

Education and European citizenship

Newsletter 8

May 2007

*The European Citizenship Education on secondary high schools of Europe is a project of
The European Commission*

Application for continuation: Web-Etiquette.

The last few months BBS made applications to continue the project :The European dimension in secondary education in the European countries.

We have sent a project plan to Brussels for “*Ethical Competences of European e-Citizen*”

This project is set up by Esko Kuittinen, Aino Korhonen, Bert Zweers and Trudy Elsenaar.

The applicant is the European Platform for Dutch Education.

Generally spoken it is very difficult for teachers to keep up with the rapid change and development of new technologies and pedagogical possibilities.

Media are a way of life for our students nowadays. The positive but also negative effects are to be seen almost every day – net harassment, gossip, publishing private photos and videos.

There is an urgent need for discussion and agreement on ethics in net and media behaviour for youngsters and in order to get firmly rooted it is up to education to shape the discussion in a didactical and pedagogical way. The traditional shared European values such as freedom of speech, non discrimination, tolerance to minorities etc. set a solid base to do so. (see Basic Knowledge for European Citizen Education) European Citizenship is important for all Europeans and schools should be encouraged to participate in this multinational project for secondary, vocational and adult education

The innovative practices will be the discussions on ethics (etiquettes) for the use of the web in a European setting. Teachers from 5 different European countries will coach the students developing values and rules for E-etiquettes.

And at the same time *students teach their teachers* how to use the new web tools and services, such as weblogs ,wikis,wikipedia, messenger, videoconferences, chat etc). We do think that it very important that youngsters are involved in developing etiquettes for media use and that they share their experience with peer groups all over Europe.

The project about the Role of the School leaders in the implementation of European Citizenship Education was worked out by Prof. Bruno Losito and Franz Schmitz. This project is about the dissemination and implementation of the European dimension in secondary education in the European countries. This project is to support the school leaders in the process of implementation. Participants working in their own school using laptop and video cam meet each other in a video conference setting for 6 lectures by Bruno Losito. Time has also been set aside for discussion and “homework” .

Up till now we are still looking for an applicant for this project.

The Editing Committee: managing the two websites: Euro-source and Euro-discussion.

The Euro-source website has to present educational material that can be used in the classroom. Clearly this is a major undertaking and there is a lot of work ahead to complete such an ambitious plan.

In order to start the website Euro-source there should be a discussion first on the discussion web site where school leaders and experts can *discuss* the subjects of the Basic Knowledge for European Citizenship. As you can see this will for sure take some time, not only to get familiar with the use of the web, but also to practise and to get used to discuss in English.

This all is to guarantee that the Euro-source website will be in the easy reach of teachers and students to make their choices in accordance to the local context.

As was noted during the Rome conference the website Euro-source is meant to be used for different purposes in schools, it creates a possibility to enrich the different topics, area's and themes mentioned and can play a key role in life long learning. To realize this, updating regularly is very important.

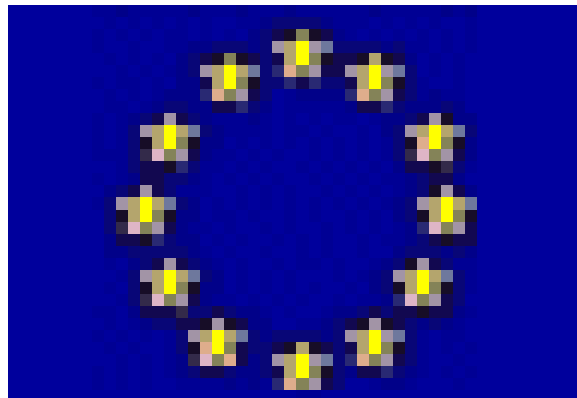
At the end of the Rome Conference, November 2006, an Editing Committee was composed to work on the discussion website, to answer questions and to “manage” the website.

The first meeting of the committee will be in Sofia (Bulgaria) in June. We are very pleased that the Department of Information and In-service Training of Teachers in Sofia is willing to host us for this first meeting. Mrs. Nikolina Tvetkova already did a lot of work arranging this 2 days conference and to making this conference successful.

Conference proceedings will be send to you as soon as possible.

BBS Foundation

School leaders and Advisors in European perspective



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