



Erasmus Thematic Network Project
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“Children and young people need to develop their values, skills self-awareness and self-confidence together with a sense of community. These will ultimately affect their consumption choices and increase their awareness of the impact of these choices on others.” (Human Development Report 1998)

Diversity creates challenges for cooperation

In increasingly more of the public arena --be it politics, literature, media or education-- the issues central to the work of the Consumer Citizenship Network, have come into the foreground and become highly debated topics. Processes, which the CCN has focused on in its first year, have proven to be of acute relevance for researchers, educators and civil society. Rethinking extravagance, revising responsibilities, reviewing accountability and reshaping cooperation appear to be essential steps in stimulating the individual's awareness of the central role they play in forming society and in assisting them in finding constructive ways of doing so. One of the main challenges the CCN faces is the further development of communication and collaboration between the network partners. The network partners represent a wide variety of diverse disciplines and the discourse and debate established so far show a willingness to become acquainted with each other's professional approaches and language. It reflects a common commitment to cooperative approaches to the more detailed goals of the network such as curriculum review and preparation of guidelines for consumer citizenship education. Clarification of which topics are collectively considered to be given priority within consumer citizenship education has begun, as the list of further focus topics which was prepared by the thematic groups and the research presented at the conference in March indicate. Cooperation concerning analysis of best practices in teaching consumer citizenship education has commenced. All CCN partners are encouraged to continue their contributions and try to involve colleagues at their institutions as well.

Definitions and strategies

Based upon the principle of discourse and cooperative learning, the CCN strives to contribute to examining the need for renewed social, ethical and natural contracts in society, the creation of new ways of gathering and understanding information, and the initiation of reforms in education. But this process requires clear definitions and strategies. How can the results of up-to-date scientific research be brought within the reach of teachers, students and the citizens in general so that the results can motivate modifications in attitudes and

Please note:

The Second CCN Conference

May 26-27 2005

Bratislava, Slovakia

Definitions and strategies (continued)

behavior? How can institutions of higher education develop value-based curricula which also train students in the art of making choices, of managing resources and of dealing with conflicts? What can be done to connect more integrally daily life experience to more complicated and theoretical considerations? How can the use of ICT in teaching consumer citizenship be improved? All suggestions are welcome to be sent to the thematic groups whose addresses are on the final page.

CCN curriculum surveys and teaching/learning guidelines

Questionnaires have been sent out per email. Kindly return them filled out as soon as possible. Feel free to add any additional information you consider relevant. Answered questionnaires will be posted on the closed CCN member site. A draft copy of the final compilations will be shared with CCN partners before publication to control that all the information is correct.

The Tuning project

The Tuning project emerged from the Bologna process which aims at creating an integrated higher education area in Europe, against the background of one European economic area. The need for compatibility, comparability and competitiveness of higher education in Europe has sprung from the needs of students, whose increasing mobility requires reliable and objective information about educational programmes on offer. Also, employers in Europe require reliable information about what a qualification or a degree, stands for in practice. The project focuses on generic and subject-specific competences of first and second cycle graduates. It does not aim at a harmonisation of degree programmes or any sort of prescriptive or definitive European curricula, rather looks for points of convergence and common understanding. It is considered paramount to protect the rich diversity of European education, and TUNING therefore looks for common reference points in the European educational landscape.

CCN was represented at the closing conference of TUNING II in Brussels May 21.-22, 2004. Cooperation between CCN and the coming Tuning project will deal with:

- mapping teaching practice in relation to consumer citizenship

- identifying and discussing the most important generic competences related to degree programs which include consumer citizenship
- identifying and discussing the most important subject specific competences related to consumer citizenship
- clarifying the learning outcomes of consumer citizenship education

Mr. Peter Østergaard, a member of the Tuning project will consult with the CCN steering group at the meeting to be held in September 2004.

For more information about Tuning see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/educ/tuning/tuning_en.html

The UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development

Education for sustainable development has changed over the years. Though still rooted in environmental education and sustainable ecological development, ESD has begun to recognize the importance of teaching about the social and economic aspects of development in society as a whole. Two significant elements of this are civic education and consumer education. After the CCN conference in Paris this March, several projects connected to the Decade for ESD have been formulated in which consumer citizenship education is included. One is a pilot project to begin work on preparing a European Masters in Education for Sustainable Development. A second project is called Nescap and deals with increasing public awareness of the need for and ways of achieving sustainable consumption. For more details about these and other ideas for the Decade see the CCN website.

CCN renewal application approved

The renewal application for the second project year of CCN (October 2004-5) was submitted March 1, 2003. The application was approved and the evaluation from the independent expert appraisal was very positive. At the moment notification of the amount of funding CCN will receive from SOCRATES for the second year of activities has not been received. The application for 2004-5 including the goals and work plan is available on the CCN website

Please note that institutional numbers for CCN partners in the new application are different than the numbers partners have had the first year.

The Second CCN Conference

May 26-27 2004

Bratislava, Slovakia
The University of Economics

All CCN partners are invited to submit a proposal (abstract) of 250 words for a presentation, a paper, or a symposium for the upcoming second annual CCN conference 26-27 May 2005 in Bratislava, Slovakia. The CCN selection committee will review the proposals.

Proposals must be submitted by December 1, 2004 and papers must be submitted March 1, 2005.

- **Short presentations** of about 15-20 minutes are welcome. There will be time allotted for questions and discussion after each presentation
- **Papers** Those presenting papers will be given 30 minutes for a presentation and discussion. Selected papers will be posted on the CCN membersite and an edited version of the conference proceedings will be published
- **Symposia** are a group of partners who propose to present three or four linked papers on a common theme. Symposia will be given a 90 minute period for presentations and discussions. The proposal for a symposium should include the name of the organiser of the symposium and those participating. A proposal of 250 words about the symposium must be submitted.

Workgroups will be an important part of the second CCN conference. These groups will review and discuss definitions and strategies connected with consumer citizenship. They will also review the curriculum surveys and the teaching/learning guidelines. If there is a specific topic which you feel should be highlighted in a workgroup, please inform the CCN Core Unit.

Submission details

Please submit the following by email: ccn@hihm.no or by post to CCN Core Unit Hedmark University College, 2318 Hamar, Norway, or fax +47 625 27601

Name	
Institution	
Address	
Contact details	Email: _____ Fax: _____
Title	
Presentation OR paper OR symposium (Please indicate which)	
Theme which your proposal deals with	
	REMEMBER TO ATTACH A PROPOSAL/ABSTRACT of 250 words in narrative form

Website developments

The member site (intranet) with information specifically for CCN partners has been established and information, usernames and passwords have been posted to all CCN partners. If you should have difficulties getting into the member site with you password, contact the Core Unit.

We are still working to establish a page with links to other relevant sites. For news and updates look regularly www.hihm.no/concic

Dates for you to remember

31 AUGUST 2004

Final date for sending in the curriculum survey and teaching guidelines from your institution and information about possible staff/student exchange

5 SEPTEMBER 2004

Send in report of CCN activities at your institution and dissemination in your country (articles, reports, websites)

1 OCTOBER 2004

New project year begins (meetings of thematic groups will take place from the 25th of October to the 25th of November. More details about the meetings will be sent out soon.)

1 DECEMBER 2004 Proposals for presentations, papers and symposium

Learning to change our world

The 4-7 of May an International Consultation on Education for Sustainable Development was held in Gøteborg, Sweden. After an opening via video from UN Sec. General Kofi Annan, the Swedish Prime Minister, Gøran Persson, called on the 350 specially invited guests from around the globe to consider the basic values at the core of education for sustainable development can and how ESD can be reinforced. CCN was invited to attend and present the work the Network is doing as CCN represents a unique effort to combine the social and economic aspects of sustainable development with the environmental aspects. There were many concrete suggestions made at the consultation which can be of interest for CCN members. Reports are available on the following website: www.learning2004.se

CCN thematic groups' meetings

The thematic groups will meet between 22 October and 25 November 2004. If you have suggestions you would like the groups to work on please contact the group leader.

1. **Ethical challenges:** *How can the consumer citizen deal with the ethical challenges of prosperity?* Groupleader: Valentin Petrousenkko petrus@pu.acad.bg

2. **The information society:** *How can the media and ICT be constructive tools for the consumer citizen?* Groupleader: Declan Doyle DOYLED@ITCARLOW.IE

3. **Rights and responsibilities:** *What are the consumer citizen's rights and responsibilities as regards food, transport, housing, energy use and personal finances?* Groupleader: Ilze Leipina ilze_liepina@td.lv

4. **Global solidarity:** *What contributions can the European consumer citizen make towards the eradication of poverty in the world?* Groupleader: Anne Marie van den Dries, euro-katho@katho.be

5. **Involvement:** *How can awareness and social involvement be stimulated in the consumer citizen?* Katri Kerem, katri@staff.ttu.ee

YouthXChange

YouthXChange is a training kit on responsible consumption prepared by UNEP and UNESCO. It is particularly oriented towards young people and can easily be used in schools and in teacher training. In connection with the CCN conference March 2004 in Paris, YouthXChange received a grant from the Norwegian government. It has been decided that this grant will contribute to a teacher training seminar to be held in March 2005 where a selection of teachers from around world will have the opportunity to learn more about the use of the YouthXChange kit.

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