



★ NETWORKING EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

## NECE Conference 2015

### 'Us' and 'Them': Citizenship Education in an Interdependent World

22 - 24 October 2015  
Thessaloniki, Greece

[www.nece.eu](http://www.nece.eu)

**Conference venues:**  
**Hotel Makedonia Palace & Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki**

*A conference organised by*



*In co-operation with*



and the fellowship programme for young Europeans "Shaping Europe – Civic Education in Action" – a co-operation between the bpb and the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

*Supported by:*

Robert Bosch **Stiftung**

*Partner of the NECE conference 2015:*



## Background

The 2015 NECE Conference in Thessaloniki will build on the 2014 NECE Conference in Vienna, which focused on the conflicts in and around Europe. Starting point of this year's conference will be the question of how to reimagine and define the role of citizenship education in increasingly divided and polarized societies. Fundamental religious, ethnic and cultural perceptions of 'Us' and 'Them' play an ever more important role in the ongoing crises and upheavals in today's world.

The NECE Conference 2015 will look into the causes and the implications of this phenomenon in three areas of special relevance for citizenship educators:

- The impact of Europe's economic and political division, which has triggered discourses fuelled by fears and dissociation in the core countries of the EU and nationalistic and populist movements in core countries as well as in the southern periphery of the EU.
- The perception of a clash of civilizations between the 'West' and the 'Islamic World' which is leading to dangerous developments on both sides of the Mediterranean.
- The repercussions of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict and the challenges for civil society in Eastern Europe and Russia to cope with situations of war and ideological and nationalist regression and hatred.

## Aims

- Discussing the role of 'othering' in an interdependent world and critically reflect the role of citizenship education in this context;
- Collecting relevant research projects, publications, projects and approaches and provide a stocktaking space;
- Defining desiderata and potential actions;
- Creating a transnational space for networking and co-operation to work on the identified desiderata

## Programme

**Thursday, 22 October 2015**

*Venue:* *Hotel Makedonia Palace*

**2:00 pm** **Coffee & Registration**

**Opening of the Project Market**

**3:00 pm** **Open Format**

Individual projects or initiatives present their work by means of a call for papers and projects

4:00 pm

## Welcome Address

### Who is who and what is NECE?

#### Introduction of an interactive mapping session with an invitation to find out:

- Who is present?
- Which expectations and expertise are in the room?
- Which are the contexts where the perception of 'the other' is particularly relevant in citizenship education?

Aims of the mapping session: Laying the ground for networking, identifying and collecting projects and competencies, brainstorming and collecting relevant questions and ideas to be discussed during the workshops.

5:30 pm

## Coffee Break

6:00 pm

## Opening Addresses

**Yiannis Boutaris**, Mayor of the City Thessaloniki (Greece)

**Thomas Krüger**, President of the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Germany)

6:15 pm

## Keynote

'The West' as 'Us' and 'The West' as the 'Other': Mental cartographies in an interdependent world

**Pankaj Mishra**, author (India & Great Britain)

**Discussant: Fernando Vallespin**, University of Madrid (Spain)

Discussion with the audience via Fishbowl format

8:00 pm

## Reception at Makedonia Palace

**Friday, 23 October 2015**

**Venue:** *Makedonia Palace*

09:00 am **Introduction**

09:15 am **Input**

What do we mean when we talk about citizenship?  
A brief clarification of terms by the CLEAR focus group  
**Claudia Lenz**, The European Wergeland Centre (Norway)

10:30 am Coffee Break

11:00 am **Input**

The impact of citizenship education in constructing 'the other' - a critical reflection  
**Audrey Osler**, University of Leeds (Great Britain)

11:30 am Discussion

12:00 pm **Parallel Panels**

**Othering and identity politics in three different contexts:  
Implications for citizenship education**

The search for 'identity' and new forms of self-assertion as 'Us' versus 'Them' are playing an increasing role in the various crises and conflicts in and around Europe. How can these new and old identity discourses be analysed and deconstructed? How can citizenship education deal with this apparent relapse into a 'clash of civilizations'? How can we combine civic education with the ability to understand and include the thought patterns, conceptions of history and hopes for the future of 'Them'?

These questions will be at the centre of three parallel panels, which will deal with the conflict in and around Ukraine, the dynamics and the function of othering in the European crisis and the dispute/conflict between Europe and the 'Islamic world'. International experts will examine these issues from different perspectives. The aim of the panels is to generate topics and questions that are relevant for practical citizenship education. These will afterwards be discussed in more detail in parallel workshops.

<b>Panel:</b> <b>Russia, Ukraine and 'the West': Do we need a new mental cartography?</b>	<b>Panel:</b> <b>The EU in Crisis: Migration and renationalisation as new challenges</b>	<b>Panel:</b> <b>The 'West' and the 'Islamic World': The role of 'othering' in specific countries</b>
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01:30 am

Lunch

Project Market – Networking

**Venues:**

***Hotel Makedonia Palace & Goethe-Institut Thessaloniki***

03:30 pm

**Parallel workshops session on issues of citizenship education**

In this part of the programme, at least 15 parallel workshops will be held: some will be organised by the organisers, others will be curated by NECE focus groups or result from the call for projects and papers. In addition, workshops proposed by the participants in the morning session will be offered.

1. Russia, Ukraine and 'the West'	2. The EU in Crisis	3. The 'West' and the 'Islamic World'
<b>Workshops 1.1.-3.1. are designed and curated by the organisers</b>		
<b>1.1.</b> General approaches, practices and/ or models will be presented, followed by a discussion on the guiding questions: Where do we stand and what do we need?	<b>2.1.</b> General approaches, practices and/ or models will be presented, followed by a discussion on the guiding questions: Where do we stand and what do we need?	<b>3.1.</b> General approaches, practices and/ or models will be presented, followed by a discussion on the guiding questions: Where do we stand and what do we need? <b>Workshop: "How to prevent the radicalisation of youth?"</b>
<b>Workshops 1.2.-3.3. are designed and curated by the NECE focus groups</b>		
<b>1.2. &amp; 1.3</b> These workshops are curated by NECE focus groups and/or result from the call for projects and papers.	<b>2.2. &amp; 2.3.</b> These workshops are curated by NECE focus groups and/or result from the call for projects and papers.	<b>3.2. &amp; 3.3.</b> These workshops are curated by the NECE focus group "Exchange between Europe and North Africa"
<b>Workshops 1.4-3.4. are decided on by the participants in the introductory panels</b>		
<b>1.4 &amp; 1.5</b> The workshops will focus on the guiding questions: Where do we stand and what do we need?	<b>2.4 &amp; 2.5</b> The workshops will focus on the guiding questions: Where do we stand and what do we need?	<b>3.4. &amp; 3.5.</b> The workshops will focus on the guiding questions: Where do we stand and what do we need?

6:30 pm                      End of the Workshop Session

8:00 pm                      Reception at the Goethe-Institut and cultural performance

## Saturday, 24 October 2015

09:00 am                      **Project Market and Networking**

10:00 am                      **Introduction to the World Café**  
 It will try to answer four basic questions: 'Where do we stand?'  
 'What do we need?'  
 'Where do we go from here?'  
 'What are practical next steps for citizenship educators? '

11:30 am                      **Collecting Results and New Ideas**

12:00 am                      **Keynote**  
**Lizzie Doron**, author of 'Who the Fuck is Kafka?' (Israel)

01:00 pm                      **Farewell**  
  
 Lunch

03:00 pm                      Sightseeing Tours (optional)