

NECE 2018 Marseille

La Formation des citoyens à l'École? Shared dilemmas and common perspectives for the future of civic education in schools

Workshop, 7 September 2018

Report by Andrea Szukala – University of Münster

Since the Marseille 2018 conference concentrated on civic education in general, this workshop put the focus on a place, where “all-in” civic education takes place in almost every country: school.

First, civic educators discussed current political claims on formal civic education and methodologically focused the dilemmas, which are inherent in the new educational politics of an education for citizenship in times of societal conflicts and crisis. In a second phase, participants refocused the results of the workshop's first part and prioritize the common challenges. Participants from four different countries took part in the workshop: Austria, Luxemburg, France and Germany. The focus was on the participants' authentic perspectives and professional experiences, there was no lecturing: References to research findings have been only made, when the participants overtly asked for further information. Using a matrix, participants were able to identify a “space of possibilities”, where there are real opportunities to bring about change.

Problems that could be found in the actual space of possibilities put a strong emphasis on national identities and the a new tendency to develop “common value education”. A new focus is also set on narratives about “the nation” that often don't fit with the aim of political inclusion of a majority of students in current multicultural societies. This mismatch is seen as a major challenge. Also, the participants diagnosed a marginalization of and (in some cases) even a contempt for civic educators and civic education at school.

The deliberations lead to the following to-do-list: The participants agreed that there is need for **more consistent narratives about civic education** at school. Therefore, we must start an exchange process about “**modes of citizenship**” in relation to



actual ways of civic education at school. Furthermore, there is a need to **re-think the place of values-education** in civic education at school. How can we teach “we”-values such as **solidarity and humanism** without being stuck into strong claims about in-group/out-group identities and indoctrination in the classroom?

