

NECE 2018 Marseille

Experts' Consultation: Citizenship Education & EU funding

Workshop, 7 September 2018

Report by Philippe Ternes, Genera - Social Innovations

This workshop facilitated by Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk (ProDemos, The Hague) invited around 40 participants to analyse and debate current and future EU programmes and policy measures supporting citizenship education. The aim was to examine how these programmes and policies evolved over the past decades, what factors determined their outlook, and how they could be strengthened in the near future. Panellists also focused on strategies to enable civil society to pull more on one string while enabling donors to achieve a wider impact while adequately addressing the needs of the European continent over the next 10, 30, or 50 years.

Maarten De Groot (The ECI Campaign, Brussels) started by providing an overview of the political and policy contexts in which citizenship education had been evolving in the past years and the attention it was given by policy makers. The absence of a common reference framework and EU competence in the field indeed inhibit the creation of more defined policies and support programmes. At the same time, this situation calls for the further development of a structured dialogue process between EU institutions and civil society actors, enabling these stakeholders to contribute their expertise to the development of future programmes and policies. In this vein, Maarten De Groot advised participants to lead by example and work together across borders.

Joke van der Leeuw-Roord (Lifelong Learning Platform, Brussels) highlighted the current prominence of the topic of citizenship education on the EU agenda while noticing that planned budgetary measures currently do not yet reflect this priority. In this respect, she motivated relevant stakeholders to coordinate their efforts in the coming months preceding European elections while advocating for increased future support. Joke also advised organisations to stay true to their own calling and develop their own focal area without becoming a playball of potential funding mechanisms. Finally, she called attention to two recent EU documents having a substantial impact on the topic of citizenship education on the EU level: the [Council Recommendation on Common values, Inclusive Education and the European Dimension of Teaching](#) and the [Revised Key Competencies for life Long Learning](#), with a new separate 6th civic competence.

To conclude, Philippe Ternes (Centre for Citizenship Education, Europe for Citizens, Luxembourg) drew attention to an apparent shift of focus in the proposal for the creation of a new 'Rights and Values' programme from proactive citizenship in the Europe for Citizens programme inviting citizens to help shaping the EU of the future to a more passive understanding of participation in pre-established mechanisms. While this absence of proactive notions of citizenship might have been a necessary compromise to provide the new programme with a legal basis and subject it to co-decision with the European Parliament, the proactive role of people's participation



still needs to be strengthened continuously in the years to come. In this respect, Philippe supported the idea for the creation of an ongoing public dialogue platform on the local, regional and European levels allowing all stakeholders to pull more on one string while making sure the actions and policies in the area of European public participation adequately respond to the needs and challenges of our future.

References:

Civil Dialogue, Europe for Citizens Programme

http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/europe-for-citizens-programme/civil-dialogue/index_en.htm

Council Recommendation on Common values, Inclusive Education and the European Dimension of Teaching

https://ec.europa.eu/education/initiatives/european-education-area/proposal-council-recommendation-common-values_en

Commission Staff Working Document accompanying the Proposal for a COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on Key Competences for LifeLong Learning

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CONSIL:ST_5464_2018_ADD_2&rid=9

