

What could
European Citizenship
in youth work
look like?



"I like to sit around the fire and talk about our underlying motives. I had found that if those motives became obscure, to them or to myself, our ability to act successfully suffered. That is why we had to work to keep them alive like the flames in the hearth...Liberty means civilization. Civilization means rules and institutions. The essential objective of all our efforts is to develop mankind, not to proclaim a fatherland, big or small."

(Jean Monnet, "Memoirs")
one of the founding fathers of the EU referring to
the early struggles to launch the 'European project'

Follow-up Seminar on the European Citizenship modules

Eisenborn -Luxembourg-, 15th - 17th November 2007

In cooperation with the National Agencies from Germany, Hungary and the United Kingdom



Table of contents

● The background of the seminar, the seminar	3
● The actors of the seminar, the contents of this publication, acknowledgments	4
● Key characteristics of youth work projects on European Citizenship	5
“From the needs of participants and adapted to them”	
“Involve participants”	
“Motivated leaders and participants”	
“Diverse methods and adequate”	
“Emotional” as well	
“Diverse team, participants, topics, outcomes...”	
“Linking the global and the local”	
“Europe of values. A certain “utopia”	
“Europe - European Union”	
“Europe - The rest of the world”	
“Concrete and sustainable outcomes”	
“Through different educational strategies”	
“Multiplication and dissemination of results”	
● Remaining challenges	19
● Useful publications for European Citizenship projects	20



The background of the Seminar

European Citizenship has recently become a widely used buzz-word, but its promotion has been a long-standing priority of the Council of Europe and European Union alike. This co-operation between the Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sports on the one hand and the European Union's European Commission on the other happens in the framework of a Partnership with the following aims:

- to make young people and multipliers aware of human rights and of the common values European citizens share and to provide them with the skills and tools to enhance their activities in this context;
- to train, at trans-national level, youth workers and youth leaders as well as other multipliers in the youth field, to develop and consolidate innovative training approaches in this context and to sustain and widen existing networks of youth workers and youth leaders;
- to promote the understanding of and the respect for cultural diversity and intercultural co-operation.

Quite a few pilot activities have been run with youth workers and youth leaders since 2001 on this theme; a training kit (T-kit) has been edited and recently also shorter training modules were successfully tested.

The seminar ← - - -

The seminar held in Eisenborn -Luxembourg 15th - 17th of November 2007- was a follow-up seminar from the series of 12 modules on European Citizenship which were developed by the Partnership in 2005-2006, with the support and in collaboration with the National Agencies. It took place in a key moment regarding the development of European Citizenship projects.

The Network Courses on European Citizenship organised by different National Agencies during 2007 continued the efforts of the previous modules and inspire activities within the Youth in Action Programme and beyond.

After almost a year of implementation of the “new” Youth in Action Programme the seminar provided opportunities, to share successful practice but challenges and difficulties as well. Participants reflected on how to overcome these difficulties to work better with young people on European Citizenship and disseminate the results more effectively.

This follow-up seminar aimed to build on the experience of the previous Modules on European Citizenship (organised in 2005-2006) and to help former participants to become active multipliers in the field of European Citizenship.

To reach this aim, the team defined the following objectives:

- To encourage participants to share good practice and experience on their European Citizenship projects;
- To review critically the quality of these projects in their contexts, in order to allow other European Citizenship promoters to learn from this;
- To assess the impact of their work on European Citizenship at personal and community level, with the purpose of strengthening it;
- To explore possible means and ways of disseminating and exploiting the results of European Citizenship projects;
- To identify necessary elements of European citizenship projects;
- To come up with recommendations for the development of projects and share them with European Citizenship promoters;
- To motivate participants to use the opportunities provided by the Youth in Action Programme in the field of European Citizenship.

The actors of the Seminar

- The participants: Abdul AMIN, Agshin RASULOV, Andreas WEIST, Annette SCHULER, Antje LEICHSENRING, Blerina GJEKA, Carol THOMPSON-ELLIS, Dennis OSBORNE, Emma ALLAKHVERDYAN, Erzsébet KOVÁCS, Jovana KARANIKIK, Kateryna ARDANYAN, Luc WENDLING, Mándli Szivia PORTÖRÖNÉ, Mariela LAZI, Péter FEJÉR, Shakeh BADALYAN, Sihana NEBIU and Vakhtang ASANIDZE.
- The N.A. representatives: Hazel PATTERSON, Csilla SZABO and Charles GASPERI
- The Partnership Secretariat: Florian CESCION
- The trainers: Kees HOOGENDOORN, Vojislava TOMIC
- The trainer-documentalist and editor of this publication: Miguel Angel GARCIA LOPEZ



The contents ← - - - of this publication

From the rich learning outcomes of the seminar we have selected the ones which are probably more interesting and relevant for promoters and others on European Citizenship in youth work. We have grouped them around 13 key characteristics of youth work projects on European Citizenship based on the experience of participants on implementing projects on European Citizenship.

In their formulation most of those characteristics are valid for any kind of projects. Their specific importance and relevance for projects on European Citizenship are briefly explained and illustrated with concrete examples of European Citizenship projects and activities. Those are very practical and helpful examples of the all day life or project life reality of youth work.

The seminar had a specific focus on the dissemination and exploitation of results. Participants shared experience from their projects on this topic. Apart from that, some examples of good practice in Luxembourg were explored.

At the end there is a brief presentation of the remaining challenges (starting by the question “What is European Citizenship?”) and a list of other useful publications.

Acknowledgments ← -

Thanks to the staff of the Eisenborn Youth Centre for their friendly hosting
Thanks to M. Ernst Moutschen, head of the Maison de l’Europe, (the representative office of the European Commission in Luxembourg) for the kind reception

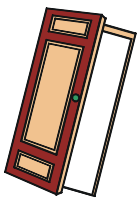
Key characteristics

of youth work projects on European Citizenship

--> "From the needs of participants and adapted to them"



The notion of European Citizenship is a bit abstract and might sound "too institutional" for participants. It is therefore necessary to link it with their interests which can be very diverse (empowerment, participation, inclusion, intercultural learning ...). This adaptation and link to the target group should be considered and checked continuously.



Project: "Adam and Eva in 21st Century"
Responsible: Vakhtang Asanidze
Organisation: National Council of Youth Organizations of Georgia /NCYOG/ & Estonian Organization "HEADEST" financed by Estonian National Agency
Web site: www.ncyog.ge
Dates and place: 26th June - 5th July 2007. Karolina Bugas, Ukraine

The participants of this project were representatives of youth organisations (18-25 y.o.) from the following countries: Armenia, Turkey, Italy, Georgia, Netherlands and Ukraine.

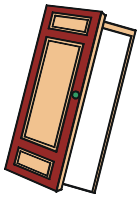
The project explored gender related issues: Equal opportunities in Society, developments of gender roles in our societies, stereotypes about gender, gender and culture, Roles of men and women and gender equality. The methods used included historical overviews on the topics, games, simulation exercises, case studies, discussions...

Gender issues were linked to the idea of European Citizenship; gender equality is intimately related to inclusion, participation and equal opportunities of young people in Society.

--> "Involving participants"



If one of the underlying messages of European Citizenship projects is "to be active" it would be a contradiction not to promote this during the activities and training programmes.



Project: You(th) Act for rights
Responsible: Jovana Karanikic
Organisation: Centre for Intercultural Dialogue
Web site: <http://cid-mk.org>
Dates and place: September 2007 Ohrid, FYRO Macedonia

This seven days Training course aimed to promote European Citizenship and Human Rights as its underlying value, among 28 young people from 7 different countries from Europe (Albania, Czech Republic Greece, FYRO Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Serbia).

The approach we applied during all the training was active participation of the group. This means that participants have been given a chance to organise activities by themselves. The sessions about active citizenship and the Youth in Action programme included interactive exercises.

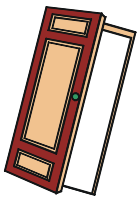
Among other methodologies the course promoted very particularly the Forum Theatre as a universal form of expression between people, universal medium for sharing ideas and of promotion of active participation of citizens. Through our theatre workshops we worked around the notion of European Citizenship allowing all participants to get involve in the scene and make changes according to own opinion. Through the final performance in front of the young people -local activists- the participants presented issues discussed during the course (discrimination, lack of transparency in the European institutions, violation of Human Rights) in an interesting way allowing to audience to intervene and get actively involved. In this way they became aware of the same role of agents of changes.

Forum Theatre is one of the most important modalities of the Theatre of the oppressed. For more information, available in different languages, see: <http://www.theatreoftheoppressed.org>.

--> "Motivated leaders and participants"



European Citizenship is not, at first sight, an "attractive" topic and is not always easy to explore. The motivation of leaders and participants plays a particularly important role.



Project: The democracy knowledge
Responsible: Aqshin Rasulov
Organisation: Society and Prosperity of Azerbaijan
Dates and place: Spring 2006, rural regions
Contact: akshin.rasulov@hess.com

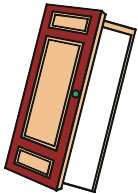
This project was implemented in rural regions of Azerbaijan, where there is a lack of access of the local population (mainly Youth) to the media and to basic information about the functioning of democracy, citizenship and essence of it; participation. This lack of access was precisely a factor of motivation for trainers and participants. Another motivating factor was the link done to the elections in Azerbaijan (parliamentary, presidential and municipal); i.e. some of them could become observers in the presidential elections of 2008.

The target group was mainly young people of 12 different regions and the overall purpose was to promote active citizenship; this means the effective participation in the civil and political life. The project included the exploration of the notion of citizen and citizenship and the theoretical and practical training in groups of 20-25, in 12 different regions of Azerbaijan.

--> "Diverse methods and adequate"



The diversity of methods responds to different learning styles of participants. With European Citizenship, this diversity of methods is needed to embrace the different dimensions of its complexity: personal, interpersonal, as group, institutional, rational, value-based...



Project: Workshop on Methods for European Citizenship Education
Responsible: Antje Leichsenring
Organization: Krzyżowa Foundation for Mutual Understanding in Europe, Poland
Web site: www.krzyzowa.org.pl
Dates and place: 1st - 5th March 2007 in Krzyżowa, Poland

When we designed this workshop during a module on European Citizenship we realized, however, that there is a lack of concrete material, methodical hints and practical guidance for youth workers wanting to deal with the issue. How can the concept of European Citizenship be transferred into practice? How can we make sense of the concept during youth exchanges and in our everyday work with young people? We were convinced that there is an urgent need to discuss possible ways to break down the issue European Citizenship for the practice in international youth work.

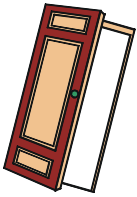
After our workshop with 21 participants from 8 European countries a website was created, where the methods on European Citizenship (and additional on the topic participation) can be uploaded. The website (at the moment under <http://teszt.i-network.hu/>) also have the function of collecting methods "under construction", so that the users can develop new methods together and share their knowledge with other people. The website was mainly organized and financed by the regional office of the Hungarian National Agency of the Youth in Action Program in Debrecen. At the moment the website is "under construction" and it is expected to start working in spring 2008.

Note: In the SALTO Tool box there are numerous training tools on European Citizenship. See <http://www.salto-youth.net/toolbox/>

--> "Emotional" as well



European Citizenship is a rational notion but is related to identity, identification, sense of belonging and values as well. It is therefore important to consider the emotional dimension of the different activities of a project.



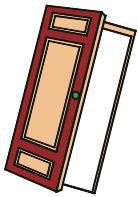
Project: Cultural Diversity - a common wealth. Awareness raising on the shared values across Nations and Cultures.
Responsible: Blerina Gjeka, Albania (Currently working for UNV - Albania)
Organisation: "Contemporary Vision for Development and Human Rights" Centre
Web site: www.qendravizion.org
Dates and place: 17th - 22nd April 2006, Tirana, Albania

In this project participants went through different exercises, role plays and simulations. The idea behind was not just „to know“ about the problems of inclusion and participation related to European Citizenship but „to experience them“ in those exercises. For example, in the "Life chance game", participants were introduced more in-depth with the topic of discrimination; empathy was promoted with others who are different; awareness was raised about the inequality of opportunities in society; and understanding of possible personal consequences of belonging to certain social minorities or cultural groups was fostered. In this activity participants experienced what it is like to be someone else in their society and they discussed the issues of "Social inequality being often a source of discrimination and exclusion" and "Empathy and its limits" in the perspective of an inclusive understanding of Citizenship.

--> "Diverse team, participants, topics, outcomes..."



This is particularly important when dealing with European Citizenship. The meanings and understandings of citizenship and the visions of Europe are influenced by history, tradition, geopolitics and regional background. It is important that the project reflects this diversity.



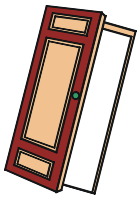
Project: Youth Conference "Debating on Europe"
Responsible: Szilvia Mándli
Organisation: Hungarian Debate Association
Dates and place: Almere City Hall, Győr, Hungary

The objectives of the conference were to raise the interest of the students in topics related to European citizenship, to train reasoning skills and to develop the ability to express their opinion. The participants were students (14-18 years old) from France, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Russia and Hungary. The conference followed the Model European Parliament: a simulation game on politics for young people. In order to cover the diverse interests of participants and the different dimensions of European Citizenship there were four committees: one on women's rights and gender problems, one on civil rights, justice and internal affairs, one on culture and education and one on employment and social affairs. As a group of different nationalities the participants had to make a resolution addressing several problems such as the 'brain drain', violence against women, education of the youth and unemployment which was presented in the full assembly in the City-Hall.

--> "Linking the global and the local"



Projects having a European dimension but rooted in the local reality / encouraging local involvement too



Project: "Local Heritage and Identity in a Globalizing World"
Responsible: Emma Allakhverdyan
Organisation: Federation of Youth Clubs of Armenia (FYCA)
Web site: www.youthclubs.am
Dates and place: 2nd - 9th July 2006, Lusakert, Armenia

Nowadays young people live in the globalised world and experience permanently "European" trends and standards in their every day life as students, workers, consumers ... It is often a challenge for them to align this reality with their own "local" values, culture and traditions. In some countries they are even put in the dilemma of choosing between being a "patriot" or a "modern cosmopolitan".

During a youth exchange participants explored the potentialities and challenges of globalisation and of European integration in relation with their own cultures, identities and senses of belonging.

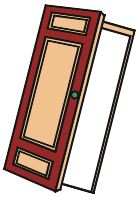
The participants of the project were young people (18-25 y.o.) from Armenia, Russia, Belarus, Sweden, Lithuania and Poland. This project was designed by those youngsters, who became later leaders of their national groups.

They discussed, for example, whether there is an European identity and if so, find out how we identify with it and their feeling of being or not an European citizen.

--> "Europe of values. A certain "utopia"



Discussing the underlying and guiding values that should guide European integration. Carrying the message that "it is possible to build up a new Europe"



Project: "European Integration: Ways and Means towards Integrated and Peaceful Neighbourhood"
Responsible: Shakeh Badalyan
Organisation: International Centre for Human Development NGO
Web site: www.ichd.org
Dates and place: 27th - 30th July 2006, Yerevan, Armenia

In Armenia the issues of cooperation with the European institutions is a very relevant and actual one. European aspirations are the most sensible motivation for adopting a common vector of development for the countries in Caucasus.

A conference held in Armenia explored European Citizenship and its underlying values of peace, human rights, democracy and social cohesion as the basis for security and co-operation in the Caucasus.

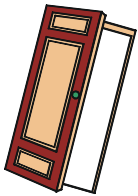
The participants were students, representatives of various organizations from Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine, Turkey, Russia, Bulgaria, and Romania as well as major institutions such as the EU, NATO, OSCE, CoE.

The Conference fostered the mutual respect, the dialogue, the information exchange and cooperation as strategies for a regional peaceful development towards European integration.

— —> “Europe - European Union”



The European Union is the most relevant political and institutional reality when talking about Europe and the most influential one for young people. At the same time Europe is more than the European Union. This “permanent tension” is something to be considered and explicitly explored when implementing projects on European Citizenship.



Project: Let's build Europe together!
Responsible: Luc Wendling
Organisation: Together Luxembourg asbl
Web site: www.network-together.eu
Dates and place: 5th -13th May 2006 Diekirch, Luxembourg

The youth exchange “Let's build Europe together!” brought to Luxembourg 48 young participants from 8 countries to discuss about the future of Europe.

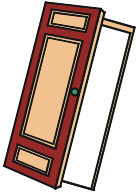
During the 8 days of programme, they participated in a unique simulation game about the European Union. They simulated the enlargement process of EU, adopted new European laws, solved problems like BSE epidemic or environmental disaster, organised press conferences, wrote newspapers, had diplomatic meetings with other countries about possible co-operation etc. In an interactive and entertaining way, they were able to discover how the united Europe functions. The main aim was to promote the European awareness among young people, bring the European Union closer to them, to help them understand it better. Young people visited the European Union institutions in Luxembourg and Brussels and were welcomed by Mrs. Erna Hennicot-Schoepges in the European Parliament.

They also had many opportunities to learn more about other cultures, break cultural stereotypes, get to know new friends from all over Europe and discover a bit of Luxembourg's culture.

--> "Europe - The rest of the world"



Considering phenomena such as economic globalisation, migration processes, environmental degradation, intercultural relations, it is necessary to integrate global vision in the discussion about Europe.... All these elements are very relevant for European Citizenship.



Project: International Cultural Youth Project
Responsible: Abdul Amin, U.K.
Organisation: Sunderland City Council - Youth Development Group
Web site: www.sunderlandchildrenstrust.org.uk
Dates and place: 10th - 18th March 2007 Doha, Qatar

In the present climate Muslims are being highlighted as radicals and extremists in the popular western media. Our involvement in this project was to address raising level of racism in the city, which is highlighted in the recent Joint Area Review, by enabling young people to meet other young people from different cultures.

We worked in partnership with The Youth General Authority in Qatar, our contacts in Finland, Hungary, Russia, Denmark and Estonia to develop a cultural project that challenges stereo-typical images of Arabs by creating an opportunity for young people from Europe and Qatar to meet and exchange dialogues and learn about each others cultures.

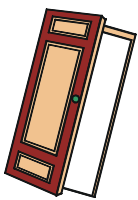
Over 70 young people from all the above mentioned countries spent a week (10th - 18th March 2007) together in Doha, Qatar.

By coming face to face with their counterpart from Arab and other European countries young people were able to ask questions and clarify facts from myths. They came home with a very positive attitude towards people from other cultures and see the value of having a diverse society.

--> "Concrete and sustainable outcomes"



"Awareness raising" on European Citizenship is important, but the projects and activities should go beyond that. Concrete and sustainable social transformation should be also included in the outcomes aimed for.



Project: "Unser TREFF.punkt" / mental-handicapped youngsters in Luxembourg
Name: Andreas Weist, Luxembourg
Organisation: Yolande asbl
Web site: www.csse.lu
Dates and place: Institut St. Joseph Betzdorf, Luxembourg, since 2005

The project is addressed to the people living in the Institut St. Joseph, one of the oldest facilities for handicapped people in Luxembourg. In 2007 two EVS-volunteers rearranged the former lunchroom to a "meeting place" - "Eisen Treffpunkt"; a kind of AGORA for social integration and equal opportunities through playing, relaxing, reading, cinema, party, disco or creative activities.

The purpose is to bring the children and youngsters in contact with people from outside; going beyond the borders of the institution while creating social contacts and going beyond the borders of the country of Luxembourg through the contact with youngsters of other countries.

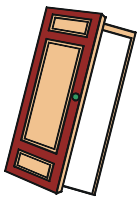
Mentally handicapped young people have great learning results through the practical experience, the daily contact and the social interaction with other youngsters and volunteers from other countries.

In the future, international and/or local volunteers will carry on this project and be responsible for the regular opening hours of the "Treffpunkt".

--> "Through different educational strategies"



European Citizenship can be "the topic" of a project. But it can also be a horizontal issue which cross-fertilises others (inclusion, human rights, cultural diversity, participation...). European Citizenship can be also an "outcome" or "arrival" notion when integrating a European dimension in local or national youth work. These and other educational strategies are equally valid for European Citizenship in youth work.



Project: Projects within the remit of participation and Democracy/citizenship, Diversity and inclusion. Focused on Youth Assembly and World band Music Project.

Name: Dennis Osborne

Organisation: Independent. Working with Enfield Youth Service

Contact: dennisossie@hotmail.co.uk

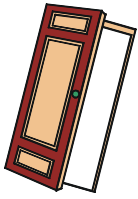
Dates and place: 2007, Enfield, U.K.

Within the borough there are more than 96 community languages.

Overall the aim of the two projects is to ensure that young people become active citizens, engaged in meaningful activities which offer them the opportunity to express themselves in a variety of ways. The project systematically addressed matters of European citizenship and the changing nature of Europe. It also addressed wider global issues, particularly ethnicity, migration, appropriation etc.

- Within the Youth Assembly young people were involved from the very first stages of the research programme, through to the writing of their constitution and consequently the designing and running of the elections. Young people designed and developed all the publicity materials and created a website that draws hits internationally. The young people have engaged with colleagues in Europe assisting them to develop similar organisations and campaigns etc.

...



...

- The music project did similar things via a similar process. The group utilised the languages of the members of the band at any given time and also created a fusion music reflecting the music of the different cultures. They developed a website and online studio and played and recorded music with the colleagues across Europe. Members of the band also travel abroad to share the project with other young people.

In both cases the methodology employed is one of informal learning based on choice and respect. Young people are given opportunities to participate and to direct the pathway thus having the ability to influence the outcome. Democratic processes of inclusion and participation are central to the work with the young people. The project worked primarily with the young people from their own experiences and starting point.

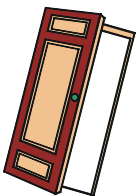


— —> “Multiplication and dissemination of results”

The seminar was originally planned as a “valorisation” seminar. Following the recent changes in the YiA programme, there was a special focus in the dissemination and exploitation of results.



This aspect is important in every project, but it is strategically even more for European Citizenship projects. The topic is still not sufficiently present in the agenda of decision-makers and in the discussions within civil society at local, national and European level.



The projects of participants and the good practice seminar in Luxembourg tell us that “dissemination and exploitation of results” should not be an appendix or a “final addition” to the project but something to be considered from the beginning.

Different projects included relevant follow-up activities for generating the aimed multiplier effect: magazines, reports, DVDs, networks, posters, further projects, radio programmes, new partnership, youth policy papers, educational materials...

Moreover, as we saw in the video productions of the Eisenborn Youth Centre or in the examples of youth exchanges carried out by “Together”, the final tool for dissemination (video productions, theatre performance, cultural festival...) can be the “red line” of a project.

In other words, with the idea of doing, for example, a final theatre performance we can attract potential participants, work out different European Citizenship related topics using theatre techniques and at the end have an excellent platform for dissemination and exploitation of results.

Remaining challenges

— —> “Ok, very nice but at the end, what is European Citizenship?”



This was said by a participant at the end of one of the modules after having been exploring the topic for five days. It is probably a good expression of the mixture of “attractive challenge” and “frustration” that promoters feel when working on this topic.

Is there a final answer to the question “What is European Citizenship? The fact that European Citizenship is, indeed, a notion “under construction”, should not undermine what has already been achieved in the modules or prevent the further constructive confrontation of ideas and approaches.

- The T-kit on European Citizenship, the modules documentation, the curriculum for the courses and the collection of methods used by beneficiaries, for example in the SALTO tool box, should be better known and used.

- There is the need to articulate a “more transferable” conceptual framework and better adapted methods to the different target groups. The above-mentioned resources and publications are a valid base but they probably need to be updated to offer more consistent educational support for beneficiaries.

- The National Agencies staff could benefit - possibly through specific training sessions- from this conceptual framework and accumulated experience so that they can implement this priority in the YiA programme better.

- Another big challenge is to have the possibility of implementing projects on a pan-European scale. The opportunities of the YiA programme involving participants from neighbouring countries are appreciated. But beneficiaries feel that they are not satisfactory: the ideal that participants from all the different countries should participate on equal footing was expressed many times. Given this situation and being realistic, the best hope is, on the one hand, to use the current possibilities within the YiA programme as much as possible, and on the other hand, to look for other possibilities for the involvement of young people from all around Europe.

- In the YiA programme it is still a challenge to introduce Youthpass as an instrument for the recognition of learning and not mere certification.

Useful publications for European Citizenship projects



- **Youth in Action programme guide:**
The Programme Guide is a tool for anybody who would like to participate in the Youth in Action Programme. It includes the necessary information about the priorities, actions and main features of the Programme as well as the criteria and conditions on how to participate.

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm

- **T-Kit on European Citizenship:**
The training kits are thematic publications written by experienced youth trainers. They are easy-to-use handbooks for use in training and youth projects.

http://www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/publications/T-kits/7/Tkit_7_EN

- **Study on Citizenship Education - DG Education and Culture**

http://ec.europa.eu/education/doc/reports/index_en.html

- **Reports of training courses, follow-up and research seminars, evaluation studies... on European Citizenship**

<http://www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/training/europeancitizenship.html>