

Youth Partnership News

European Commission and Council of Europe
www.youth-partnership.net

Partnership WebSites:

www.youth-partnership.net

www.training-youth.net

www.youth-knowledge.net

[eycb.coe.int/eycbwwwroot/
Euro-Med/index.html](http://eycb.coe.int/eycbwwwroot/Euro-Med/index.html)

European Citizenship

European Citizenship has been the cornerstone of the Partnership training activities over the last five years. Given the **growing importance of European Citizenship in the youth policies and programmes of both partner institutions** (see below), the Partnership has decided to embark on new training and research activities in this field.

European Citizenship at the heart of European youth policies and programmes

Both the Council of Europe and the European Commission are **promoting European Citizenship through their policies and programmes**.

For many years, the **Council of Europe** has fostered democratic citizenship at European level both in the formal and non-formal education sectors.

For instance, the Education for Democratic Citizenship project was initiated in 1997; the European Year of Citizenship through Education was launched in 2005. In 2006, the Council of Europe introduced a project on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education, aiming at developing a frame of reference in this field.

<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/edc/>

Following the **European Commission** White Paper on "a new impetus for European youth", the EU Member States agreed to promote young people's active citizenship through the open method of coordination. In July 2006, the European Commission adopted a Communication on the active European citizenship of young people.

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0417en01.pdf

The Commission programmes also reflect the growing importance of European Citizenship in the European youth policy field: the promotion of active European citizenship is one of the priorities of the new Youth in Action programme (2007– 2013).

http://ec.europa.eu/youth/yia/index_en.html



Latest developments in European Citizenship training

Training Modules in 2006

Building on its previous experience, the Partnership organised a series of six Modules in 2006, which trained youth workers and youth leaders on specific aspects related to the **concept and practice of European Citizenship**. The Modules were implemented in co-operation with National Agencies of the YOUTH Programme in Hungary, Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Luxemburg and Italy.

With more than **150 participants** in total, the training Modules raised a high interest among European youth workers, trainers and hosting agencies.

The common evaluation report and the documentations of the respective Modules can be downloaded from: <http://www.training-youth.net/INTEGRATION/TY/TCourses/2006.html>



EC Module 3 (Switzerland, September 2006)

Curriculum Development

In 2006, the Partnership management structures decided to support the implementation of training activities on European Citizenship at a **larger scale** in the future. *(to be continued on following page).*



For this reason, it was decided to transform the existing Modules into one single Training Course on European Citizenship, which would be implemented several times (in different countries and with different participants) by the network of Youth in Action National Agencies.

The original aim and objectives of the Modules, as well as the profile of participants were also modified, so that the course could target newcomers in the topic but with experience in youth work.

The **curriculum**, which **will be finalised this spring**, should allow the Partnership to share its educational experience in the field of European Citizenship with an increased number of participants at national and international level.

More information on the Curriculum development process: <http://www.training-youth.net/INTEGRATION/TY/TCourses/curriculum.html>

New network Training Courses on European Citizenship in 2007/2008

The National Agencies will implement the **new series of Training Courses on European Citizenship** in conjunction with the SALTO Training and Cooperation RC and the Partnership.

A **common preparatory meeting** (May 2007) will gather the future trainers and hosting National Agencies, in order to discuss the new curriculum, clarify the conceptual framework of the European Citizenship Training Courses and prepare the Courses.

A series of **6 Training Courses** should be organized **from September 2007 to February 2008** in Turkey, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Denmark, Italy and Poland (the precise dates will be confirmed in a subsequent Newsletter).



Once the new series of six Training Courses on European Citizenship is implemented, the concept of the Training Course will be revised, if necessary, at the evaluation and development meeting foreseen in spring 2008.



Research Seminar "Young People and Active European Citizenship"

The **youth research strand** of the Partnership programme also aims to **contribute to the work on European Citizenship**. It does so by increasing visibility and understanding of the current debates and practices on European Citizenship and by encouraging academic debates on the topic, understandable and useful for policy-makers and practitioners.

The Research Seminar "Young People and Active European Citizenship", which took place in the European Youth Center, Budapest 23rd-25th November, 2006, provided for such a forum of reflection, evidenced-based analysis and dialogue

between the **youth researchers, youth NGOs, youth policy makers and practitioners** on the topic of Citizenship and its particular relevance in the European context. The aim of the seminar was to examine the contemporary meanings and understandings of Citizenship and the ways they are used, in relation to the European youth field and (its impact on) the larger society. After the institutional introductions and the key-note speech debates focused on four aspects of the citizenship as it is reflected in the life of young people nowadays.

Firstly various meanings and understandings of the concept were analysed. Then the aspects of belonging or not, being or not being citizens. Thirdly, the manifestations of young people's participation in civic life. Finally, the practice of citizenship education in formal and non-formal settings. The debates proved yet once more that Citizenship is a contested and an ambivalent concept, which refers to legal rights and obligations within a nation-state but also to civil, political and social rights. Its **practical implications change very dynamically**, in close relation to complex realities of young people's lives.

More information can be found in the report of the event published on the Partnership website. The report offers thematic summaries of the diverse contributions, discussions and where possible proposes conclusions.

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