



Conclusive Report

Follow-up Seminar on the European Citizenship Modules



Eisenborn, Luxembourg
15th - 17th November 2007

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Background

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. Violations of human rights within and outside the EU and the increasing change of patterns of political participation are only two of many developments, which have brought the two big European institutions together to work on European Citizenship. 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 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, as well as 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 respect for cultural diversity and intercultural cooperation.

Quite a few pilot activities have been run with youth workers and youth leaders since 2001 on this theme; a training kit (T-kit) was written and recently also shorter training modules were successfully tested. This seminar is 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 of the National Agencies. This is the first Seminar dealing with the dissemination and exploitation of results of the former Modules.

The seminar was hosted by the Luxembourg National Agency of the EU "Youth in Action" Programme.

<http://www.snj.lu/europe>

The seminar was co-organised by the Youth-Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

<http://www.training-youth.net>

Both the Partnership and the Luxembourg National Agency have a long tradition in non-formal education and training.

The seminar was held at Eisenborn in Luxembourg one of the Luxembourg National Youth Board Training Centres. The Eisenborn Training Centre is member of the European Network of Youth Centres.

<http://www.snj.lu/centres/eisenborn/index.html>

Aim, objectives, expected outcomes and profile of participants

Aim:

- 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 practices and experiences on their European Citizenship projects;
- To critically review the quality of these projects in their contexts, in order for other European Citizenship practitioners 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 practitioners;
- To motivate participants to use the opportunities of the Youth in Action Programme in the field of European Citizenship.

Outcomes:

Apart from this conclusive report, there will be a compilation of project descriptions and a publication with ideas, criteria and experiences for European Citizenship practitioners, based on the experience of the participants.

Profile of participants:

The participants in the seminar were youth workers and youth leaders who:

- have been active in developing European Citizenship projects since the end of the Modules;
- or have at least developed a clear view of European Citizenship projects they would like to develop in the future.

See Annex 1: List of Participants - Page 8

Programme

Wednesday 14th	Thursday 15th	Friday 16th	Saturday 17th	Sunday 18th
<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>Breakfast</i>
	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Expectations</p> <p>“Dissemination and exploitation of results” What do we mean?</p> <p>Getting to know each other</p>	<p>Quality and impact of participants’ projects on European Citizenship</p>	<p>Elements of European citizenship projects</p> <p>Recommendations for the development of EC projects</p>	<p>Departures</p>
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	
<p>Arrivals</p>	<p>Refreshing the notion of European Citizenship</p> <p>Sharing European Citizenship practices and experiences</p> <p>Learning groups</p>	<p>Disseminating and exploiting the results of European Citizenship projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the Eisenborn centre - In the YIA Programme <p>... A best practice example’ in Luxembourg</p>	<p>YIA and COE: opportunities for E.C. work</p> <p>Follow-up Evaluation</p>	
<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Dinner</i>	
Welcome	Movies, food and drinks	Dinner out	Farewell Party	

Main outcomes

From the rich learning outcomes of the seminar we have selected the ones which are probably more interesting and relevant for stakeholders and other on European Citizenship in youth work.

Most of the following outcomes came out in four key sessions of the seminar: sharing of practices, quality of our projects, disseminating results and café on elements for EC projects. They are not grouped chronologically but around:

- 1) Key characteristics of youth work projects on European Citizenship
- 2) Better dissemination and exploitation of results
- 3) Remaining challenges

1) Key characteristics of youth work projects on European Citizenship

Based on their experience of implementing projects on European Citizenship, the participants identified several characteristics. In their formulation most of those characteristics are as well valid for any kind of projects. Their specific importance and relevance for projects on European Citizenship are explained in the following table:

Characteristics	Specific importance in youth work projects on E.C.
Motivated leaders and participants	European Citizenship is not, at first, an “attractive” topic and not always easy to explore. The motivation of leaders and participants play a particularly important role.
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 the interest of participants which can be very diverse (empowerment, participation, inclusion, intercultural learning...). This adaptation and link to the target group should be continually checked and considered.
Involving participants from the beginning	If one of the underlying messages of European Citizenship projects is “to be active” it would be a contradiction not to start to promote that from the beginning.
Diverse activities and methods and adequate	The diversity of methods responds to different learning styles of participants. On European Citizenship, this diversity of methods and activities is needed to embrace its complexity at different dimensions: personal, interpersonal, as group, institutional, rational, value-based...
As well “emotional”	European Citizenship is a rational notion but it is as well related to identity, identification, sense of belonging and values. It is therefore important not to forget an emotional approach in the different activities of a project.
International team	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 team reflects this diversity.
Linking the global and the local	Projects having a European dimension but rooted in the local reality / encouraging local engagement too

Europe of values. A certain "utopia"	Discussing the underlying and guiding values that should guide the European integration. Carrying the message that "it is possible to build up a new Europe"
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.
Europe - The rest of the world	Integrating a global vision in the discussions about Europe. This perspective is necessary considering phenomena such as economical globalisation, migration processes, environmental degradation, inter cultural relations... All the very relevant ones for European Citizenship.
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 part of the aimed outcomes.
Multiplication and dissemination of results	This aspect which is important in every project it is strategically even more for European Citizenship projects. This 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. Additionally the YiA programme puts a strong emphasis in the dissemination of results.
Through different educational strategies	European Citizenship can be "the topic" of a project. But it can be as well 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 to the local or national youth work. All those and certainly other educational strategies are equally valid for European Citizenship in youth work.

2) For a better dissemination and exploitation of results

The seminar was originally planned as "valorisation" seminar. From all the aspects that "valorisation" implies, and following the recent changes in the YiA programme, there was a special focus in the dissemination and exploitation of results.

Participants shared experiences from their projects on this topic. Apart from that, some examples of good practice in Luxembourg were explored.

The most important lesson is 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.

Moreover, as we saw in the video productions of the Eisenborn Youth Hostel 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 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.

Youthpass was introduced in the seminar as a valorisation strategy.

The need of “officially” building a network of active multipliers of European Citizenship was mentioned in the Seminar as a tool for dissemination and mutual support. Any initiative from the Partnership and/or the N.A.s would be more than welcome.

3) Remaining challenges

“Ok, very nice but at the end, what is European Citizenship?” This sentence 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 this mixture of “attractive challenge” and “frustration” that practitioners feel when working on this topic. The fact that it is, indeed, a notion “under construction”, should not play against consolidating what it was already discovered in the modules or against the constructive confrontation of ideas.

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

Participants expressed the need of articulating a “more transferable” conceptual framework and better adapted methods to the different target groups. The above-mentioned resources and publications are a very valid base but they probably need to be updated and cross-fertilised to be able to offer more consistent educational support for practitioners. The National Agencies staff could benefit as well from this conceptual framework so that this priority in the YiA programme can be implemented more effectively.

In the YiA programme it is still a challenge to introduce Youthpass as an instrument for the recognition of learning and not mere certification of, for example, a 3-day event - like this seminar.

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 participants felt that they are not satisfactory: the ideal was expressed that participants from all the different countries should participate on equal footing.

Given this situation and being realistic, the best hope is, on the one hand, to use as much as possible the current possibilities within the YiA programme and on the other hand, to look for other funding possibilities for making possible the involvement of young people from all around Europe.

Annex 1: List of participants

First Name	Last Name	Country of Residence
Mariela	LAZI	Albania
Blerina	GJEKA	Albania
Emma	ALLAKHVERDYAN	Armenia
Shakeh	BADALYAN	Armenia
Agshin	RASULOV	Azerbaijan
Vakhtang	ASANIDZE	Georgia
Jovana	KARANIKIK	Macedonia
Sihana	NEBIU	Macedonia
Kateryna	ARDANYAN	Ukraine
Péter	FEJÉR	Hungary
Mándli Szivia	PORTÖRÖNÉ	Hungary
Annette	SCHULER	Luxembourg
Andreas	WEIST	Luxembourg
Luc	WENDLING	Luxembourg
Antje	LEICHSENRING	Poland
Abdul	AMIN	UK
Carol	THOMPSON-ELLIS	UK
Dennis	OSBORNE	UK
Hazel	PATTERSON	UK
Csilla	SZABO	Hungary
Charles	GASPERI	Luxembourg
Kees	HOOGENDOORN	Netherlands
Vojislava	TOMIC	Serbia
Miguel Angel	GARCIA LOPEZ	Germany
Erzsébet	KOVÁCS	Hungary