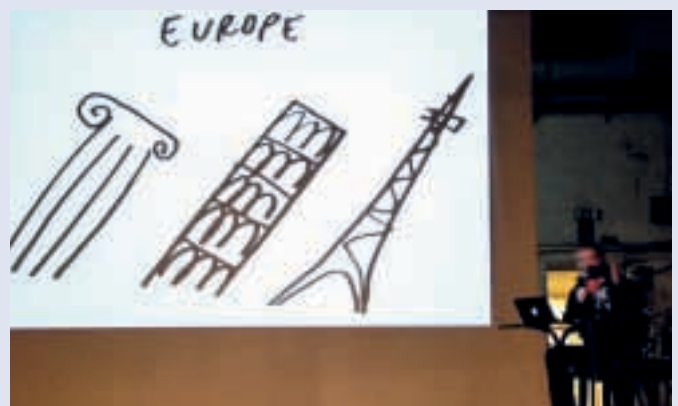
The road towards the Citizens Manifesto is constituted of different stages building up to the European Parliament elections in June 2014.

From March to May 2013, EA and its partners have organised a series of participative consultations in Bulgaria, France, Italy, Romania, Spain, Slovakia, Germany and the UK, based on the "World Café" methodology that has proved to be effective at creating dialogue among citizens in a structured manner in the People Power Participation projects organised in 2011 and 2012. During each consultation, citizens and local, regional or European actors will discuss one topic related to the Citizens' Pact in order to elaborate proposals for change, adding a European dimension to local perspectives on the question.

In June, transnational forums have been organised in three European cities, where participants brought together policy proposals formed during the participative consultations, on these three macro-areas:

- Work, welfare and unemployment
- Democracy and finance
- Civil rights

Transnational research workshops, held in each of the eight participating countries, will solidify the findings coming out of the forums by gathering small groups of researchers, who will contribute with their various areas of expertise to translate citizens' ideas for change into concrete policy proposals, which will constitute the Manifesto.



In October, during the Transeuropa Festival, volunteers in dozens of cities across Europe will submit the proposals that will have emerged from the research workshops to the citizens and passer-by's to receive feedback and broaden the outreach of the process.

The draft Manifesto will be finalised in Berlin in October and officially launched at the European Parliament in Brussels in December, when participants in the Citizens Pact from all over Europe will engage in a dialogue with MEPs and start advocating for real democracy in Europe.



SLIC

Competence workshops – a tool to value older people's skills and experience, linking lifelong learning and active ageing

Cornelia Hackl, Charlotte Strümpel, Austrian Red Cross, (AT)

"It is very useful to acknowledge what we know. The workshop helped us to look back, summarise, release negative things and plan our future," said a participant about the SLIC Workshop.

The workshop concept was developed within the European project SLIC, Sustainable Learning in the Community, and enabled older people to reflect on prior learning experience, as well as to become aware of their existing skills and competences. The main part of the two-day workshop was to create an individual skills profile to review participants' employment, life experiences, interests and qualifications, and to create a personal action plan for future areas of interest. Workshop activities included group discussion, individual reflection and role-play to allow participants to share and exchange their experience and knowledge.

The SLIC handbook and a toolkit developed within the follow-up project SLIC II provide a variety of exercises which can also be used for older people who cannot write or have difficulties with language. The flexible duration of the workshop from one to two days and the range of tools makes the SLIC Workshop adaptable to different countries, settings and target groups. It was shown that young seniors, as well as seniors in their 70's, active learners and volunteers, but also people who have not been engaged in activities before, or with little learning experience, participated in the workshops.

Training peer facilitators

Building on the experience of the first SLIC project, the SLIC II project aimed to develop the existing Workshop further and train older volunteers to conduct SLIC Workshops themselves with older people in their local community or organisation. The concept of peer education has often been used for training young people. However, it is also highly relevant for older people since it aims to increase the acceptance of messages through avoiding hierarchy or socio-cultural traps. Within the SLIC II project a handbook for trainers, materials for trainees and additional exercises for the SLIC workshop were developed.

The experience has shown that older people from different walks of life can be effectively trained as peer facilitators, when certain prerequisites are met. These are: comprehensive preparation and information beforehand;

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	Austrian Red Cross, (AT)
Main outcome:	Handbook, toolkit
Website:	www.slic-project.eu



an interactive design that ensures a participatory approach to learning; as well as an experienced trainer who can provide the necessary support in a flexible manner. It also became clear that an organisational framework and infrastructure are important in order to ensure sustainability for the SLIC Workshops and the peer facilitator training.

There was perceptible gain in self-confidence both of peer facilitator trainees and participants.

The SLIC projects addressed the priority of teaching and learning in later life by opening a specific liberal adult education centred approach to validating informal and non-formal learning. The SLIC Workshop and the peer facilitator training enhance the self-esteem and personal development of older people, and promote active engagement in the community. Additionally, the workshop provides organisations with the opportunity to target new groups of learners and create new offers for older volunteers.

Further information, as well as the SLIC toolkit and handbook, can be found under www.slic-project.eu.



CROSSING PATHS

Theatre and the Young against Fortress Europe

Micaela Casalboni, Teatro dell'Argine, (IT)

2008 was the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. 2010 was the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. Teatro dell'Argine (IT), Badac Theatre (UK) and Taastrup Theater (DK) are professional theatre companies.

What do these three elements have to do with one another? And with Bologna and San Marino Universities, Taastrup and San Lazzaro Municipalities, Platform for Intercultural Europe, and almost 100 private and public organisations, and institutions all over Europe dealing with art, culture, social and educational issues and contexts at any level?

All of these organisations often deal with the same questions, but from different perspectives and with different expertise. The Crossing Paths project was created to try and interweave all these precious different experiences, so that they could benefit from one another while facing the huge problems linked to social exclusion, particularly that of migrants arriving to Europe from the so-called third Countries.

But that is not all. The most innovative and challenging part of Crossing Paths was the firm belief in the value of theatre and the arts as tools for intercultural dialogue against social exclusion: they make our minds more flexible, consider diversity a value and not an obstacle, teach us teamwork, empathy, exchange, coexistence, because they simply already work like this.

The core action of the project was the forming of four intercultural groups of youngsters aged 12-21 (two in Italy, one in Denmark, one in the UK), each taking part in a theatre workshop about the project issues. During 18 months, each group also worked with journalists, experts and the artists of the partners' organizations.

The workshops gave birth to four shows, all performed in Italy on the occasion of the 2011 Festival of Schools in San Lazzaro, Bologna: shows about prejudices, about minor migrants travelling illegally abroad and ending up living in the streets, about minor prostitution and drug abuse. Huge issues studied, understood, actively worked on with theatrical tools and passionately passed to the audience by 60 boys and girls who will never be the same again.

Then an international conference was organised, The Art of Resistance. Theatres and citizenships between inclusion and exclusion. It had a keynote session with sociologists, philosophers and theatre experts, and a working group session where artists met educators, sociologists fed cultural mediators, historians worked side-to-side with activists, and all those worked together on trying to understand which problems are to be faced and which possible solutions can be found to finally create a new identity for Europe, for a more open, inclusive, cohesive Europe.

Then the international network, the follow-up workshops, the youngsters becoming tutors of newly arrived group members, new projects taking the "crossing paths" further...

2008 was the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

2010 was the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

2013 is the European Year of Citizens.

Let us all actively cooperate to turn these utopias into concrete projects, the future project for a future Europe. Let education, culture and the arts give their contribution to changing things.

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Culture
Co-ordinator:	Teatro dell'Argine, (IT)
Main outcome:	Theatre workshops, shows and conference for intercultural dialogue
Website:	crossingpaths.itcteatro.it



Workshop in Denmark Crossing Paths (Photo credits: L. Paselli)



Symbol image Crossing Paths (Photo credits: L. Paselli)



Italian show Crossing Paths (Photo credits: L. Paselli)

DACTIVE

Participating in the YOURopa Conference on Active European Citizenship

Patrizia Giorio, FormAzione Co&So Network, (IT)

The aims of the DACTIVE “Disability and Active Citizenship” project (Project number: 510773-LLP-1-2010-1-IT-GRUNDTVIG-GMP) were to develop innovative learning approaches in order to promote inclusion in society and in the labour market of a particular adult target group at high risk of marginalisation: persons with learning disabilities.

The basis of the project arose from a study carried out by the European Union and the World Health Organization, dealing with the situations that people with disability and their families have had to face in the last ten years. The study shows that the disabled population is still considered at high risk in terms of social marginalisation across Europe and that no meaningful improvement related to participation and active citizenship has been witnessed.

In order to address these needs, the DACTIVE project's aims were to create and experiment multi-dimensional and integrated tools and applicative models in education and training, starting from:

- the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), an O.M.S. tool: in order to measure and compare such a complex concept as quality of life and to identify factors that influence it;
- the Key competences defined by the European Union (Recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council – 18 December 2006)

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	FormAzione Co&So Network, (IT)
Main outcome:	Handbook
Website:	dactive.eu

The project partners (both institutional and private organisations operating in social services in seven European countries: Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania and Spain) had recognised the following problems:

- difficulty in implementing activities aimed at developing key competences;
- difficulty in providing European methods in order to foster the concrete development of essential competences or becoming active citizens and finding better jobs.

Therefore the project activities included the development of systems allowing the sharing of good practices in relation to the training of disadvantaged people, in order to promote learning opportunities based on active participation, and thus the improvement in the quality of their own life and of their family environment.



GOAL

Granting Opportunities for Active Learning

Irene Zanetti, Association of Local Democracy Agencies, (IT)

Migrants are often less integrated in the civil society than nationals and have fewer opportunities to act as active citizens in their community life. In that perspective, the project GOAL (Granting Opportunities for Active Learning) was designed to promote citizen participation in the construction of a tighter-knit, democratic, world-oriented and united Europe, tackling the challenge of immigration and emigration as opportunities to develop active citizenship and sense of ownership of the European Union, whilst enhancing tolerance, solidarity and mutual understanding.

The project consisted of a set of activities making citizens interact, both at local and European levels, providing them with an opportunity to work together towards a common aim. By further improving the methodology of “citizens’ panels” with the introduction of the component of immigration, panels were created and grouped ordinary citizens who would not have spontaneously participated in projects of a European nature. The groups involved people of different demographic, social and professional backgrounds, meeting regularly throughout the project to discuss matters of migration and submit recommendations to relevant political actors at local and European levels.

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Europe for Citizens
Co-ordinator:	ALDA, (FR)
Main outcome:	Methodology of citizens' panels
Website:	www.alda-europe.eu

International meetings with partners were also organised in order to exchange and draft recommendations based on their analysis of the local situation. These recommendations have been disseminated at local and international levels among decision-makers and civil society. The project partners were civil society organisations, local and regional authorities and associations of local authorities from six different countries – old and new EU Member States and pre-accession countries – where immigration represents one of the most vivid issues on the agenda.

Read more on ALDA's website:
www.alda-europe.eu



HATTRICK

Lifelong learning through sports – a case for creating unconventional classrooms with early school leavers

Holger Bienzle, die Berater®, (AT)

Motivating young people towards lifelong learning activities is still a main challenge – especially in the work with early school leavers or young people coming from a socially disadvantaged background. With the Grundtvig multilateral project “HATTRICK”, carried out during 2009-2011, die Berater® began to focus on the concept of learning through sports. The main aim of “HATTRICK – Football-Learning-Integration” was to reach out to young male migrants in educational activities through the clubs where they play football.

This set some fascinating foundations for future collaboration in the field of sports and education. The European Commission highly values the societal and educational role of sport, and sport will play a critical role in the new generation of funding programmes (2014-2020).

In light of this policy, die Berater® seeks to develop follow-up projects based on lessons learnt from HATTRICK, including ASSET – Achieving Success in Sport, Education and Training. Submitted in 2013, ASSET proposes to transfer and develop an integrated sports and education programme from top-class sports to socio-economically disadvantaged young people (aged 16-25). A combination of educational training aspects and team sports will support these young people into Lifelong Learning activities.

die Berater® is an Austrian training company and part of bridges to europe, a joint platform for international project activities.

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	die Berater®, (AT)
Main outcome:	Workshops, Manuals
Website:	hattrick-project.eu



bridges to europe

INCLUSIVE TOOLBOX

Cooperation for Social Change in Europe

Sónia Tomás, CCPL – Confédération de la Communauté Portugaise au Luxembourg, (LU)

In 2010, after two previous meetings in 2009, the Grundtvig partnership project “Inclusive Toolbox – Cooperation for Social Change in Europe” began. The coordinator of the project was from Luxembourg, CCPL, the other partners are Associazione Culturale Link from Italy, CIM Horyzonty from Poland, ACTIVAR from Portugal, A.C.T.O.R. from Romania and Asociacion de Vecinos Los Rosales from Spain.

The common goal of this partnership is “ART for social inclusion”. Through the organisation of three staff meetings, three workshops, two study visits and one seminar the exchange of knowledge, tools and methods were guaranteed. During the project, 84 mobilities took place, due to large interest from the learners from participating countries. Around 1000 people were involved on local levels, through the organisation of international and local mobilities, promotional events, presentations, performances, exhibitions and many other activities.

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	CCPL, (LU)
Main outcome:	Tools to increase social inclusion
Website:	inclusivetoolbox.eu

Inclusive Toolbox has achieved its outcome of creating different toolkits, containing information about methods of non-formal education for social inclusion. This project gave the partners opportunities to exchange methodologies, knowledge and tools, to improve their activities on a local level, to improve the skills of the learners and staff involved and to increase social inclusion in Europe.

Study visit experience within Inclusive Toolbox

“Intercultural and Intergenerational perspective in Luxembourg Country”

From the perspective of one of the participants Frank van Haaren from Spain, “this week in Luxembourg was a success in two different ways. On the one hand there was the part of seeing and learning from the hosts in Luxembourg, and on the other hand the part of exchanging with the other participants from the other countries”.

In five days the 12 participants from six different countries visited several projects. They cooked and ate together. They were interviewed on the radio, wrote and performed poetry by words and dance for the literature night, did (laughing) yoga, exchanged thoughts and ideas, and in the end we celebrated the intensive, interesting and connecting study visit.



In this week the people from CCPL showed us their effort of their work on integration of immigrants and generations in Luxembourg. It is nice to see that there are a lot of people involved, coming together under the umbrella of CCPL. They seem to be a really motivated group of people trying to make Luxembourg an even nicer place to be than it already is. Several projects are really inspiring, like the Soirée Littéraire and Cuisine du Monde. The keywords are: inclusive, sharing and learning news methods.



LIGHT

Innovative Methods and Practices to Facilitate Social Inclusion

Liudmila Mecajeva, Social Innovation Fund, (LT)

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	Social Innovation Fund, (LT)
Main outcome:	Social mobility model
Website:	www.socialmobility.eu

The main aim of the project is to increase the level of social inclusion of unemployed people, senior citizens and migrants. The new learning pathways for increasing social mobility to overcome social exclusion were introduced by Social Mobility Model.

The project's target groups are distributed in two sectors:

- learners – socially disadvantaged persons: senior citizens, unemployed and migrants
- adult education organisations, NGOs and community centres working in the field of social inclusion

The main project objectives are:

- to equip three target groups of socially disadvantaged persons: senior citizens, unemployed and migrants with the skills, knowledge and competencies that they need for coping with challenges and remaining active in society and labour market
- to develop three educational tools: group social mentoring, role models to foster social inclusion, visual workshops on equal opportunities and non-discrimination, and summarise them within the European framework of Social Mobility Model
- to ensure effective promotion and optimal use of project's outcomes at national and European levels

The project's Consortium of 8 organisations from 6 EU countries (Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Spain, The Netherlands and United Kingdom) developed the following major outcomes:

- "Guidelines for Tutors of Social Mobility Model"
- "e-Workbook for tutors on Group Social Mentoring"
- the Video set "Role Model as a tool to foster social inclusion" (in EN, CZ, DE, ES, LT)
- Visual Workshop "Equal opportunities and non-discrimination" (in EN, CZ, DE, ES, LT)
- Leaflet (in EN, CZ, DE, ES, LT)
- Newsletter
- Final conference "Social Mobility Model – New Learning Pathways to Social Inclusion"
- Project's website www.socialmobility.eu

The quality and effectiveness of developed outcomes were assessed during:

- 20 national round-table discussions with Learners' Commissions (141 participants in total)
- 10-months group social mentoring sessions (92 participants in total)
- 13 national seminars on role models (136 participants)
- 13 trainings on equal opportunities and non-discrimination (144 participants) organised by project's partners;



MATCH

Exploiting semantic technologies to support citizens' education, mobility and employability

Enrico Bressan, Fondazione Giacomo Rumor Centro Produttività Veneto, (IT)

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Duration:	Fondazione Giacomo Rumor Centro Produttività Veneto, (IT)
Main outcome:	Web Platform matching competences and market needs
Website:	match.cpv.org

As underlined by the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative, the creation of a skilled workforce relies on removing barriers to labour market integration, as well as on developing systems for recognising and validating non-formal and informal learning.

Many European initiatives have been launched to sustain the development and implementation of effective strategies and ad hoc mechanisms allowing learners and workers to customise and/or finalise their learning both in formal and non-formal contexts.

Despite such efforts, one of the barriers to the full osmosis between education and the labour market in Europe has been represented for a long time by the heterogeneity in the languages talked by the various actors involved, as well as by information asymmetries in analytically matching job-seekers' competences with skills needed for a particular job offer.

Hence, solutions and tools capable of supporting the implementation of a comprehensive job matching strategy, enabling the seamless alignment of job seekers' acquirments and employers' requirements by working on detailed descriptions of qualifications, résumés and labour market's needs, and thus overcoming linguistic, systemic and contentious barriers, is needed.

In this perspective, the exploitation of semantic technologies such as ontologies (explicit specifications of a conceptualisation) and taxonomies (classifications arranged in a hierarchical structure), could increase the effectiveness of matchmaking, since they could allow a computer system to understand and to (automatically) process the huge amount of heterogeneous data and relations thanks to the use of a "shared vocabulary".

MATCH (510739-LLP-1-2010-1-IT-GRUNDTVIG-GMP), funded in the framework of the LLP Grundtvig Multilateral Projects 2010, has addressed some of the above-mentioned issues by developing an ad hoc software platform based on European tools, named LO-MATCH, which is meant to serve as a facilitator for job seekers to draft their curriculum vitae. In fact, by resorting to information available in the knowledge base, job seekers are supported in the elicitation of their formal, non-formal and informal learning by linking prior education, work and personal experiences to shared learning outcomes. A comparable support is offered to employers, who are provided with ontology-based user-friendly tools for advertising open job positions using the same "language".

Lastly, end-users are provided with smart search instruments that, based on semantic reasoning, compare learning outcomes in collected descriptions and return ranked lists of best positions or candidates that job seekers should apply for or that employers should consider for hiring, respectively.

The LO-MATCH platform is currently based on a database of 20 occupational profiles expressed in terms of learning outcomes (according to the EQF principles) and annotated using semantic technologies.

It is worth saying that, in the frame of the project, the LO-MATCH platform has been tested with datasets directly generated by partner organisations. Future developments will be aimed at linking the devised architecture to existing platforms and repositories hosting profiles, curriculum vitae and job advertisements.

Moreover, they will be aimed at investigating further application possibilities in the wider lifelong learning scenario and human resources management contexts. Finally, an interesting evolution could be related to training, e.g., by proposing possible training paths for filling a particular competency gap.



REMEMBER

Keep Alive the Past Memory for the Future

Elena Helerea, Negru Voda Cultural Foundation, Fagaras, (RO)

The mass displacements and deportations of ethnic Germans from the occupied areas and countries which later became the Soviet Union satellite states – Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia – have painfully changed the destinies of millions of people. The losses of human lives and the sufferings on the battlefields were followed by violation of the elementary human rights done both in the last years and months of World War II, and after the final military operations.

Within this context, the project REMEMBER was dedicated to the remembrance of the ethnic Germans' drama which precedes the establishing of the communist systems in these countries, in a period of history which had deeply changed the individual life of the citizen and the society as a whole, for half of a century, with serious consequences upon the next generations.

The destinies of the ethnic Germans in the villages next to Fagaras, who were deported to the mines and concentration camps in the Soviet Union, their sufferings during the deportations, the image of their ruined houses when they returned home, were illustrated in the volume 'Calvary – Deportation and Destinies' and in the exhibition 'Remembrance of Pain and Hope'.

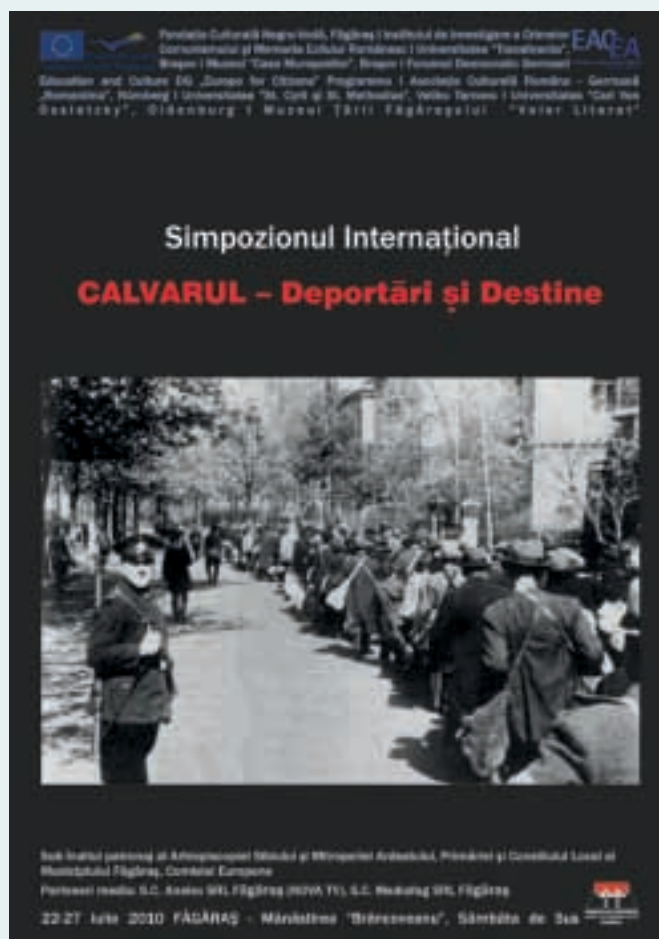
Commemorating their sufferings by debates, symposia and exhibitions has become a landmark in a better understanding of the present and future European values.

The participants of the REMEMBER project from Romania, Bulgaria and Germany have said, and are still saying NO, to forgetting, because these facts are nothing but a history lesson meant to defeat and empower the democratic values. Programme: Europe for Citizens

Key objective: Acquisition of new data, transmission and exchange of experiences regarding the ways of re-memorising the dark pages of the history between 1944 and 1964, as a support for creating a new profile of an active European citizen.

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Europe for Citizens, Active European Remembrance
Co-ordinator:	Negru Voda Cultural Foundation Fagaras, (RO)
Main outcome:	Book, CD-Rom, International Symposium
Website:	www.negruvoda.ro



3C

Economic wellbeing in later life

Grzegorz Karpiuk, University of Information Technology and Management, (PL)

Work and career are among many dimensions of life that impact on healthy ageing. In later life, some people end their working careers, while others keep working, and still others start new careers. However, with a less predictable and secure job market the landscape of staying economically active in later life is changing. So is the reality of retirement affected by an increasing burden on social security systems.

This project was aimed at developing tools that might help older adults to identify individual pathways to improve their economic and social wellbeing in later life. Two key outcomes were produced, a User Manual and Training Guidelines.

The User Manual, a self-help book, is designed to enable older adults to identify where they are in their life and what goals they still have. It gives an insight into the (national) environmental circumstances and the factors that may have an impact on older adults' choices. It shows the opportunities and the additional skills needed to achieve their goals. The book contains many exercises to identify skills, strengths, qualities and experience. The materials are written in an easy-to-read style and the publication enables older adults to develop ways of thinking about their life and identify further opportunities for the future.

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	University of Information Technology and Management, (PL)
Main outcome:	User Manual
Website:	www.3cproject.eu

The Training Guidelines have been produced to enable and support professionals who are involved in supporting and guiding older adults into new forms of economic wellbeing in the future. It gives more background information on how to practise the User Manual methodology in different learning contexts



Self-employment is a challenging but satisfying option for later life

The European Youth Parliament

Connecting Young Europeans for the Debate of Current Issues

Jacob Düringer, Schwarzkopf Foundation, (DE)

The European Youth Parliament (EYP) was conceived in 1987. Starting as a small project between schools, the EYP grew into a network which today is active in 41 European countries. The EYP is a non-partisan and independent educational project which is tailored specifically to the needs of young European citizen. The EYP encourages independent thinking and socio-political initiative in young people and facilitates the learning of crucial social and professional skills. The aim of the European Youth Parliament is to support the development of young people into politically-aware and responsible citizens by involving them in European political thinking and promoting intercultural understanding.

Since its inauguration, many tens of thousands of young people have taken part in regional, national and international sessions, formed friendships and

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	Schwarzkopf Foundation, (DE)
Main outcome:	European platform for political debate
Website:	eyp.org



made international contacts across and beyond borders. The EYP has thus made a vital contribution towards uniting Europe. Today the EYP is one of the largest European platforms for political debate, intercultural encounters, political educational work and the exchange of ideas among young people in Europe. The EYP consists of a network of European associations and organisations in 41 European countries, in which thousands of young people are active in a voluntary capacity. The entire network organises about 200 events every year. Three large-scale international sessions are the flagship events every year and gather more than 300 young people each from all over Europe in changing locations and prestigious venues all over our continent.



LS6

Language Learning and Social Media: 6 key dialogues

Ju-Youn Song, University of Luxembourg, (LU)

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	University of Luxembourg, (LU)
Main outcome:	Studies, competition
Website:	elearningeuropea.info/fr/languagelearning

The "Language learning and social media: 6 key dialogues" (LS6) partnership brought together experts with a shared scientific interest in developing language learning across linguistic and cultural backgrounds, in order to investigate the interactive dynamics between media use and learning across the life span. Launched in January 2010, the network has explored the potential of new and innovative approaches in lifelong learning through the use of social networking tools in relation to educational approaches, concepts and resources. This combination of media expertise and training at different educational levels, coupled with the cultural diversity of the partners, provided a rich background for developing novel models of lifelong learning. Furthermore, it has allowed to investigate new ways of adapting and transferring innovative education and media approaches in various European countries.

At the beginning, the LS6 network has placed six key dimensions at the core of language learning and social media:

- Language learning, social media and social inclusion
- Language learning, social media and development of language resources
- Language learning and teaching through social media in new EU countries: the case of Romania, Latvia and Poland
- Language learning, social media and multilingualism
- Language learning through social media: evolution of teaching practices
- Language learning and teaching in formal and non formal contexts through ICT

The network added two more dimensions in 2011:

- Social media and inter-culturality in language education
- Socialising and learning languages in web 2.0 communities

The research project was investigating the effective ways of sharing knowledge among individuals attending a workshop virtually and/or physically, and bringing both forms of participation into productive interaction. This outcome was possible thanks to a series of seven successful webinars during the project lifetime. After each webinar, the LS6 network was very committed to pursuing the identification and establishment of new approaches by making expert knowledge available to the general

public by publishing key findings and recommendations, concluding from dynamic exchanges with the public in the forum space. Another form of active conversation with the public was also realised through the network's social media uptakes, notably Twitter, Vimeo, LinkedIn, Mendeley and the project Blog site.

Furthermore, two award winning competitions were organised in order to highlight the best practices in different teaching and learning contexts, such as "Teaching with social media in classroom settings" (2011) for the formal language teaching in using social media, and "Social Media in Informal Language Learning" (2012) for the language learning in using social media outside of school.

Last but not least, the LS6 key dialogues have been achieved and sustained by a network of national and international associate partners in addition to the 14 main partners coming from public and private domains. The main findings of every key dialogue have been published regularly in many European languages, including English, French, German, Spanish, Polish, Finnish, Latvian and Romanian. More information about the network's publications, webinar recordings and key findings are available at the project website and social media sites.



LS6 Final meeting 2012



MIGRANTS+

An intelligent way of offering migrants individualised support

Lila Anthopoulou, IDEC S.A., (GR)

The phenomenon of migration goes back to the roots of human existence. In the last decades, due to socio-economic and political reasons the phenomenon of migrants' influx in Europe has been intensified. Yet, each migrant has his/her own background and faces individual needs in the host society. Migrants+ is aimed at training trainers, mediators and support staff on how to assess basic skills and competences of adult migrants and their learning needs by using a software tool, and also at developing lifelong learning opportunities for adult migrants.

The main result of the project is the "SAOS" software tool that detects learning needs in basic skills such as numeracy, ICT, the use of internet, communication skills, human relations and occupational health, and proposes individualised training curricula. New tests and curricula have been developed in the subjects of literacy, legislation (civil rights, employment laws and social security) and knowledge of the host country culture. In the framework of the project two transnational trainings of trainers took place, in Paris and Athens, and the software tool was piloted by migrants coming from a wide spectrum of countries in the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Poland, Turkey and UK.

All results are available in 8 languages (Greek, French, Czech, German, Italian, Polish, Turkish and English). The partners have developed additional language versions of the SAOS tool, namely Arabic, Farsi and Russian, to meet the needs of migrants' for whom those are their mother tongues.



AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	IDEC S.A., (GR)
Main outcome:	Software tool
Website:	www.migrantsplus.info



P.IN.O.K.I.O

Pupils for INnOvation as a Key to Intercultural and social inclusion

Cinzia Laurelli, Fondazione Nazionale Carlo Collodi, (IT)

Promoting intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding at schools through literature to combat prejudices and negative stereotypes concerning migrant children and their families, and supporting active citizenship and a shared sense of values of different cultures, are the main aims of the P.IN.O.K.I.O project (Duration: October 2009-September 2011). After two years of successful project completion, the Fondazione Nazionale Carlo Collodi project promoter is very proud to communicate that the project has been included in a new initiative financed by the LLP K4 Multilateral project.

The new project, ART as a Vehicle for Education and Social Inclusion (acronym ARTES), is promoted by the Bielskie Stowarzyszenie Artystyczne Teatr Grodzki (Poland).

The present initiative responds to the need of creating a trans-sectorial platform for the exchange of training methodologies and approaches developed by previous LLP projects in the field of inclusive art, as well as effectively multiplies and mainstreams their validated results.

The ARTES project proposes to create a community of practice of European educators engaging with social exclusion through arts-based educational measures. Art as a vehicle for education and social inclusion is one of the prominent themes covered by the LLP throughout its implementation and ARTES address the need to build, grow and sustain a community of actors from different European countries willing to:

- raise professional skills of the members of the community in the use of arts-based methods
- improve key competences of disadvantaged learners, especially their communication skills, interpersonal, intercultural and social competences, and cultural expression
- improve understanding of the educational value of inclusive arts on the part of public, corporate and private stakeholders

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	Fondazione Nazionale Carlo Collodi, (IT)
Main outcome:	Educational programme
Website:	pinokioproject.eu



PERL

Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living

Victoria W. Thoresen, Hedmark University College, (NO)

To deal with the challenges of increased financial instability, social unrest, life-style related illnesses and environmental degradation, sustainable, responsible lifestyles are necessary. These are enabled by efficient infrastructure and individual actions. Both require rethinking how we organise our daily life, socialise, share and educate.



As a partnership of over 100 institutions of higher education and research based in Europe and with regional networks in Latin America, Asia and Africa, PERL has contributed to numerous European and international processes focusing on stimulating responsible, sustainable lifestyles. An active participant in the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development and at the UN Commissions on Sustainable Development, PERL has worked to raise awareness of the importance of the Europe 2020 goals on sustainable living. PERL has assisted in the development of education for sustainable consumption regionally and globally, building, among other things, upon the concepts of consumer citizenship developed by the Erasmus Consumer Citizenship Network. PERL recognizes the pressing need for value-based, interdisciplinary, holistic and practical education for responsible, sustainable living. PERL seeks to further develop the transfer of knowledge to provide adequate, relevant information flow; to strengthen individual awareness and the ability to deal critically with information; to help develop new skills for sustainable living; to stimulate the social learning process and build capacity amongst teachers; to contribute to the public and scientific discourse on responsible living; and to cultivate multi-stakeholder alliances which promote active involvement and global solidarity.

These objectives require bridging the knowledge/action gap, which PERL does by applying values-based indicators in schools. Through extending its student essay-, video- and photo contests for use in teaching, PERL seeks to stimulate informed choice. PERL draws on the experience of its partners to map changes in attitudes and behaviour; facilitate curriculum development; and strengthen teacher training. PERL has created a series of active learning toolkits and is developing additional ones. PERL is implementing methods such as "backcasting and scenarios" in schools; involving youth in roundtable discussions about social responsibility; and spreading information via the social media. PERL has a series of reports on innovative social initiatives for sustainable living which it is further expanding. By cooperating with relevant projects and further developing PERL regional networks, PERL works to strengthen Agenda 21 and the

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme Erasmus Academic Network
Co-ordinator:	Hedmark University College, (NO)
Main outcome:	Research, Curriculum, Teacher training
Website:	www.perlprojects.org



internationally agreed upon outcomes of the recent Global Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Among its many other activities, PERL has held and will continue to arrange international research conferences and seminars on topics related to education for responsible living. PERL's learning and teaching guidelines, and toolkits, exist in several languages. Research reports from PERL's conferences and projects are available. For more information see the PERL website.

POLITICS

Collaborative Online Learning in "citizenship studies" utilising Web2 tools

Martin Kaasik, Tallinna Laagna Gymnasium, (EE)

Through the use Web 2.0 technologies, the POLITICS project will enable school students, VET trainees and adult learners, especially immigrants undertaking 'citizenship' programmes, to develop a better understanding of how modern society functions and at the same time develop skills in problem solving, communication and language learning and writing skills.

POLITICS is the digital storytelling project.

The POLITICS project is built around an e-book "Straight into Politics". Learners will be invited to form (transnational) teams online and develop a digital and humorous story based on the scenario of a politically active young person, who is convinced they can change the world for the better and organises an election campaign. The original story provides the seed corn material and catalyst for the development of the participants' digital material. Participants will develop their election platform and discuss how to present their ideas to the electorate. They have to get acquainted with the role of parliament, government and other state structures. Different teams work simultaneously and edit or rewrite the same story.

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	Tallinna Laagna Gymnasium, (EE)
Main outcome:	e-book
Website:	www.politics-project.eu

Politics is not just "filling in the blanks" in the story, it is about modifying the story itself, changing examples and illustrations and developing new material with ICT tools provided by the project. By the end of the POLITICS project, learners will be the co-authors of the book. The examples and materials being used by the project are taken from everyday life. However, the materials are presented in a humorous and creative way, making the project more attractive to users.



REPERES

Connecting the history of Europe with the history of Europeans

Geneviève Saint-Hubert, Maison de l'Europe Toulouse
Midi-Pyrénées, (FR)

The partnership – House of Europe of Rhodes (GR), House of Europe of Toulouse (F), EUnet (D) and CVCE (L) – has developed a series of innovative modules in European citizenship training under the name of REPERES, based on situating the family and personal history of the adult learner in the context of European integration history.

The aim of rooting historical, political, economic and cultural knowledge in individual experience is to help learners in establishing a personal connection with the European project and become part of it, being aware of their role and their ability to take action in their environment.

REPERES is based on the emotional context that underpins the choices, judgements and actions of learners, a dimension that is often underestimated or missing from education systems when it comes to 'transferring' values. On completing the training, the learners should begin to assimilate a new vision of European integration and their personal role in the process. The involvement of several partners has made it possible to develop training modules and transferable tools, taking into account multicultural visions,

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	Maison de l'Europe Toulouse Midi-Pyrénées, (FR)
Main outcome:	European citizenship training
Website:	www.european-net.org/reperes

practices and skills and in four languages (English, French, German and Greek). These modules are regularly proposed to adults by Houses of Europe and are available for trainers interested in one or the whole modules.

All materials and further information about the project can be found on the website: www.european-net.org/reperes



SPACIT

Competence Model and Curriculum

Nicole Ferber & Thomas Jekel, Department of Geoinformatics – ZGIS, University of Salzburg, (AT)

A spatial citizen should be able to interpret and critically reflect on spatial information, communicate with the assistance of maps and other spatial representations, and express location-specific opinions using geomedial. These capabilities need to be addressed at secondary school level. The multilateral Comenius project SPACIT develops a relevant in-service teacher training course.

The Spatial Citizenship approach stems from the fact that the use of technologies and geoinformation is argued from the perspective of our everyday lives and the differences of individual/collective appropriation of space that are the basis for participation in collective decision-making. Engaging with geomedial in secondary education allows teachers and students to become aware of the power of the (geo)web as a communicative and participatory tool for citizens to engage with. The development of the relevant competence model is based on the concept and theoretical structure of Spatial Citizenship and integrates different existing competence approaches and catalogues from related domains on EU and international level (Schulze, Gryl & Kanwischer 2013; Gryl, Schulze & Kanwischer 2013). The categories of 'Geomedial Technology and Methodology Domain', 'Reflection on the use of Geomedial' and 'Communication with Geomedial' are equivalent with the structure of the SPACIT concept provided in Gryl & Jekel (2012). Thus, they establish core competences.

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	Paris-Lodron-University Salzburg, (AT)
Main outcome:	Competence model and curriculum
Website:	spatialcitizenship.org

The dimensions of 'Spatial Domain' and 'Citizenship Education Domain' can be understood as horizontal layers underpinning the core dimensions overall. They are related to subject-specific knowledge, skills and abilities. Finally, the "implementation level" of SPACIT connects these dimensions necessary to SPACIT education (Fig. 1).

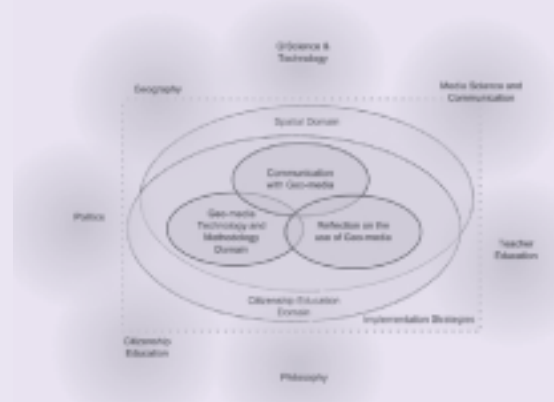


Figure 1: SPACIT Competence Model and related domains

The SPACIT Competence Model is the basis for a curriculum structure and provides appropriate measures which can be used to reach the competences suggested for Spatial Citizenship education. The SPACIT Curriculum also provides planned workloads according to the European Credit Transfer System for each part of the curriculum, for easier inclusion in various national initial teacher training and in-service training activities. The curriculum is based on a blended learning environment (Fig. 2). The course framework is divided into four modules with three separate units at a 7.5-hour workload. The framework is based on a five day face-to-face Comenius course for in-service-teachers. It is a multipath curriculum based on a problem-based learning approach.

The modules include the following main topics. The Module "Concepts of Space" contributes to the knowledge and understanding of absolute conceptions of space as used in geoinformation and social concepts of space as used in the social/political sphere, and the correlation between them. The Module "Geo-media Technology and Methodologies" contributes to the understanding of geo-media consumption, analysis, production and social networking. The Module "Geo-media Communication and Reflection" sheds light on the application of spatial representations within geo-media in everyday life and the translation between social and absolute space. The Module "Concepts of Citizenship Education" is based on the selected themes such as spatial action and participation, the effective usage of spatial representations and geo-media in collective decision-making processes. The first teacher training course based on the curriculum, "Using ICT and Geoinformation for Citizenship Education in Schools", with the reference number AT-2014-373-001, will be held in Iasi, Romania, from 28 April to 2 May 2014.



Figure 2: SPACIT Course Framework & Curriculum (Gryl/Schulze/Kanwischer 2013)

References: Gryl, I. & Jekel, T. (2012): Re-centering GI in secondary education: Towards a spatial citizenship approach. *Cartographica*, 47 (1), 18-28. | Gryl, I., Schulze, U. & Kanwischer, D. (2013), Spatial Citizenship: the concept of competence. In: *GI_Forum 2013 Conference Proceedings*. Berlin: Wichmann. | Quade, D. & Felgenhauser, T. (2012): Some aspects of social theory for the SPACIT competence model. SPACIT project, WP1, unpublished working paper. | Schulze, U., Gryl, I. & Kanwischer, D. (2013): Public Report. Competence model for Spatial Citizenship education.



VOICE

Promoting young people's active citizenship through problem-based learning

Zita Beutler, AGORA Civic Education, Leibniz University of Hannover, (DE)

The multilateral Comenius project 'VOICE – Developing Citizens' was dedicated to the development of innovative teaching and learning materials that support the promotion of students' key competences for lifelong learning and active European citizenship. The dispositions of learning skills, learning motivation and awareness of citizenship are shaped during childhood and adolescence, and have a great impact on the extent of civic commitment in adulthood, and on an individual's motivation for lifelong learning. In order to promote key competences of young people, participatory and activating methods are needed.

The VOICE materials (www.voice-comenius.org > School materials) are oriented towards the particular method of problem-based learning (PBL), which originated in medical education in the early 1970's in Canada. PBL is a learner-centred approach which promotes experiential learning in small groups of learners. In all its many variations, the core element of PBL is that the starting point of learning is an ill-structured and complex real-world problem. Students work collaboratively in small groups: they identify their own learning issues regarding the problem and get engaged in research and discussions in order to develop creative solutions. Thereby, learners train their key competences such as working collaboratively, learning independently and developing creative solutions.

One of the most important aspects of PBL is the change of the teachers' role. The traditional hierarchy between teachers and students changes: teachers are no longer understood as "providers of knowledge" but as "facilitators of learning". They support students in developing their own learning strategy and their own solutions.

AT A GLANCE

Programme: Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator: Leibniz University of Hannover, (DE)
Main outcome: School material

Website: voice-comenius.org



FUTURE ACTIVE CITIZENS

Volunteering as an Exercise of Democracy

Daniela Quaggia, Cittadinanzattiva Onlus, (IT)

The main objective of the project "Future Active Citizens: volunteering as an experience of democracy" was to raise young Europeans' desires to become active citizens, informing them about the meaning and the practice of volunteering based on the experience of civic and voluntary organisations. The project allowed voluntary organisations to develop a better understanding of their action in a European framework, as well as letting teachers experiment with a new form of informal learning. The project was divided into three phases:

Increase knowledge of volunteering, active citizenship and civic participation in Europe through:

- a survey on volunteering, based on existing European studies
- a seminar that involved about 30 civic organisations from seven EU Member States, aimed at discussing the survey results and the situation of volunteering in Europe (especially in participating countries), as well as at determining a common definition of volunteering to be used as a reference point within the project.

Raising students' awareness of concepts and practice of volunteering through the following activities:

- training/awareness raising meetings in five different schools/classes (two two-hour meetings with each class)
- video contest: students were invited to create a video illustrating the concept and/or practice of volunteering in their country. The winners

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Europe for Citizens
Co-ordinator:	Cittadinanzattiva Onlus, (IT)
Main outcome:	Video contest
Website:	activecitizenship.net

were rewarded with the opportunity to participate in a European event, organised by one of the project partners.

Dissemination:

- Created a promotional video on volunteerism, used for project presentation at the meetings, as well as an example for the contest.
- Created an animated e-card in order to invite at least 3000 people in each country to vote for the best video.
- Produced and disseminated 600 DVDs (125 per country) containing all the videos.
- Hold a celebration, awarding the winning team in the framework of a European event, organised by Cittadinanzattiva in Rome (November 2013).



VIT

Very Important Twinning, Volunteering in Town

Irene Zanetti, Association of Local Democracy Agencies, (IT)

The town twinning movement started soon after 1945, with the support of mayors and citizens committed to preventing the break-out of another war. It was meant as a long-term commitment between two communities willing to develop cooperation with a European perspective and closer ties of friendship and respect.

Despite its success, many municipalities involved in a twinning relationship today encounter challenges, such as restriction of budget, lack of interest of decision-makers and citizens, which puts in danger the continuity of the relations. Joining a network of twinned towns can be a solution to share resources, revitalise the public interest and let town twinning develop.

In this perspective, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) developed the project Very Important Twinning, Volunteering in Town (VIT) under a specific action of the Europe for Citizens Programme,

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Europe for Citizens
Co-ordinator:	ALDA, (FR)
Main outcome:	Workshops, conferences, handbook, DVD
Website:	www.alda-europe.eu



Workshop Recreatura, Valencia, 2-3 March 2012

which aims to support town twinning as a tool for enhancing mutual understanding between citizens, fostering a sense of ownership of the European Union and developing a sense of European identity.

The project VIT lasted two years from July 2011 to July 2013. It gathered 27 partners from 18 countries of the enlarged Europe with the aim to create a network of towns facilitating debate, action and reflection among partners on the ways citizens can improve good governance in Europe.

At the same time, the project supported existing town twinning relations and gave impulse to new programmes.

Read more on ALDA's website: www.alda-europe.eu



VoCH

Working with volunteers in museums: Effective transfer of knowledge and coordination of work

Janja Rebolj, Slovenian Museum Association, (SI)

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	Slovenian museum association, (SI)
Main outcome:	Training programme
Website:	amitie.it/voch

VoCH "Volunteers for Cultural Heritage" (www.amitie.it/voch) was also a Multilateral Grundtvig Project 2007-2009, which explored the phenomenon of volunteering in the cultural sector at European level, identifying different types of voluntary work and the areas of activities in which cultural volunteers are engaged, with the objective of designing a training addressed both to volunteers themselves and to the people responsible for volunteer programmes within cultural organisations.

The final publication, "Volunteers in Museums and Cultural Heritage - A European Handbook", is available for download in English, German, Italian and Slovenian on the project website: www.amitie.it/voch/index4.htm

Outcomes

- Europe-wide research on volunteers in the cultural heritage sector;
- Identification of good practice case studies;
- Design, development and delivery of training modules both for volunteers and coordinators;
- Development and publishing of guidelines for good practice when working with volunteers;
- Dissemination of project outcomes through conferences and information days.

And here is an additional result, which got an impulse from the YOURopa invitation, a training "Working with volunteers in museums: Effective transfer of knowledge and coordination of work" which is published in the Comenius - Grundtvig Training Database with the reference number "SI-2014-097-001" with effect from "21/06/2013". You are most welcome in Slovenia from 14th to 18th April 2014! More information: ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/search.cfm?fuseaction=R



The Objectives

- to gain the awareness of the meaning and the role of voluntary work in a museum
- to discover the process of effective communication and conflict solution
- to discover the dynamics of learning and effective learning of an individual
- to gain experiences on how to motivate ourselves and others in the learning process.

And one additional goal: participants should profit from the new experience and knowledge also in other fields of their work (especially teamwork), and in private life, through personal growth. And of course, you should not forget about the beauty of the host country and the hospitality of its people! You are most welcome!



VOLMANEL

E-Learning for Volunteer Managers - Volunteering goes digital

Anne-Maria Brown, PNE Group, (UK)

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	PNE Group, (UK)
Main outcome:	e-learning course
Website:	volmanel.eu

For many years there have been large scale initiatives taking place throughout Europe such as the European Volunteering Service, Global Volunteering Network, Red Cross and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), to name only a few.

However, as well as international causes, there is a need for volunteering close to home and more people and organisations are benefitting both socially and economically from volunteers who bring a wealth of skills to their local community.

There are many roles for volunteers, from committees to flower arranging, or running groups and activities such as Scouts, playgroups and environmental projects. In order to get the best from volunteers there is a need to lead, coordinate and develop their skills, and local organisations are recognising that those who manage volunteers also require guidance and training.

In order to do this there must be a range of learning opportunities available to suit different people and needs. The Volmanel project offers online training to volunteer managers through the globe platform.

The main benefit of online learning is that it is accessible and enables learners to progress through the course at a time that suits them. It also means that managers can learn wherever they are and do not have to add time to busy days by travelling to training. More information about this project is at www.volmanel.eu, or visit the Facebook page www.facebook.com/Volmanel.com



Additional projects

STAMP 2

Get ready for European town twinning!

Michael Slama, Steiermärkischer Gemeindebund, (AT)

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	Steiermärkischer Gemeindebund, (AT)
Main outcome:	Seminars
Website:	towntwinning.eu

Enhancing co-operation and network building capacity of municipalities in Europe forms the main aim of the STAMP TO EUROPE II project. Based on the fact that especially smaller municipalities very often do not have the capacity to engage in larger co-operation projects, involve local citizens in transnational activities and fully benefit from the potentials of being twinned with another municipality in Europe, the STAMP II project offers a number of support activities to municipalities involved.

In a number of seminars, representatives of municipalities get information and practical know-how on how to get involved in the Europe for Citizens Programme, how to develop a good project idea, how to involve local citizens in these activities and how to develop a good project application.

The STAMP TO EUROPE II project implements training seminars for municipalities in Austria, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Italy and Greece. Moreover, the project provides a flexible support structure of experts who are supporting municipalities with the development of their project ideas and proposals right on the spot, with a so called "flying project office". In addition, the project provides an online networking platform where municipalities and their citizens can get in touch with interested other municipalities in the countries covered by the project.

A final conference organised in November 2013 in Capannori, Italy, will gather municipalities and their citizens, from all six partner countries, to exchange ideas and good practices, as well as to find new ideas and co-operation projects for the future under the Europe for Citizens Programme 2014-2020.

For more information about the project and its offers and results, as well as for information about the final conference, please do also visit the project website under www.towntwinning.eu. The project website contains also all materials and results developed and used during the project for download.



Europe Direct Steiermark is part of a network of ten centres in Austria, 500 across Europe which aim to act as an interface between the EU and its citizens at regional level.

We can help with general questions on various aspects of Europe and can put you in touch with relevant specialists services if required. We have leaflets, brochures and materials to take away about the European Union's activities and policies. We also organise events and activities to make the public aware of the EU.

www.europe-direct.steiermark.at
europe-steiermark@steiermark.at



→ Europa und Außenbeziehungen

PEDESTRIANS FIRST!

Road safety in European Candidate Countries

Holger Bienze, die Berater®, (AT)

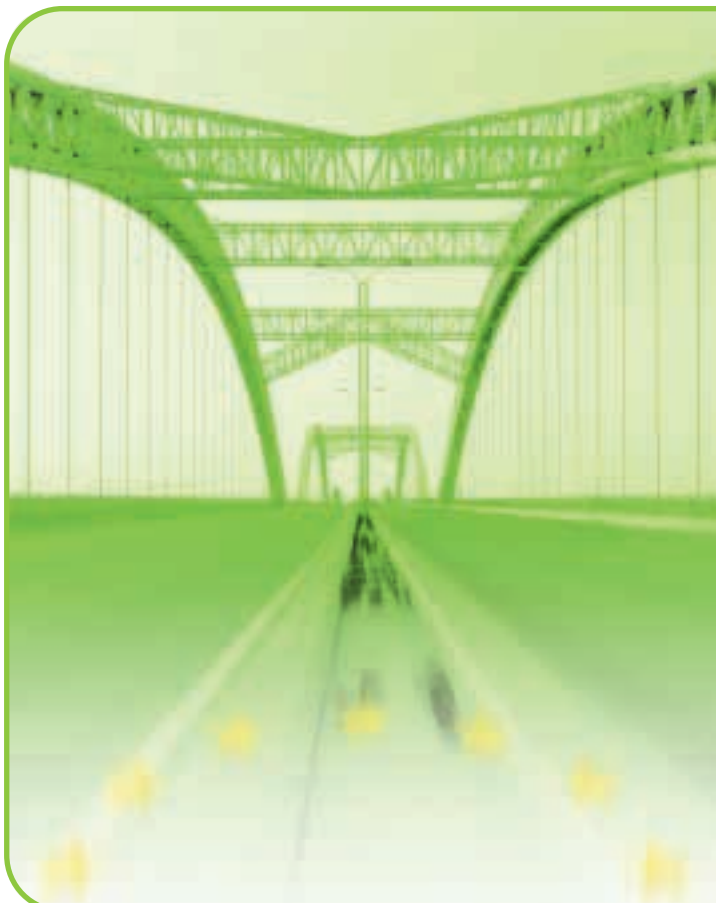
die Berater®, part of the international project platform bridges to europe, held a hugely successful teacher training programme in Vienna, for delegates from Antalya, Turkey, focusing on new methods for developing learning materials for diverse target groups in the field of road safety and pedestrian priority.

The focus of the training – developed within the framework of the European Transfer of Innovation project APPSA – was on enabling driving instructors, police officers and traffic safety officers to create target-group-oriented training courses using a variety of multimedia materials, adapted to learners' various 'multiple intelligences'. The trainees will be using their new skills to develop their own tailored trainings in Turkey, disseminating this best practice to over 50 new road-safety trainers in Antalya.

Trainees learnt that teaching road-safety legislation to learner drivers can involve more than just dictating a set of rules; instead, by using various multimedia materials, including shocking imagery from existing road safety campaigns, trainers can begin to have a real impact on the

knowledge, understanding and attitudes of learners.

Coordinated by the Directorate of Security in Antalya, Turkey, the project APPSA (Achieving Pedestrian Priority and Safety in Antalya City Centre) will run until the end of October 2013. More information can be found at www.appsa.eu



Project Clinic: First aid for your European project

How do you know when your project is in crisis? Project partners become less engaged and fail to carry out their tasks, and the goals and objectives of the project can be severely compromised.

bridges to europe focuses not only on the structures and processes of your project, but also on the people involved and the interpersonal relationships within your project team.

The project clinic from *bridges to europe* supports you with

- Advice and consultation during crisis situations
- Development of resolution strategies
- Formulation of reports and official requests
- Negotiations with the funding body
- Moderation of conflict resolution processes

bridges to europe

www.bridgestoeurope.com

info@bridgestoeurope.com | +43 / 1 / 532 45 45 – 0

Additional projects

CSR-Matrix

Spreading Corporate Social Responsibility across Europe

Bernardo Hourmat, EWF – European Welding Federation, (PT)

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has become a staple of EU policy in recent years. As organisations struggle to adapt to ever-changing business environments and increasingly negative economic and social outlooks, innovative strategies become essential in contributing to the sustainability of organisations.

To implement a CSR strategy is, therefore, to have in place a process to integrate social, environmental, ethical, human rights and consumer concerns into organisations' daily business activities. CSR-Matrix brings together a diverse partnership from Portugal, Cyprus, Slovenia, Romania and Austria, working together towards the development of a training course in CSR, as well as a self-assessment tool that can help organisations determine their level of commitment in CSR. The project is coordinated by ISQ – Instituto de Soldadura e Qualidade (PT) and includes EWF – European Welding Federation (PT), University of Nicosia (CY), CSR-GLOBAL (AT), the Romanian-German University of Sibiu (RO) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia – Institute for Business Education (SI).

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	ISQ, (PT)
Main outcome:	CSR Training Course
Website:	www.csr-matrix.com

By the project's end, the consortium will have organised training courses for "CSR-Consultants" with the knowledge and expertise in developing and implementing CSR Strategies. In addition, a training guideline based on EQF learning outcomes will allow for an extended replication of the main project outcome. The consortium will have a strong role in disseminating the project results as well as ensuring their sustainability beyond the time-frame of the project. Each partners' national and regional networks will prove useful in this objective and will ensure that the CSR-Matrix will reach a diverse range of stakeholders at the national and European level.



MaecVET

ECVET Portal for Promotion and Mutual Recognition of Massage Professions in Europe

Linnéa Koop, BBW Beckmann & Scheller, (DE)

MaecVET refers to the following situation in massage professions: there is no valid and comparable data available concerning the content, level, duration, legal frameworks, certificates and diplomas of massage professions in Europe. Furthermore, there have been no attempts made so far to establish recognition and accreditation systems for certificates and diplomas of massage professions between the European countries (EU policies such as ECVET or EQF have not yet been applied in this area). It is therefore almost impossible for masseur trainees to compare different education offers in Europe and to decide which the most appropriate one is. There is also no assurance that a certificate or diploma will have a common recognition across Europe.

The aims of MaecVET project are as follows:

- Promoting modern European VET/labour market policies more intensively throughout Europe
- Developing basic documents to allow the transnational comparison

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	BBW Beckmann & Scheller, (DE)
Main outcome:	E-Portal
Website:	www.maecvet.eu

- of massage education and levels, as well as to enable mutual recognition of VET/higher education certificates and diplomas
- Developing and promoting a brand new online portal which links various stakeholders and target groups with each other to improve VET/higher education, as well as labour market situations in the field of massage professions across Europe.

The partnership consists of nine partners from eight EU countries: Germany, Austria, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Bulgaria and the UK.



2nd project meeting in Wales, May 2013

KIM

Key Competencies for Migrants, Promoting Social Inclusion and Gender Equality

Patrizia Giorio, FormAzione Co&So Network, (IT)

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	FormAzione Co&So Network, (IT)
Main outcome:	Handbook
Website:	www.kimllp.eu

On the 1st June 2013 KIM Research has been accomplished. This research responds to a specific need to investigate and report on the state of the art regarding job insertion of Migrants, in some countries of the European Union. It represents the starting point for the tasks that will be addressed by the KIM Project in the next eighteen months.

The Research involved more than 60 educationalists across five European countries (Italy, Spain, Scotland, Sweden and Germany). Through the sharing and the comparison of good practices and the administration of a questionnaire, the KIM Project aims to identify critical aspects in the process of job insertion of migrants.

What emerged is that every partner uses 'Individual Plans' developed among singular clients and educators. The collection of these plans will allow the development of specific procedures shared among the partnership: creation of a handbook for the assessment and validation of working competences of Migrants; a handbook for training of educationalists, which will address the improvement of their key competences.

The outcome of these two handbooks will be verified by a pilot course targeting educationalists to be run in each partner country. A further step will be taken by the implementation of Individual Social Inclusion Plans (ISIP) with clients, based on the findings of the handbooks and the pilot course. In the end an analysis of ISIP will be provided by a Green Paper, which will also collect recommendations created by the sharing of good practices and by the pilot course. Website: www.kimllp.eu



Key Competences for migrants Promote social inclusion and gender equality

Additional projects

STEP IN

Building inclusive societies – a shared responsibility

Zita Beutler, AGORA Civic Education, Leibniz University of Hannover, (DE)

In the context of migration and integration processes, societies are increasingly confronted with questions regarding social and political affiliations, and possibilities to participate in civil life for all citizens, also for traditionally excluded groups such as migrants, ethnic and religious minorities, and other socially deprived persons.

Adult education can play a key role in this regard: the promotion of migrants' key competences for active citizenship, lifelong learning and participation in civil society is an important aspect of improving their chances of getting involved in the labour market and community life.

But not only migrants and minorities should be focused on; central actors of the majority society must be addressed and enabled to overcome structural integration blockades within host countries' core institutions.

An effective accompaniment of migration and integration processes needs a close cooperation of different partners on local level: educational institutions, local communities, trade unions, NGOs, churches and other social actors have to cooperate in order to improve social inclusion.

The multilateral Grundtvig project 'Step in! Building inclusive societies through active citizenship' develops educational materials that address all these actors. Experts from seven European countries cooperate in order to design new approaches to strengthen civic, social and

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Lifelong Learning Programme
Co-ordinator:	Leibniz University of Hannover, (DE)
Main outcome:	Educational material
Website:	www.stepin-grundtvig.org

intercultural competences of, firstly, migrants and members of ethnic minorities; secondly, members of receiving countries, especially stakeholders of parties, NGOs, public authorities; and thirdly, adult learning professionals. Please feel invited to learn more about the project: www.stepin-grundtvig.org



IYT

International Youth Training on Service Learning – looking for participants

Sónia Tomás, CCPL – Confederation of the portuguese community in Luxembourg, (LU)

From 15 to 22 September 2013 a training course on Service Learning will be held in Luxembourg, with 21 participants from seven different countries: Luxembourg, Romania, Cyprus, Hungary, Bulgaria, Portugal and Turkey. CCPL is an active non-profit organisation working in the field of volunteering in Luxembourg.

During the last years, we have been involved in a series of international projects and have also begun hosting international volunteers. The foreign organisations we have been working with in various international projects have been invited to be our partners in this training and to contribute to the preparation, implementation and follow-up.

The Service Learning method requires and enhances diversity, therefore our partners are very diverse, ranging from environmental organisations

AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Youth in action
Co-ordinator:	CCPL, (LU)
Main outcome:	Training course
Website:	www.ccpl.lu

to youth centres, organisations focused on development and minorities' organisations. We plan for them to get involved during the training programme by sharing their expertise from their specific fields of activity, so as to prove that this method can be applied in various fields and situations.

The partner organisations have played an important role in preparing the project. We planned the programme and scheduled the activities according to the training needs identified in partner organisations, as far as community involvement is concerned. All partners will get involved in the preparation of participants, who will be familiar with the situations and state of things in their own organisations and countries. The partners will pay proper attention to the selection of participants, who will:

- gather information about the formal education system in their countries

- prepare presentations about their countries, to facilitate the exchange of information about cultures and improve intercultural dialogue
- design presentation materials about their organisations, projects and methods they use.

CCPL and its partners will give priority to participants with fewer opportunities, who will be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity of being part of this project.

All partners will get involved in the project's promotion, before the training and after it finishes, disseminating the outcomes locally. Feel free to send your application form if you want to participate in this training to the following email: ccpl@ccpl.lu.

Bridging EU and Western Balkans

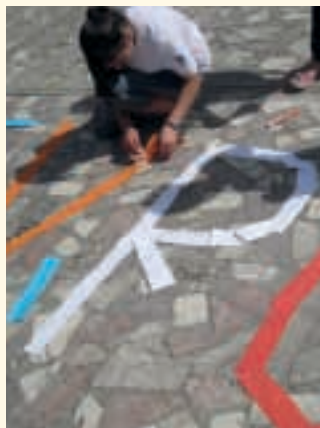
Active European Citizenship for Democracy and Participation: Bridging EU and Western Balkans

Irena Topalli, Beyond Barriers, (AL)

The project, hosted by Beyond Barriers Association, is a joint action among partner associations from Albania, Poland, Germany, Serbia, United Kingdom and Macedonia. Its goal is to further explore the European citizenship notions and the impact that EU policies and the prospective EU membership of Western Balkan countries have on democracy and participation across EU and the Western Balkans

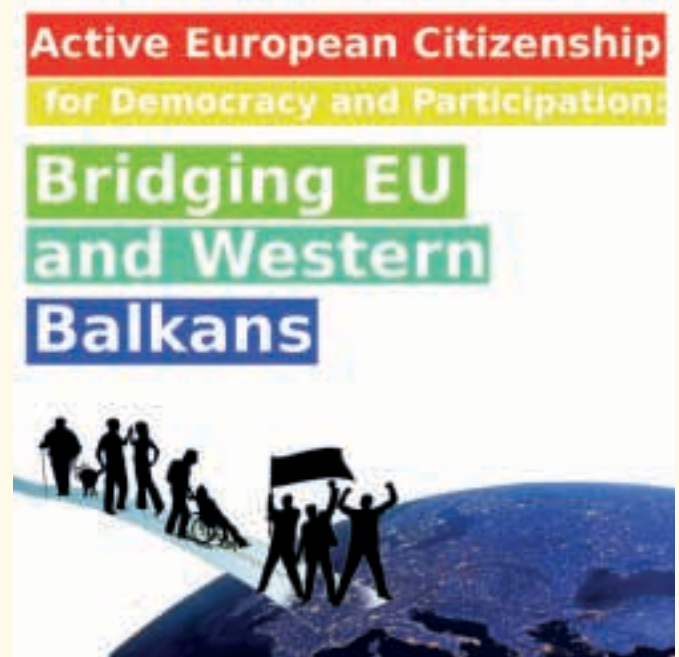
Having understood the current development challenges for the European Union, the project aims to contribute towards building a more citizen-based Europe that focuses not only on the economic dimension, but also on the political inclusion of citizens living within the European community, as well as prospective citizens living in developing democracies in the Western Balkans. For this reason we wanted to target the European Year of Citizenship, and volunteering, as a good opportunity to realise citizens' initiative, fostering reflection and debate on the relevance and implications of EU policies on citizens' daily lives, particularly in relation to their opportunities to influence political decision-making process on local and European levels.

A set of activities is planned to reach the objectives in response to a need for an intensified involvement of citizens on local, national and European levels at a moment where the successful model of European integration (at the 20th birthday of EU citizenship), based on economic and political integration, is challenged by the economic crisis.



AT A GLANCE

Programme:	Europe for Citizens
Co-ordinator:	Beyond Barriers, (AL)
Main outcome:	Workshops and survey analysis
Website:	www.beyondbarriers.org



Three participatory workshops and a grassroots citizen survey on citizenship and perception of citizens' role in democratic life in Albania, Macedonia and Serbia will be implemented during the project, followed by two regional meetings of practitioners on citizenship education and European policies on EU-Citizenship in Germany and Macedonia.

The final conference, in Albania, focusing on civic education and European citizenship, and the impact on EU policies, to strengthen democratic participation of its current and prospective citizens, and the launch of the survey publication, shall end the project in December 2014. A dedicated website and social media tools are now being developed for the project and will help to reach the online community as means of spreading and exchanging information.

The main objective of the project is to analyse the perception of citizenship and European citizenship among citizens of Western Balkan and enhance citizens' participation in the democratic life of the EU by encouraging interaction between citizens, CSOs and policymakers in partner countries on issues of relevance for European citizens.

Continuously

CITIZENS DIALOGUES

Europe

As the debate about the future of Europe gathers pace, the European Commission is reaching out to citizens by visiting towns across Europe and asking them directly for their views.

Find the upcoming dialogues at:

ec.europa.eu/debate-future-europe/citizens-dialogues/index_en.htm



2013

OCTOBER

22nd Annual Volonteuropa Conference & 7th Active Citizens of Europe (ACE) Awards

16-18 October 2013, Bucharest, (RO)

The Volonteuropa Network and its Romanian member Chance for Life are delighted to be organising the 22nd Annual Volonteuropa Conference in Bucharest. Over 100 participants from 20 different countries are expected to attend. Delegates can expect a wide range of formal events, as well as dynamic networking opportunities during themed Roundtables, which will be delivered by leading volunteering, active citizenship and social justice practitioners and experts from across Europe.

Conference fees are as following: **€150** for Volonteuropa Members/Associates; **€250** for non-members; **€20** special daily rate for Romania-based NGOs and volunteers.

Accommodation is at RIN Grand Hotel in Bucharest at a specially-negotiated rate of **€39** per night, single room including breakfast (or **€49** double).

For full details and programme of the conference, as well as to register and book your accommodation, please visit www.volonteuropa.eu/event/annual-conference/

We are also accepting nominations for outstanding volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations for ACE Awards 2013, with Gala Ceremony in Bucharest on 17 October 2013. To download a nomination form, please visit www.volonteuropa.eu/ace2013/.



European Local Democracy Week

14-20 October 2013, Europe

"Active citizenship: voting, sharing, participating" is the leading theme of the 2013 edition of the European Local Democracy Week. "European Local Democracy Week" (ELDW) is an annual European event where local authorities from all the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe organise public events to meet and engage with their citizens on issues of current interest. The aim is to promote and foster democratic participation at a local level.

www.coe.int/t/congress/demoweb/info_en.asp?mytabsmenu=1

NOVEMBER

Learning through Volunteering

12th November 2013, Vienna, (AT)

Organising body: die Berater®
Participant fee: Free

Theme/topic

Promoting active-ageing senior volunteering has an invaluable effect on our societies. Presentations and workshops will address the learning potential of volunteering and how it can be measured to add to senior volunteers' motivation and sense of achievement.

Further Information: www.river-project.eu
Satke Maren: m.satke@dieberater.com



The EU and the promise of democracy: What can Citizenship Education and Civil Society contribute?

14-16 November 2013, The Hague, (NL)

This year's NECE (Networking European Citizenship Education) Conference will discuss questions concerning the further development and reshaping of the EU, which can only be a success if it is based on democratic participation and the effective involvement of civil society. This will have consequences for citizenship education in Europe as it means critical testing and reflection on European policy campaigns, discourses and projects in the face of crisis.

www.bpb.de/veranstaltungen/netzwerke/nece/162062/conference-the-eu-and-the-promise-of-democracy-what-can-citizenship-education-and-civil-society-contribute

STAMP2 Final Conference Get ready for European town twinning!

21-22 November 2013, Capannori, (IT)

Exchange of experience and good practices for municipality cooperation and involvement of citizens, development of project ideas for the new Europe for Citizens programme www.towntwinning.eu



DECEMBER

European Year of Citizens 2013 Closing event & Citizens' Dialogue

12-13 December 2013, Hotel „Le Meridien“ Vilnius, (LT)

Closing event of the European year of Citizens will be held in Vilnius on the 12-13 December. The event will include the Citizens' Dialogue where Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission, who will participate in the meeting with the representatives of Lithuanian civil society and European conference on citizens' rights, with expected 300 participants from all over the Europe. V. Reding is also expected to open this conference.

www.eu2013.lt/en/events/the-closing-event-of-the-european-year-of-citizens



2014

APRIL

SPACIT Comenius Course - Open for Application

Reflexive and participatory uses of geomedias in secondary education.

28 April - 2 May 2014, Iasi, (RO)

Registration deadline: 14th September 2013. Fee: **450€**
Organiser: Z_GIS Department of Geoinformatics, Paris - Lodron University Salzburg, Austria Five-day Comenius course on "Using ICT and Geoinformation for Citizenship education in schools" with the reference number AT-2014-373-001

For further Information: www.spatialcitizenship.org/



SPECIAL EDITION
IN THE FRAMEWORK
OF THE EUROPEAN
YEAR OF CITIZENS
2013

Get active!

Join in!

Spotlighting European developments and projects

This and previous editions of the Focus Europe Magazine are also available online at:

www.enter-network.eu

For feedback and questions please contact
Petra Kampf at

petra.kampf@enter-network.eu

YOURopa

Promoting concepts and ideas of Active European Citizenship

<http://youropa-project.eu>

<http://facebook.com/youropaproject>



ACTIVE CITIZENS
YOUropa

Partners:



E.N.T.E.R. - European Network for Transfer and Exploitation of EU Project Results

Ms. Petra Kampf
E: petra.kampf@enter-network.eu
T: +43 316 329005
www.enter-network.eu



CSV – Community Service Volunteers
VolontEurope – European Network for Volunteering and Active Citizenship

Mr. Piotr Sadowski
E: psadowski@csv.org.uk
T: +44 (0) 20 7643 1329
www.csv.org.uk
www.volonturope.org



Lifelong Learning Programme

527995-LLP-1-2012-AT-GRUNDTVIG-GAM
This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.
This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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