



CIVICO: FOSTERING CIVIC COMPETENCE AMONGST STUDENTS

PRESS RELEASE № 5

The **CIVICO project** that started in January 2011 has come to a successful end with the implementation of the National conferences on civic education in the last month of 2012. **The consortium** formed by 4 main partners (the Faculty of Education of three universities and two organizations whose mission is to support schools in raising the quality of education) plus 8 schools are satisfied with their collaboration and outcomes and highly motivated to continue their work for incorporating civic competence development in their national schools' curricula in the most professional way.

The main product of the CIVICO project – the **Guide on developing civic competence in students** - is now available in 10 European languages (BG, DE, DK, EN, ES, FR, IT, PL, PT, SE). If you are interested in the **Guide** addressed, please, visit our web site www.civicoproject.eu . You will also find some instruction on how to use it. For any further questions do not hesitate to contact any of the partners.

On our web site you can also find two important sections that could be very useful if you are interested in teaching civic competences and using the Guide - the **FAQ section** and the **Virtual resource centre**. The content in these two sections is available in 5 languages (BG, DK, EN, IT, PL).



CIVIC EDUCATION

Civic education is of particular importance in democratic societies. It is also connected in many ways with the building of Europe, and often perceived as a driving force in the complex process of European integration.



Lodz conference



NATIONAL CONFERENCES

National conferences on civic education took place in each partners' country as a closing event of the CIVICO project.

POLAND

University of Social Sciences in Łódź hosted the Conference:

'Teaching Civic Competence at School' which was held in Łódź on 27 November 2012. The conference summarised the work of the CIVICO project. The Conference was attended by school principals and teachers as well as people related with widely understood civic education.

The program of the Conference included speeches and presentations from experts who deal with issues concerning creating tools, promotion and teaching civic competence on everyday basis.

These people represented the most influential policy making centres in Poland working on the issue of civic education. Moreover, we managed to discuss questions related with civic attitude in all school-based age groups: starting from the primary school, through junior high school (gymnasium), to senior high school (lyceum). This allowed the participants of the Conference to get acquainted with the ways of introducing civic education at all stages of school education.

DENMARK

In Denmark VIA University College held the final conference of the CIVICO project on the 14th of November 2012. We had a very fine conference with about 200 participants - student- and in service teachers. In the morning there have been three speakers - Klaus Hass University of Aarhus, Lone Greve, Friesenborg Privat school and Birgitte Hørby, Jellebakken School plus of course a presentation of CIVICO. The theme was teaching civic competences in Danish public schools.

In the afternoon around 15 workshops presented actual teaching of civic competences including a presentation of our Hasle school project. Amongst others a theater group (*opgang 2*) was present

Aarhus conference



Empoli conference



Sofia conference

because they are currently working on a play on issues regarding civic competencies to show in schools around Denmark.

ITALY

On December the 13th 2012 the Final Conference of the CIVICO project has been held in Empoli. To the event, organised by ASEV, several teachers, experts on didactics, professors, local cultural association leader and other stakeholders took part.

During the Conference the coordinator of CIVICO presented the project starting from the importance of fostering civic competences amongst students in order to build active European citizens aware of their rights and responsibilities. Then the main achievement and results of the project has been illustrated together with the main project results. Then, the author of the Italian lesson plans, included into the Guide, explained the content of the Guide in general, the main topics contained, the idea and the process he followed to complete his work.

The Conferences ended with the distribution of the printed Guide to the participants.

BULGARIA

The conference organized by Paideia Foundation in Sofia took place on the 19th of December under the slogan “*The School – Laboratory for the future citizens of Bulgaria: Roadmap for the development of civic education in Bulgarian school system 2013-2015*”. There was a wide range of participants: students and teachers from around the country, journalists, educational specialists and the deputy minister of education, science and youth in Bulgaria.

The outcomes of the CIVICO project have been presented and there was an in-depth discussion on approaches, roles and resources for teaching civic education. The discussion was divided in 4 parts: 1. Civic education through the view of the students; 2. Civic education through the view of the individual teacher; 3. The school as a laboratory for citizens; 4. The school and social environment.

	<p>A complete record of the conference is available online on the YouTube channel of Paideia Foundation. Here is a short demo in English.</p>
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Visit the project website www.civicoproject.eu for more information and contacts.

