

European Focus Meeting

Citizenship Reloaded:

The Demand for “Active Citizenship” in Europe
and its Implications for Democratic Citizenship
and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE)

Vilnius (Lithuania), July 1-3, 2010



Save the date!

There is a rising ambiguity for EDC/HRE purposes in Europe. The definition of “European Citizenship” and “Active Citizenship” as used on the EU level is vague. The whole field of Fundamental Rights and Citizenship in the EU is even more watering down the educational concepts within Citizenship and Human Rights Education as a whole.

As NGO’s active in Adult Learning we see a huge risk that the important work being undertaken on the level of the Council of Europe to integrate both concepts (EDC and HRE) gets under pressure by the development in the EU and its member states.

The EU stresses the importance of citizenship, social cohesion and fundamental rights on one side but the member states reject the interdependence with any educational approaches. This fact is a rising problem not only - but especially - for NGOs active in the field of Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education. “Education for Active Citizenship and European Citizenship” should have a lot to say when the EU asks for social cohesion.

The EU 2020 Strategy as well as the Education and Training Strategy only randomly refer to the importance of Citizenship for LLL, especially to the European dimension of democracy and social cohesion, but do not give a clear idea in how far educational purposes that go beyond vocational training are really on the agenda.

Throughout the past years, the Council of Europe’s ad hoc advisory group on EDC/HRE elaborated a draft European Charter for EDC/HRE which stresses the unique importance of EDC/HRE and sets out a new standard for EDC/HRE the CoE member states should not fall behind. Is the ongoing mantra within EU around vocational training still up to date? Are the concepts of European Citizenship and Active Citizenship elaborated enough or do they need to be further developed?

Aim of the DARE Focus Meeting is to deeply discuss the idea of “European Citizenship and Active Citizenship” in regard to its educational dimensions with civil society organisations and experts from ALL European levels. Also the idea of the meeting is to motivate the EU level to a stronger political commitment in regard to EDC/HRE within the EU 2020 strategy.

More info, program schedule and registration form available at www.dare-network.eu