

NECE Workshop  
**European Co-operation Projects**  
**Experiences – Strategies – Networking and Follows Up**  
 4 - 6 November 2010  
 Trent, Italy

## Biographies



**Elisabeth Alber** is coordinator and researcher at the Institute for Studies on Federalism and Regionalism at the European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano (EURAC) in South Tyrol, Italy. She investigates legal and political tools for coping with the management of an ever more complex and plural decision-making in Europe. Her research interests are minority rights, territorial autonomies, multinational federations and European integration. Elisabeth Alber has studied and worked at the University of Torino (Italy), the University of Turku/Åbo (Finland), the European Center for Minority Issues (ECMI) and the European Economic and Social Committee of the EU. As organiser and trainer she facilitated intercultural seminars throughout Europe. Elisabeth Alber regularly lectures in Master Programmes, publishes articles, consults on the management of ethnic diversity, and organises seminars for the academic and political community as well as for the civil society.



**Anita Baschant** is project consultant at the agency lab concepts in Bonn, studied Pedagogic and Cultural Studies at the University of Karlsruhe. During her studies she worked as a graduate assistant at the Institute of Pedagogy, was a trainee at the “Filmfestival Mannheim-Heidelberg” and initiated and organised several projects for students of Pedagogy and Cultural Studies. As project consultant Anita Baschant supports lab concepts especially in the fields of European education debates and international cooperation. She is also responsible for the conception of youth formats and events and the coordination and management of projects within the framework of the NECE initiative.



**Olga Bombardelli** is professor of Educational Studies at the Faculty of Literature and Philosophy of the University of Trento and holds a module of the Jean Monnet “Education for the Future of Europe” programme. She was researcher at the DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) and thereby in charge of the Erasmus/ Socrates exchange programme between the University of Trento and other European Universities (Baden, Vienna, Bremen, Prague, Adana). Her research interests include the European dimension at school, education for citizenship and teacher training.



**Pamela Brandt** is an online contributor at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education. She studied History, Journalism, Education and the Romance Studies in Hamburg, Paris and Bordeaux. She has worked as a freelance journalist for both print and television, including for the broadcasters Pro7, ZDF and MDR. Pamela Brandt completed an internship at the Federal Agency for Civic Education in 2001, and subsequently became an online contributor in the area of multimedia. Her duties there include maintenance of the Federal Agency for Civic Education’s website and the online election tool ‘Wahl-O-Mat’.



**Francesca Casna** studies at the University of Trento (Italy). She obtained a bachelor's degree in Foreign Languages for Tourism and Management in 2009 and is now attending a Master Course in Foreign Languages, Literature and Translation at the Faculty of Literature and Philosophy. From April to June 2010 she completed a three-month placement at the agency lab concepts in Bonn (Germany), supporting in the organisation of several events, including the NECE workshop in Trent. Francesca Casna has various experiences abroad due to study and also to own interest. Between 2007 and 2009 she took part in a project of partnership with natives of Trentino living abroad. During this project she lived in Florianopolis (SC – Brazil) for a month meeting people whose ancestors emigrated from Trent long time ago.



**Paolo Dalvit** is headmaster of a secondary school and coordinator of the project "Twin Lessons" held by a number of teachers in different schools. He graduated in Philosophy, has published with numerous other authors and contributes on the European dimension in history textbooks in Trentino and on the way citizens who are born in Trent and in the region look at the presence of immigrants.



**Jochum de Graaf** is senior project manager at the Institute for Political Participation (IPP) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He holds a master degree in Sociology of Economics and Organisations and a post doc in Journalism. He has been working in the field of civic education since 1980, editing and publishing various publications on political problems in the Netherlands, amongst others a handbook on using the media. From the beginning, in 1989, he was involved in the development of "StemWijzer", the very successful political preference test in the Netherlands. At the parliamentary elections in 2006 the site did obtain 4.7 million users. He successfully introduced the StemWijzer-method in Germany (2002), Switzerland (2003), Bulgaria (2005), France (2007) and the UK (2008). Together with the German Federal Agency for Civic Education he played an active role in building the NECE network Vote Match Europe 2009, for the EP-elections.



**Uwe W. Diener** is the author of the questionnaire software GrafStat. From 1972 to 1975 he studied Mathematics, Science and Technics to become a teacher in Bielefeld, Germany. In the year 1979 he started working as teacher in Ratingen. Three years later he ordered the first computers for his school and in 1985 he coded the first lines for the predecessor software of GrafStat called 'fragebog'. This first edition of a survey software was part of the teachers qualifying programme "Informationstechnische Grundbildung" (GRIN) in North Rhine-Westphalia and the beginning of Uwe W. Diener's career as moderator in the training of teachers and as software author. In 1993 the co-operation with the University of Münster and the Federal Agency for Civic Education started which is lasting until today.



**Peter Facey** is the founding director of Unlock Democracy, the UK's leading membership based campaign for democracy, rights and freedom. He became Unlock Democracy's director in 2007 following the merger of Charter 88 and the New Politics Network, having previously run both organisations. He has worked in the democracy and citizenship sector in the UK since 1995. Prior to his involvement with Unlock Democracy and its predecessors, he was chief executive of the British Youth Council. His research interests include political parties, young people and politics, voting and constitutional reform and citizen involvement. Peter Facey has given evidence to a wide variety of Parliamentary Committees on issues as diverse as referendums, lobbying and the decentralisation of power. In 2008 he brought Vote Match to the UK since when it has grown into the UK's largest voter advice application. Peter Facey has given lectures and participated in debates on democratic reform in Latin America, USA and Europe. He is a graduate of Staffordshire University and the University of Amsterdam.





**Brigitte Foppa** is co-president of South Tyrol's Green Party since 2009 and member of the Town Council of Bolzano, Italy since May 2010. She studied Modern Languages and Literature (German, Spanish, Swedish) at the universities of Milan and Trento. Brigitte Foppa worked as a teacher and translator. At the moment she is responsible for the Action Days for Democratic Citizenship Education at the Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano and researches on literature and national socialism in South Tyrol.



**Andrea Frighi** is an English teacher in a high school in Trent (Italy). He graduated in Foreign Languages and Literatures in 1997, in Modern Literatures (i.e. Italian Literature and History) in 2002 and postgraduated in Didactics of English Language and Culture in 2004.



**Diego Garzia** is PhD Candidate in Comparative and European Politics at the University of Siena, Italy. Previously he studied at the Universities of Rome (Sapienza) and Leiden, the Netherlands. His research interests include: comparative politics, political psychology, voting behaviour, parties and elections. His most recent works have been accepted for publication in "Comunicazione Politica", "The Leadership Quarterly", "Political Studies Review", and "Politikon: The IAPSS Journal of Political Science" (for which he actually serves as Editorial Board member). Diego Garzia is also actively involved in the field of Voting Advice Applications (VAAs). In 2009, he has been editor-in-chief of Italian *cabina-elettorale.it* and co-editor of the pan-European *VoteMatch.eu*. Together with Lorella Cedroni, Diego Garzia edited the first comparative volume ever devoted to VAAs and their effects on users' political behaviour "Voting Advice Applications in Europe: The State of the Art", published 2010.



**Caroline Gebara** is an adviser in the European Wergeland Centre for Education on Human Rights, Democratic Citizenship and Intercultural Understanding, Norway. She completed her MA in Social Science and Human Rights in 2005 with a thesis focusing on human rights education as empowerment and its meaning in extremely difficult circumstances. Caroline Gebara has worked since 2006 internationally as well as in Germany in the human rights education field for several non-governmental organisations, the German Institute for Human Rights, the Council of Europe, and the League of Arab States. Her work has been centred on project and material development, and the professional development of educators. Caroline Gebara is working since 2009 for the European Wergeland Centre in Oslo.



**Jan Dirk Gerritsen** has been working for the Institute of Political Participation (IPP) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands since 2006. Over the past years he has co-developed a number of websites that focus on the comparison of convictions (and voting behaviour) between political parties and voters. Jan Dirk Gerritsen has also carried out evaluations for several municipalities and wrote a number of guidances for the Association of Netherlands Municipalities. He has a major in History.





**Petra Grüne** has been in charge of the Federal Agency for Civic Education's Events Department since 2005. Together with Christoph Müller-Hofstede, Petra Grüne is responsible for the NECE initiative promoted by the Federal Agency for Civic Education and amongst other projects also in charge of the online glossary Confusing Conversations and the Action Days for Democratic Citizenship Education. She has been working at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education since 1991 in a number of different fields and positions, including heading a comprehensive evaluation of this institution in 1999 that eventually led to a reshuffling of the organisation. After the restructuring, she initially headed

the "Principles" Department. She studied Sociology, Sinology and Communications Research in Bonn and Shanghai.



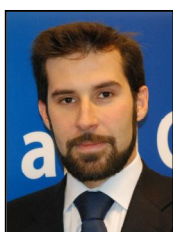
**Patricia Hladschik** has been managing director of *polis* – Austrian Centre for Citizenship Education in Schools since 2006. "polis" is the central education service institution for citizenship education in schools. The centre helps teachers to bring citizenship and human rights education into the classroom. One of the tasks of the centre is to organise the Action Days for Democratic Citizenship Education in Austria ([www.politik-lernen.at](http://www.politik-lernen.at)). Moreover, since 2009 Patricia Hladschik has been the head of the "human rights education unit" at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Vienna (<http://bim.lbg.ac.at/en>). She has longstanding experience in human rights work, e.g. as member of the board of the Austrian

section of Amnesty International from 2003 to 2009. Patricia Hladschik holds a PhD in French Literature and still works as literary translator from French to German occasionally.



**Ondrej Horak** took part in several student activities and initiatives during his study of law at the Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. As a follow-up of the initiative "Inventorying of democracy" he set up a student non-formal group with two goals: analyse the field of civic education in Czech Republic and find a platform for its systematic support. In spring 2010 he got to know the new Center of Civic Education placed in Brno and started working there since May. The main aims of the Center are to identify important topics, which are valuable from the perspective of citizenship education; to coordinate projects and initiatives, which already exist. Ondrej Horak works as a coordinator of the pilot project

"Education to Citizenship" with the goal to develop systematic support of civic education at schools and create a network of cooperating regional organisations.



**Marco Incerti** is the head of communications and research fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Belgium, one of the leading European think tanks. Before joining CEPS, he worked in the International Law Department of the University of Rome "La Sapienza". Since joining CEPS in 2002, he has concentrated on the European Constitutional process, following the work of the Convention on the future of Europe and focusing in particular on institutional reform. In this context, Marco Incerti helped to found and, between 2003 and 2006, managed the European Policy Institutes Network (EPIN), a network of think tanks from all over Europe which, through regular meetings in Brussels and

a constant flow of publications, aims at fostering the European dimension of the debate on EU policies and at increasing the degree of co-operation between research organisations on the continent. During his tenure, CEPS has been ranked for three years in a row among the Top Ten Think Tanks in the world, and received the EPAD (European Public Affairs Directory) Award as "Think Tank of the year 2008".



**Iveta Kazoka** is a policy analyst at the Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS, a leading policy think-tank in Latvia. Her spheres of expertise include good governance, public participation and election campaign regulation. In 2006 she created an online database where anybody could compare the pre-election promises of political parties to specific votes in parliament. Since then Iveta Kazoka has been a very active public advocate for increasing the possibilities of citizens to influence the decisions made both at municipal and national level (for example, e-petitioning, local referenda, e-consultations, state officials having social network presence). In 2010 she was leader of the team that launched 'gudrasgalvas.lv', a

social network for communication of election candidates with voters. Iveta Kazoka has also been involved in creating other online products that aim to improve voter memory and to give citizens more possibilities to be actively involved in decision-making.



**Franz Kiefer** works in the Department of Didactics and Methodology at the Federal Agency of Civic Education. He is currently engaged in projects of applied research in the methodology of teaching politics and generating materials / textbooks for teaching political education in schools. Together with the 'GrafStat'-team at the University of Münster he was in charge of the development of teaching units in recent national and European Election Campaigns. Their task was to promote not only the understanding of elections and election campaigning but also to provide technical steering of such school or teaching projects. Franz Kiefer studied Political Science and English Philology at the University of Trier,

McMaster University, Hamilton/Ontario and as a postgraduate at the University of Stirling, Scotland.



**Sabine Kühmichel** is an assistant in the team of Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Sander at the Department of Educational and Social Sciences at the University of Münster, Germany and works there mainly in the project "Research with GrafStat" ([info@forschenmitgrafstat.de](mailto:info@forschenmitgrafstat.de)). She studied Education of English and Theology with specialisation in high school level ("Lehramt") at the University of Münster. In co-operation with the Federal Agency for Civic Education the project team "Research with GrafStat" develops teaching units, which show in an exemplifying way to make sensible use of the software GrafStat in school and other areas of civic education. Main target is to enable youths to conduct surveys and evaluate

the data/results on their own – thus helping to integrate sociological research methods and computers as important tools into civic education classes.



**Weronika Kundera** holds a Master of Law. She studied at the Berufshochschule in Villingen-Schwenningen (Germany), Technische Universität Dresden (Germany) and the ETC-International College, Bournemouth (UK). She gained professional experience in Germany, Poland and Austria. Currently she is writing her PhD thesis at the Willy Brandt Center of the University Wrocław on the "Minorities' situation in Poland, Germany and Austria".



**Claudia Lenz** is research and development coordinator at the European Wergeland Centre for Education on Human Intercultural Understanding, Human Rights and Democratic Citizenship. After a study of Philosophy, Political Science and Psychology, she took her PhD in Political Science at the University of Hamburg, Germany. Her fields of research and publication are historical consciousness, memory cultures and memory politics with regard to World War II. and the Holocaust. Claudia Lenz has been teaching at different Universities in Germany and Norway and works as scientific adviser for the University of Luxembourg and the Center for Holocaust Studies in Oslo, Norway.



**Grzegorz Makowski** holds a PhD in Sociology and is senior analyst and head of the Civil Society Programme at the Institute of Public Affairs, Poland. Since 2003 he has been involved in realisation of the project KOMPAS, which focuses on building of friendly legal and institutional environment for Polish civil society organisations. One of the chief aspects of this project is an issue of participation of NGOs and generally citizens in decision-making procedures. Grzegorz Makowski is lecturer at the Collegium Civitas (Warsaw). In the past he worked as an assistant professor at the Institute of Applied Social Sciences of the Warsaw University. From 2000 to 2002 he was also coordinator of the Anticorruption

Programme, the joint undertaking of the Stefan Batory Foundation and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights.



**Oliver Märker** is managing director at Zebralog GmbH & Co KG in Berlin, Germany. On behalf of the Federal Agency for Civic Education and the Service Agency Communities in One World/InWEnt gGmbH he is moderator of the national information platform on participatory budgeting ([www.buergerhaushalt.de](http://www.buergerhaushalt.de)). He consults public agencies on the planning and realisation of electronic supported eParticipation (eParticipation) on local, regional, or federal level. Oliver Märker is specialised in the organisation of eParticipation, which encompasses socio-technical aspects like the development of eParticipation procedure and methods, the choice and/or development of technical platform, online-

moderation, public relations, documentation of results up to the organisation of the feedback process to the participants. Oliver Märker studied Geography, Sociology, and Psychology at the University of Bonn. He finished his PhD in 2004 at the University of Oldenburg, Germany. He is co-author of the first book in German language on online-mediation in economy, administration and politics. As scientific assistant at Fraunhofer Institute IAIS, Germany (formerly GMD), he was involved in early European e-participation projects like GeoMed (Geographical Mediation) or DEMOS (Delphi Mediation Online System).



**Stefan Marschall** is professor of Political Science at the Institute of Social Sciences of Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany. Before moving to Düsseldorf he was professor of Political Science at the University of Siegen. Stefan Marschall received his PhD from the FernUniversität Hagen (1998) and obtained the “venia legendi” for Political Science (Habilitation) from the University of Düsseldorf (2004). He is a specialist on German politics, (online) political communication, and comparative parliamentarism. For more than ten years Stefan Marschall consults the Federal Agency for Civic Education in Germany. Since 2003, he has been conducting a long-term research project on the German

“Wahl-O-Mat” and has published several articles on the effects of voting advice applications.



**Benedikt Meurer** currently studies his Master of Arts in Media at the Friedrich-Wilhelms-University in Bonn, Germany. In his master thesis he analyses the conceptual design of the exhibitions of the Federal Agency for Civic Education. Since June 2009 Benedikt Meurer has been a student assistant for the Federal Agency for Civic Education.



**Matthew Oliver** is Unlock Democracy’s National coordinator for Vote Match, in addition to being its communications and project officer. He has been involved with Vote Match since 2009, and managed its hugely successful 2010 General Election version, which had over 1.2 million completed surveys. He was instrumental in securing sponsorship from the Telegraph Media Group and agreeing partnerships with the BBC, Facebook, Google, SKY and STV amongst others. Also he was the projects’ media spokesman. Before he joined Unlock Democracy, he was a Conservative Party Election Agent, coordinating Stephen Hammond’s successful campaign to become MP for Wimbledon in 2005 and then went on

to manage the winning 2006 London borough election campaigns in Merton and Wandsworth. Matthew Oliver has also worked in both Houses of Parliament as well as in Public Affairs.





**Gerrit Hendrik Oonk** has been director of the European Platform for Dutch Education, the official Ministry of Education institute for primary and secondary education, from 1990 until 2006. In 2004 he completed his PhD thesis “European integration as a source of innovation in education” at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He was chairman of the ELOS scientific committee of the Common Framework for Europe Competence (CFEC), expert in the visitation commission bilingual schools in the Netherlands and representing the Dutch Ministry of Education in the European Certilingua Project. As from 2006 he was three years in charge of an Academy for teacher training

internationalisation for Dutch secondary schools. Since September 2006 he has been involved as researcher in projects on ‘Education and Europe’ at the University of Groningen and was a member of the Dutch research team of the IEA International Civics and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS). Next to this, he is also coordinating small research and consultancy activities in the agency “Helios Education and Europe”.



**Sasa Pelko** studied at the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Maribor, Slovenia. At the same period he was active as a journalist, having written articles for several magazines from the field of informatics technologies, later on writing articles for the Slovenian daily newspaper Dnevnik. He became member of the local assembly in his community. Sasa Pelko was re-elected in 2006 and recently in 2010. In the beginning of 2008 he founded a company together with his business partner, which specialises in web media publishing and extended their field of expertise also to video production. At the moment, the company is in the phase of preparing for foreign market penetration.



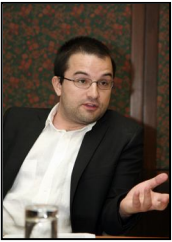
**Mimikos Petridis** studied Politics at the University of Essex and received a master degree in European Integration from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (UK). In 2000 he returned to Greece where he worked in the field of media and communication as a journalist, tutor and communication advisor for many public bodies and private enterprises. At the same period he became a founding member of the newly institutionalised Municipal Youth Council at his hometown. In 2005 he was awarded a PhD from the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki for a thesis on European identity. Immediately afterwards, he started providing consultancy and expertise to the local government in the sectors of Youth, Education and Culture. Mimikos Petridis has managed numerous European and national projects, whilst in 2010 he initiated and became a founding member of the Unesco Center “Aristotelis” for the promotion of ‘education for all’ in the region of Central Macedonia.



**Kerstin Pettenkofer** is managing director at lab concepts. She holds an MA in Political Science and is working since 2001 in the field of cultural and educational event management. Furthermore Kerstin Pettenkofer has worked for different print media, TV and radio broadcasts as a journalist. Her main areas of expertise include youth participation and civic education in Germany and Europe, international development policy with focus on Africa as well as international sustainability strategies.



**Walter Pichler** has been working for the areas of history and political education at the Pedagogic Institute in South Tyrol, Italy since 2009. He studied History at Vienna University and made different publications about recent regional history. Since 1990 he is teacher of German and History at different schools in South Tyrol. His last publication is about possibilities of prevention against racism and extremism (2010).



**Sebastjan Piki** is one of the founders and director of NOVUM, an institute for strategic and applicable research that deals with policy analysis, visual media, and public relations. He has also served as an advisor for various communication projects, including the presidential campaign for president-elect Dr. Danilo Türk in 2007. Sebastjan Piki is a philosopher and political scientist by training, with special interests in the field of psychoanalysis.



**Julian Popov** is chairman of the Bulgarian School of Politics. He was the founding executive director of the New Bulgarian University (NBU). Julian Popov had extensive experience in advising international institutions on organisational and policy development. Currently he is an adviser of the European Climate Foundation on Central and Eastern Europe. Julian Popov is also chairman of the Elizabeth Kostova Foundation and member of the board of the American University in Bulgaria. He has written for Bulgarian, English, Polish and other media. Julian Popov holds an MA in Literature from the Sofia University and has also studied at the British Open University Business School.



**Eva Potrusil** holds a diploma of the College for Multimedia (die Graphische, Vienna) and has been working for various companies as a Web-Designer and Developer since 2004. Her main tasks are the User Experience and User Interface Design for websites with diverse audience. At "wahlkabine.at" Eva Potrusil is part of the development team and responsible for the visual design of the "wahlkabine" voting tool.



**Tomas Protivinsky** is a research and evaluation manager at the Center of Civic Education at the Masaryk University, Czech Republic. He worked as an educator at Lipka (an environmental education facility), as a graphic designer at Partnership Foundation (a leading Czech foundation supporting sustainable development projects) and as an instructor of ropes courses. Besides his work, he organises summer camps and other leisure activities for youth. Tomas Protivinsky holds a Bachelor's degree in Maths (specialising in statistics) and in Environmental Studies and Psychology (his thesis tries to understand better how the civic maturity relates to structure of adolescents' leisure activities). He studies for a Master's degree in Psychology.



**Francesco Rubino** is a research fellow in the area of school evaluation and cross-national assessments such as PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) of the OECD and TIMSS (Third International Mathematics and Science Study) of IEA. He works at the research institute of the Educational and Instruction Department (IPRASE) of the Autonomous Province of Trento (Italy). He holds a PhD in Psychology and has collaborated with universities and national institutions in the last 10 years.

**Nadia Sandri** has been an English teacher at the middle school of Mezzolombardo in Trent, Italy since 2005. She has attended several language courses in the UK and Germany and worked on a number of school projects such as "Scuola per ol 21° secolo", "Valutazione per competenze" and different European co-operation projects. In 1997 Nadia Sandri was co-project coordinator of the international conference "Bilingualism: a challenge for the future" (Collegio Arcivescovile and IPRASE Trentino). She holds a high school diploma in Pedagogy and a university degree in Foreign Languages.





**Sigrid Steininger**, a graduated historian, is head of the Unit for Citizenship Education at the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture. As Austria's EDC/HRE (Education for Democratic Citizenship / Human Rights Education) coordinator she has been closely involved with the Council of Europe's EDC/HRE programme since 2002. In preparation for the "European Year of Citizenship through Education" (EYCE) she drew up and initiated the EDC Action Days in 2003, which have been held annually since then. Sigrid Steininger has also gained experience on an international level in her function as Austrian educational co-ordinator in Macedonia and Kosovo (1999-2002), on election

observer missions and due to her activities at the Council of Europe. The book "EDC in Europe – Challenges for Austria" has been published in August 2006. An encyclopaedia on politics for kids co-edited by Sigrid Steininger was issued in October 2008 (revised and updated edition 2010).



**Martin Taschner** is Assistant to Claus H. Sørensen, Director-General of the DG Communication of the European Commission. Since 2004 Martin Taschner has been working at the DG Communication in several functions. Before he went to Brussels, he worked as lawyer with PriceWaterhouseCoopersVeltins and Heuking Kühn Lüer Wojtek in Hamburg (2001-2004) and was research fellow at the University of Hamburg in the fields of International and European Economic Law (PhD in private international law) from 1999 to 2001. He studied at the University of Hamburg and graduated with a degree in law (1991-1996). From 1993 to 1994 Martin Taschner graduated at the Université d'Aix-Marseille III

with a "Diplôme en droit international et européen" and 1997 he graduated at the Université catholique de Louvain with a "Diplôme d'études spécialisées en droit international et européen (D.E.S.)". After that he went back to the University of Hamburg and finished his PhD in private international law in 2002.



**Stephan Trinius** is online-editor at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education in Bonn. Since 2009 he has been in charge of the Wahl-O-Mat – the German version of Vote Match. In addition he takes responsibility for the website 'bpb.de' and the daily European press-review 'eurotopics.net'. He majored in German Studies and minored in Sociology. Besides, he worked freelance at the online editorial-office of Deutsche Welle and of the German daily newspaper "General-Anzeiger Bonn".



**Ana Cinthya Uribe** is a researcher involved in the AUSTICA project at the Blanquerna Communication School of the Ramon Llull University in Barcelona, Spain. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Media of the Monterrey Institute of Technology (ITESM) in Guadalajara, Mexico, and a Master degree in Corporate Communication (EAE-UPC) and Public Management (EAPC). Her PhD dissertation – in process – is an analysis on Voting Advice Applications (VAAs) for their application in new markets. She is part of the project 'elecciones.es' that will be launched for the 2010 regional elections in Catalonia, Spain and has worked as a journalist and communications manager since 1998.



**Christiana Weidel** is the founder and chairwoman of the Austrian NGO platform "The World of NGOs" ([www.ngo.at](http://www.ngo.at)) and works as an adviser in educational projects at European level, as a journalist and lecturer for NGO-management in different universities and universities of applied science in Austria. Her lectures include amongst others subjects such as financial management of non-profit organisations, working in European partnership relations and European grants and funding. Her strong interest in European issues of civil society brought her to the Consultative Committee for Co-operatives, Mutual Societies, Associations and Foundations (CC-CMAF) at the European Commission. Further on she

developed cross sectorial networking activities as a board member of CEDAG the European Council for Non-Profit Organisations (Brussels), and chairing CIVICUS in Europe, International Alliance for citizen's participation (Budapest). Today she is engaged as a member of the European Active Citizenship Network (Rome) and a founding member of ENNA, European Network of National Civil Society Associations (Brussels) to strengthen the connection and interlacing of national umbrella organisations to create an active European Civil Society.