

NECE 2018 Marseille

NECE Focus Group: 'Parliaments and Citizenship education'

Kick-off Meeting, 7 September 2018

Report by Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk - ProDemos - House for Democracy and the Rule of Law

This session facilitated by Eddy Habben Jansen and Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk from ProDemos – House for Democracy and the Rule of Law, in the Netherlands was a kick-off meeting for the newly established NECE focus group 'Parliaments and Citizenship education'.

In this focus group organisations working on citizenship education directly related to the parliamentary process are exchanging methods and experiences.

During the session Dr *Edge Watchorn*, director of the Strategy center of the education department of the Houses of Parliament presented an overview of the activities offered at the houses of Parliament. Special attention was given to activities for pupils. (At the moment 90.000 pupils are visiting the education center of the Parliament annually)

Eddy Habben Jansen presented the activities of ProDemos in the Netherlands in the field of 'on-site' learning in The Hague. Up to 28 high-school classes per day receive a whole day program, including a visit to the Dutch Senate and the House of Representatives. Michelle Schilt, director of the 'Zentrum fir politesch Bildung' in Luxembourg shared her experience of the process of the creation of this relatively young organization.

In the following discussion with other participants interesting ideas for future cooperation came up: scholars working on simulation games of parliamentary deliberation and decision making processes were interested in cooperating with organizations in order to evaluate their experiences and use their data for more extensive research in that field. The organizations involved could then have a chance to improve their programs as they could gain more insights about the impact of their programs.

Until the next NECE conference this focus group is planning to strengthen the ties between organizations through a small program of 'staff-exchange-visits' followed by a workshop in the spring of 2019 in The Hague.

