Concepts of Citizenship Education in Europe: Council of Europe and European Union

Overview and appraisal

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A Word about (English) Terms

German-speaking countries

Some other usages

Council of Europe and EU

Europe and world-wide

Political Education

Social Studies
Pedagogics of Democracy
Citizenship and Social Education

Democracy Learning
European Citizenship Education (ECE)
Education for Democratic Citizenship (EDC)

Civic Education, Citizenship Education,
Citizenship Learning; Education for Democracy
The Emerging Structure of European Citizenship Education
Thesis 1

• A new structure of cooperation in Citizenship Education has emerged in the New Europe.
• It has its origins in a growing awareness of communalities, differences and new challenges.
Communalities of CE in Europe

- Insufficient awareness of historical dimension of European Integration
- Lack of concrete knowledge about Europe – organisations, institutions, policies
- In CE, we are faced with similar problems – stereotypes, prejudice, lack of participation, political apathy, non-democratic attitudes
- Marginalisation of CE as school subject
Differences of CE in Europe

- Vastly different historical and political experience
- In Western/Southern Europe: rapidly progressing social, economic, technological change
- In CEE:
  - inheritance of the Communist past
  - main CE emphasis on formal education
  - little utilisation of CE for transformation of society (adult education etc.)
  - low priority for CE in educational reforms and resource allocation
New Challenges for CE in Europe

- Rapidly progressing integration
- Lack of knowledge about other member countries (everyday life, culture, history), esp. new members
- European Constitutional Treaty: rights and responsibilities, „unknown“ Union Citizenship
- Developing common basic understanding of Citizenship Education in Europe
- Intensifying Exchange of Experience
- Removing West-West bias in school exchanges (90 %)
- Europe as a joint vision for the future
- CE leading multi-disciplinary European learning
Thesis 2

There are five major categories of organisations and initiatives active in or contributing to CE in Europe:

• International Organisations
• Governmental Organisations
• Non-Governmental Organisations
• Educational Institutions
• Others: Networks, Initiatives, Individuals
Categories of Organisations and Initiatives active in CE in Europe

CE as an important activity: 
**EU; CoE**

CE less important: 
UNESCO; World Bank; OSCE etc.

IGO

BpB; LpBs; British Council; 
CampusFrance

Hybrid Organis.: 
German Political Foundations; 
IIZ-DVV

Internationaliy operating priv. 
Foundations: 
i.e. Soros, Bosch, Körber

Academies; 
Forums; 
Initiatives

Schools; 
School Networks

Universities; 
Teacher Training. 
Institutes; Chairs

Other Networks: 
DARE; Civitas; 
Politeia

Experts; 
Trainers; 
Individuals; 
Sponsors

Media; 
Internet; 
Online-Tools

Experts; 
Trainers; 
Individuals; 
Sponsors

GOs

INGOs 
NGOs

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Media; 
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CE as an important 
activity: 
**EU; CoE**
Thesis 3

- There is no overall coordination of CE in Europe.
- Internal coordination is visible in some international organisations.
- There is a number of networks and associations with internal coordination.
- Of the large IGOs, only EU and CoE have made DL/CE one of their major activities (while UNESCO is focused on HRE).
Council of Europe: 47 Member States, 800 Mill. Europeans

European Union: 27 Member States, 485 Mill. EU Citizens

EU - ENP: European Neighbourhood Policy: Belorus; Ukraine; Moldova; Caukasus Partnership Agreements with Balkan States, Turkey, Russia etc.

June 2, 2007 Karlheinz Duerr
Thesis 4

- The Council of Europe covers all European states (excl. Belorus and Holy See).
- Since 2004, the EU achieves a similar geographical outreach (through Enlargements, Neighbourhood Policy and Partnership Agreements).
- The CoE is losing its unique position as the only pan-European organisation.
Thesis 5

Within the CE-related programs and activities of the Council of Europe and European Union, three approaches can be distinguished which are directed at:

• **Analysis/Definition** of principles, categories, concepts, conditions, policies (Council of Europe)

• **Stability** of democratic development through education (EU – ENPI)

• **Integration** with view to citizenship awareness and identity (EU)
Applicable to EU Context only:
- EU members
- Living together; interaction; identity; cultural diversity
- funding programs: Europe for Citizens

Applicable to any democratic national context:
- Networking; no funding programs

EDC – Contents:
- Learning for democratic, responsible, participative citizenship

Limited number of EU-Projects like Civic Education Ukraine

Support for educational reforms through CE

ENP
- Europ. Neighbourhood Policy

European Union

Europe-wide

EU plus Neighbours

European Union

INTEGRATION

STABILISATION

DEFINITION
Definition-oriented Approach
of the Council of Europe

Declaration and Action Plan of the Heads of State and Government 1997:
„[We] ... decided to launch an initiative for education for democratic citizenship in order to promote citizens‘ awareness of their rights and responsibilities in a democratic society, activating existing networks...“

Declaration resulted in pan-European project
Education for Democratic Citizenship (EDC)
Objectives of EDC

- Analysis of concepts and approaches
- Definition of basic categories, criteria
- Development of good practices
- Definition of skills and competencies needed for active, informed, critical and autonomous participation in a democratic civil society
- Inclusion of HRE, Intercultural learning
- Analysis of EDC policies, national frameworks, conditions
- Qualification for informed, responsible, participative citizenship
- Pan-european dialogue of CE practitioners
- Promoting the idea of Democracy-Learning as Life-long learning requirement
Methods – EDC project 1999-2009

- Conferences, seminars
- Exchange of experience between selected practitioners
- Publications, studies, reports
- Sites of Citizenship in some countries (small centres of EDC competence)
- Teacher training (limited number of seminars)
- Tools: Quality Assurance in Schools; Democratic Environment
- No financial support or grants for projects
Some EDC publications...

C. Bircea et al., The All-European Study on EDC Policies, Strasbourg, 2005

K. Duerr, The School - a democratic learning community. The All-European Study on Pupils' Participation, Strasbourg, 2005

Results of EDC

- Clarification of basic criteria
- Detailed lists of relevant competencies, development of studies on EDC strategies
- Analysis of EDC policy approaches in all European regions (Bircea et al.)
- Development of Tools for CE related tasks, i.e. Quality Assurance (Cecchini et al.)
- Overview of students' participation practices in Europe
- Creation of a Europe-wide network of EDC practitioners and curriculum developers
- Communication and dissemination of EDC concepts
Stabilisation-oriented approach of the European Union - ENP

- Support and Stabilisation of democratic development and Civil Society in EU neighbour states (ENP)
- Support and Fostering of democratic institutions and participation, also through educational reforms
- Promote contacts, links, exchange of people and experience between EU and neighbour states through joint projects
Example: EU’s Project „Civic Education Ukraine“

Components:

• Curriculum Development
• Teacher Training
• Special Needs Education
• Extra-Curricular Activities
• Gender and Equality Issues
• Development of Teacher Manuals
General citizenship-related objectives of educational reforms in Ukraine

- support and stabilize democratization process
- stimulate awareness of citizens’ rights and responsibilities
- strengthen civic education with view to relevant competencies, knowledge, skills, and values
- qualify for participative, responsible, informed and critical citizenship
- contribute to Civil Society development
Key objectives
of Civic Education Ukraine

- Identify civic knowledge, skills and attitudes
- Support a cross-curricular approach
- Disseminate best practice; support main teacher associations
- Be inclusive: all children; all teachers
- Encourage active extra-curricular participation
- Develop and pilot pre- and in-service courses
- Produce a teacher training guide and resource manual
Integration-oriented approach of the European Union

- Union Citizenship
- „democratic deficit“
- Intercultural dialogue
- Learning about other EU member states
- better communication
- Cultural diversity
Relevance of Integration-oriented approach for CE

- Gradual evolution of „Education for Union Citizenship“
- EURYDICE - Research on conditions and delivery of Citizenship Education in EU
  -- Support for interactions between the Union's citizens
  -- Development of European identity
  -- Strengthening of intercultural dialogue
  -- Recognition of cultural diversity
Research Eurydice (2005) on CE delivery in Europe

Source: Eurydice.
Methods - EU

Grant programs, i.e. EuropeAid / Tacis:

- Funding for vast number of projects (Joint European Projects)
- Special tenders and bi-lateral projects (i.e. Ukraine, Georgia)
- Exchange programs (pupils, students, interns, teachers, researchers)
- Targeted programs, such as „Europe for Citizens“ (2007-2013)
Funding resources

Council of Europe
• No external project funding
• Funding exclusively for own operations
• Total annual budget of the CoE in 2007 (Organisation, Programs, Assembly): 270 Mio. €

European Union
• Grants for JEPs up to 1 Mill €
• Bilateral EU Special projects: ca. 2-2.5 Mill € (i.e. CE Ukraine: 2.1 Mill €)
• TACIS 2000-06: 3.1 Bill. €
Integrated Action Program for Life-long Learning

- Comprises Socrates, Leonardo, Grundtvig, etc.
- Multitude of application opportunities
- 2007-2013: 13.6 Bill. €
- Most relevant funding framework for Joint European Projects for CE
Appraisal and Conclusion
EDC Project (CoE)

- provides the most elaborate and comprehensive systematic set of definitions, policy analysis, tools, materials, curriculum designs, lesson plans, handbooks, studies
- is focused on formal education, with strong consideration of non-formal and informal education
EDC Project (CoE)

• outcomes are applicable to CE processes and citizens’ democratic empowerment in any national democratic context

• is *not* targeted at developing specific approaches for a *European citizenship learning* or promoting European identity within a supranational structure
EU’s Stability-oriented programs

- provide support for citizenship learning in neighbour states with instable democratic development
- make use of the EDC outcomes as well as experience from other European countries
- aim at stabilising the delivery of CE in formal and non-formal settings, democratisation of learning environments, teacher training, innovative methods
- link receiving countries to the pan-European exchange of experience
EU’s Integration-oriented programs

- might provide new impetus to citizenship learning within EU’s policies
- are focused on *Union* citizenship awareness
- aim at improving EU-wide communication, mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue
- are targeted at all kinds of learning processes
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Challenges for the future

• CE is marginalised in many national education settings

• The Council of Europe loses its importance as the strongest forum for CE issues (geographically, financially, politically)

• On the EU’s level, CE has no lobby at all

• The EU does not (yet) provide a lively forum for a European CE exchange
Challenges for the future

• With growing importance of *Union* Citizenship learning, criteria, approaches, skills and competencies should be discussed, developed, researched...

• based on existing experience and results of previous projects (like EDC).
The newly emerging structure of Citizenship Education in Europe offers unique opportunities for Europe-wide cooperation and exchange of experience.

It also offers the „established structures“ of Citizenship Education opportunities for reform and innovation of theoretical premises, contents and methodology.

Last but not least, with regard to Union Citizenship Learning, it offers a new outlook and a new vision.
Thank you for your attention