

## NECE 2018: Basic information and Mission Statement

### What is NECE?

NECE is a networking format with (currently) seven partners from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Austria, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

NECE is not an NGO or institution. It operates as an open transnational and diverse community of stakeholders (formal and non-formal education) of citizenship education (CE) from Europe and associated countries, providing a forum for debate on equal footing, knowledge exchange and advocacy for the ideas and values of citizenship education on the national and transnational level.

The aim of NECE is to identify political, societal trends relevant to CE and to develop responses to transfer them into practice. NECE can provide a link to advocate CE at the national, European as well as the international level. NECE strives for becoming a laboratory for transdisciplinary and transnational thinking through participatory culture.

### NECE's three main 'pillars'

#### 1. Partners

- Federal Agency for Civic Education / *Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung/bpb*
- Centre for Citizenship Education, CEO (Poland)
- Civic Education Centre (Czech Republic)
- Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (Austria)
- ProDemos – House for Democracy and the Rule of Law (the Netherlands)
- University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- Vote&Vous (France)
- Zentrum für politische Bildung, ZpB (Luxembourg)

#### 2. NECE Advisory Board

The Advisory Board consists of multi-disciplinary international experts who advise NECE partners on the intellectual and political level, including on social political discourses and pressing issues for democracy and citizenship education in Europe. Additionally, they provide advice on lobbying and political networking at the European level.

#### Advisory Board members are

1. Nelly Corbel, Lazord Foundation (France/Egypt)
2. Claire Demesmay, German Council on Foreign Relations (France)
3. Caroline Hornstein Tomic, Ivo Pilar Institute, Croatia
4. Boris Jokic, Institute for Social Research in Zagreb (Croatia)
5. Michalis Kakos, Leeds Beckett University (UK)
6. Claudia Lenz, The Norwegian School of Theology (Norway)
7. Markus Lux, Bosch Foundation (Germany)
8. Niccolò Milanese, European Alternatives (Italy)
9. Jan-Werner Müller, Princeton University (USA)
10. Verena Ringler, Mercator Foundation (Austria)
11. Louisa Slavkova, Sofia Platform (Bulgaria)
12. Karolina Wigura, Kultura Liberalna (Poland)

#### 3. The NECE community – NECE citizens

This 'pillar' is less structured but generates important effects without guidance, both externally and within the network itself. What is meant here are the many practitioners and activists in citizenship education and academic communities in relevant fields for citizenship education, who can also be described as 'NECE citizens', without belonging to an organised institution.



## NECE's tools and related networks

### Conference & workshops

The main tools for exchange and networking are the NECE events, especially the annual NECE conference. In between, workshop focusing on specific topics are being held in different European cities several times per year.

### Newsletter & Database

Subscribe to the [NECE newsletter](#) to stay informed or add yourself or your institution to the [NECE database](#)!

### Social media

Follow NECE on Twitter (@NECE\_Network) and LinkedIn (NECE Network).  
#NECE2018

### Focus groups

Focus Groups are temporary international working groups started by NECE partners or Advisory Board members. They focus on specific transnational topics related to the profession of citizenship education. Currently, three focus groups are under construction:

- Parliaments and Citizenship Education, <http://www.nece-conference.eu/session/nece-focus-group-parliaments-citizenship-education/>  
Contact **Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk** ([t.meijvogel-volk@prodemos.nl](mailto:t.meijvogel-volk@prodemos.nl)) or **Eddy Habben Jansen** ([e.habbenjansen@prodemos.nl](mailto:e.habbenjansen@prodemos.nl))
- Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC), <http://www.nece-conference.eu/session/nece-focus-group-competences-for-democratic-culture-rfcdc/>  
Contact: Claudia Lenz ([claudia.lenz@mf.no](mailto:claudia.lenz@mf.no) or [patricia.hladschik@politik-lernen.at](mailto:patricia.hladschik@politik-lernen.at))
- Civics Innovation Hub, contact: Louisa Slavkova ([Louisa.SLAVKOVA@sofiaplatform.org](mailto:Louisa.SLAVKOVA@sofiaplatform.org))

### Corresponding networks

There are the following sister networks, founded on bpb's initiative in recent years:

- **Networking Arab Civic Education (NACE)** is an extension in the MENA region (co-financed by the Robert Bosch Foundation and Foreign Office).  
Contact: Petra Grüne ([petra.gruene@bpb.de](mailto:petra.gruene@bpb.de))
- **Eastern European Network for Citizenship Education (EENCE)** is a regional network extension to the Eastern Partnership countries, financed by the Foreign Office and directed by bpb.  
Contact: Svetlana Alenitskaya ([svetlana.alenitskaya@bpb.bund.de](mailto:svetlana.alenitskaya@bpb.bund.de))
- **The 'All In Network'** is operated by the School Development Support Authority (SDSA) in Leicester, UK with bpb funding (to end-2018) and builds on the work of the 'Hard to Reach Learners' focus group (2013-2016). The network brings European working groups together (among other things on the issue of migrant groups and Roma) and seeks follow-on promotion from EU programmes. It plans to operate as a competence centre for civic education with and for marginalised groups.  
Contact: Khalid Mahmoud ([khalid.mahmood@sdsa.net](mailto:khalid.mahmood@sdsa.net))
- The **'Transnational Forum for Citizenship Education'** (Forum transnational pour l'éducation citoyenne) is run by the bpb, the Franco-German Youth Office (FGYO) (Office franco-allemand pour la Jeunesse) and the NECE partner Vote&Vous. Other partners include the CEMEA, the Institut Français, the Goethe Institut and the NECE partner from Luxembourg, Zentrum für Politische Bildung.  
The goal is to facilitate the professional exchange on a transnational level, to integrate French partners and approaches to citizenship education and create new formats and tools for practitioners and educators.  
Contact: Coralie Schirru (Vote&Vous, [coralie.schirru@vote-et-vous.fr](mailto:coralie.schirru@vote-et-vous.fr))
- **CENESA** (Civic Education Network in East Africa) is an initiative in Uganda, inspired by NECE /NACE (with support from the Robert Bosch Foundation). It is intended to act independently in the long term, but with relations to NECE.  
Contact: Petra Grüne ([petra.gruene@bpb.de](mailto:petra.gruene@bpb.de))



## Brave new Worlds?!

### The Future of Democracy and Citizenship Education

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The conference “Brave New Worlds?!” – taking its cue from Aldous Huxley’s famous 1932 dystopia – hinges on three interconnected challenges for democracies and citizenship education in a rapidly transforming world:

- the **ongoing crises of Western liberal democracies** and the worldwide trend of a ‘democratic recession’ (Larry Diamond), demonstrated by the rise of nationalist and populist forces in Europe and in other parts of the world.  
How can citizenship education confront these trends – intellectually and practically?
- **the (inevitable) and ambivalent role of emotions** driving our responses and reactions to a world shaped by uncertainties, fears and ‘out and beyond our control’.  
How do we get emotions and politics right? How can we reach “a new emotional deal”? How does it affect citizenship education?
- **the ongoing technological transformation** that digitises our everyday life, giving large technological companies and social media groups the power to manipulate globally.  
Can citizenship education burst (the) bubbles?

This year’s NECE conference in Marseille will focus on these transnational processes and provide a platform where citizens from more than 40 countries can discuss how to re-invent democratic representation and citizenship education – both in terms of countries and disciplines.

Our goals are:

- enabling citizenship educators and citizenship activist to discuss and find concepts, ideas and tools to deal with crises and complexity
- offering a platform for different political views, perspectives, concepts and approaches to citizenship and education
- contributing to new alignments among citizenship professionals and activists to make advocacy and civic action on the European level more relevant
- building new networks and facilitating joint action with providers of citizenship education in France and the Marseille region.

#### **NECE in the centre of Marseille, at the Friche la Belle de Mai**

The open and creative venue of the *Friche la Belle de Mai* socio-cultural centre in Marseille is the ideal location for a **“festival” of networking, dialogue and inspiration.**

We are delighted that we are guests of this extraordinary venue and would like to link the ‘spirit of La Friche’ with the ‘spirit of NECE’ – both ‘citizens’ initiatives’ in the widest sense and committed to education, culture and political participation.

NECE 2018 is offering a wide range of formats and methods, including keynote lectures and panels on the most pressing issues for democracies and educators in Europe, an **IDEA CAMPUS** with more than 20 workshops, field trips to explore the political and cultural life of Marseille and an **OPEN SPACE** for ‘free style’ networking and debate. **Emily O’Reilly, Ombudsman of the European Union**, will give a keynote on the closing ceremony with an outlook of how a citizens’ Europe can be achieved.

#### **Project Market**

Explore our **project market**, where civil society initiatives from all over Europe, and its neighbouring regions local organisations and NECE focus groups present their work and invite you to talk and network.

