

# NECE



★ NETWORKING EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

## Democracy and participation in the face of global changes

### The role of citizenship and human rights education

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

28 – 30 June 2012

Madrid, Spain

Venue: GOBERNA, Calle Fortuny 7, 28010 Madrid

GOBERNA is a graduate School on offering different academic

politics and governing in Latin America. It was developed from Latin America for Latin America and its ambition is to become a centre of excellence and reference for the whole region. GOBERNA is based in Madrid but has also strategic campus and focal points in different Latin American countries.

**GOBERNA**  
AMÉRICA LATINA  
ESCUELA DE POLÍTICA Y ALTO GOBIERNO



Politics and Higher Government. It is qualifications specialising in exercising

#### A European workshop organised by:



#### In co-operation with:



#### Supported by:

Robert Bosch **Stiftung**



Its goals are to strengthen bilateral and multilateral policies, to contribute to mutual knowledge and promote economical, trade, tourist, cultural and educational relations, as well as supporting the development of training and research promotion on the Arab and Muslim world.



## Background and Aims

Europe is currently facing the worst crisis of confidence in its history. While democratic deficits are reflected in the voter turnouts of European and national elections, neighbouring countries – especially in the Arab world around the Mediterranean – at the same time are approaching democratic changes by developing new forms of participation.

As a consequence of worldwide developments, new movements of social and political protest have emerged, indicating new ways of organising civil society. These movements increasingly start appearing in the public space, they act primarily situationally, temporarily and processual. Despite a high degree of diversity, their common feature is a demand for more participation and transparency of political decision-making.

In preparation of this year's NECE Conference in Córdoba, the expert workshop in Madrid shall pave the way for the discussions focusing on current concepts of democracy and participation in the face of worldwide processes of change as well as crises in politics, society and economy.

Central questions are:

- How to define these new movements, what is new? What aspects, tools, etc. can be adapted by citizenship education?
- How to reinvent democracy and participation in Europe facing social crisis and processes of re-nationalisation?
- How can we interpret the changes in North Africa regarding the self-reflection of citizenship education in Europe in general? What changes are necessary?
- How can we foster the exchange and co-operation between civil societies on both shores of the Mediterranean?
- What expectations do exist on both sides?
- What is the role of concepts of citizenship and human rights education in this context?
- What are the consequences for the focus of this year's NECE Conference?

## Programme

### Thursday, 28 June 2012

Until 5 pm                      Arrival and registration / Check-in at the Hotel Zurbano, Madrid

5:30 pm                         Meeting in the lobby of the Hotel Zurbano, Madrid and walk to GOBERNA

#### *Reception at GOBERNA*

6:00 pm                         **Words of Welcome / Aims and Purpose of the Workshop**  
**Petra Grüne & Christoph Müller-Hofstede**, Federal Agency for Civic Education (Germany)

**Eduardo López Busquets**, Director of Casa Árabe (Spain)



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Introduction session of all participants

6:30 pm

**Session I: Democracy and participation in times of change**

**Statements**

**May Elmahdi**, Journalist, Vice-Chairwoman of the Board of Mayadin al-Tahrir (Egypt/Germany)

**Fernando Vallespín**, Director of the Instituto Universitario José Ortega y Gasset (Spain)

Discussion

Moderation: **Fernando Vallespín**, Director of the Instituto Universitario José Ortega y Gasset (Spain)

8:00 pm

Reception

10:00 pm

Walk back to the Hotel Zurbano, Madrid

**Friday, 29 June 2012**

8:45 am

Meeting in the lobby of the Hotel Zurbano, Madrid and walk to GOBERNA

*GOBERNA, Fundación Ortega y Gasset*

9:15 am

Aims and purpose of the NECE conference 2012 in Córdoba  
**Petra Grüne & Christoph Müller-Hofstede**, Federal Agency for Civic Education (Germany)

Comments by the participants

10:00 am

**Session II:  
The role of citizenship and human rights education**

**Peter G. Kirchschräger**, Co-Director Centre of Human Rights Education, University of Teacher Education Lucerne (Switzerland)

**Anu Toots**, Professor of Comparative Public Policy, Tallinn University (Estonia)

11:30 am

Coffee break





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12:00 am

**Session III: Current status, perspectives and the demand for democratic participation**

**Input 1: New social movements and the deficit of political representation – phenomenon, causes and perspectives**

**Pablo Oñate**, Professor of Political Science, University of Valencia (Spain)

**Input 2: New social media and democratic participation**

**Daniel Reichert**, Co-founder “Liquid Democracy e.V.” (Germany)

**Input 3: Arab spring – citizenship education in times of political transformation in Egypt**

**Nelly Corbel**, Manager of University-Based Civic Engagement, the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement, the American University of Cairo – AUC (Egypt)

Professional statements followed by discussion sessions in different smaller working groups

Discussion on the results of the individual working groups

2:00 pm

Lunch break on the terrace

3:30 pm

**Session IV: Good practice and models of democratic participation**

**Project 1: The Siberian cooperation programme “From idea to the action”**

**Elena Bobrovskaya**, Coordinator of the cooperation-programme Krasnoyarsk (Russia)

**Project 2: Arab Democracy Building (Vote Match)**

**Fouad Hamdan**, Political Advisor, Activist and Project Manager of [www.ikhtiartounes.org](http://www.ikhtiartounes.org) in Tunisia – inspired by [www.stemwijzer.nl](http://www.stemwijzer.nl), [www.wahlomat.de](http://www.wahlomat.de) and [www.votematch.eu](http://www.votematch.eu)

**Project 3: PoliPedia.eu – an online tool for civic education by Youth in Action**

**Tomaž Pušnik**, Researcher, Faculty of Sciences, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Discussion session with all participants

5:00 pm

Coffee break





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5:30 pm                      Discussing first conclusions of the day

8:45 pm                      Reception at Casa Árabe

**Words of Welcome**

**Eduardo López Busquets**, Director of Casa Árabe (Spain)

**Statement**

**Strengthening civil society in Northern Africa – The role of European organisations**

**Heinrich Kreft**, Ambassador and Director for Public Diplomacy and Dialogue among Civilizations, Federal Foreign Office (Germany)

**Saturday, 30 June 2012**

9:00 am                      Meeting in the lobby of the Hotel Zurbano, Madrid and walk to GOBERNA

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9:30 am                      **Session V: Elaboration of recommendations for the NECE Conference “Participation Now! Citizenship Education and Democracy in Times of Change” in Córdoba, 21-24 November 2012 (consolidation of the workshop themes, compilation of ideas for experts and projects)**

Split-up in 4 groups:

Discussion of the sub-themes and identification of experts, projects, initiatives, organisations, etc.

Moderation: **Petra Grüne & Christoph Müller-Hofstede**, Federal Agency for Civic Education (Germany) & **Tatjana Meijvogel-Volk**, ProDemos (the Netherlands)

11:00 am                      Outlook for the NECE Conference 2012: Conclusions

12:00 am                      Lunch snack

