



Erasmus Thematic Network Project
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Network Newsletter
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www.hihm.no/concit

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“There is growing recognition that all countries pay a price for global injustices. And there is greater acceptance of the need for action to narrow the gap between global potential and reality—and to advance global human development in its deepest sense.” (Human Development Report 2003)

The Consumer Citizenship Network gains momentum

The Consumer Citizenship Network has completed its first project year and has accomplished much more than was expected in that period. Considering the interdisciplinary nature of consumer citizenship, the diversity of partners and the limited funding received for the Network's first phase, it is encouraging to note that CCN has:

- compiled an extensive catalogue of professionals working with consumer citizenship related topics
- initiated dialogue and cooperation between partners on the topics of the five CCN thematic groups
- established and developed a CCN website as well as a CCN membersite
- successfully held the first international conference in collaboration with UNESCO in Paris
- published the selection of the proceedings of the conference, “Using, choosing or creating the future?” in book form as well as a cd of the entire conference proceedings
- published articles comprising the special conference issue of the Nice-mail journal
- initiated cooperation with the European Tuning project
- carried out the first stages of the consumer citizenship curriculum survey
- begun collecting and editing contributions for the publication of teaching/learning guidelines
- held teacher training seminars in various countries
- contributed to the launching of the UN decade for education for sustainable development.

As the CCN final report for project year 1 (which will be sent to all partners shortly) indicates, the CCN is growing in terms of partners and tasks. It has also attracted the attention of educational authorities in a number of countries and CCN partners are involved in consultation about curriculum reform and how to better bring documented research on consumer issues to students and pupils as well as how to stimulate active involvement in society as citizens. Fortunately, the CCN has received significantly more funding for its second project year from the Socrates Programme than it did for the first year. This will facilitate continuing and expanding CCN activities.

Stipends available for conference

The CCN is able to offer a limited number of stipends for travel and accommodation for international CCN conference, “Taking Responsibility”, to be held in Bratislava. Apply to ccn@hihm.no before 1 March 2005.

The Second CCN Conference

May 26-27 2005

Bratislava, Slovakia

Final registration date: 1 March 2005

Extended date for submission of conference proposals

The date for submission of abstracts and proposals for papers and presentations for the 2nd CCN international conference, "Taking Responsibility", to be held at the University of Economics in Bratislava, Slovakia, 26-27 May 2005 has been extended until **15 January 2005**. Please see the enclosed conference invitation and practical information sheet for more details. Note that those who have submitted a proposal should also register for the conference by using the booking form.

CCN steering group and thematic group meetings

The CCN steering group has had four meetings since the project began in October 2004. At these meetings the steering group has monitored the progress of the project, reviewed the forthcoming tasks and discussed how to better meet the challenges facing the network. In particular, the steering group has dealt with the preparations of the thematic group meetings and the international CCN conferences. Members of the steering group have also represented the CCN at international meetings and conferences.

Thematic group meetings: Each of the groups worked on the curriculum survey results received so far and the contributions which have been made to the teaching/learning guidelines. It was agreed that a statement of purpose (a "philosophy" or "expanded definition" about consumer citizenship should be completed as an introduction to the guidelines. It was also agreed that teaching/learning about consumer citizenship should allow for innovative humorous approaches as well as methods involving arts such as theatre and music. Ways to development the curriculum survey to achieve a wider baseline were considered by the thematic groups. Association with the Tuning project was also delineated. There was general agreement on the need to maintain the interdisciplinary, future-oriented profile of consumer citizenship education. In addition to these topics the groups took up some of the following points.

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Thematic group 1. Ethical challenges: *How can the consumer citizen deal with the ethical challenges of prosperity?* This thematic group met in Liverpool, U.K. in November. It was

agreed that a special short declaration of the goals and purposes of consumer citizenship will be elaborated which would be available for all interested authorities in the countries within the scope of the network.

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Thematic group 2 The information society: *How can the media and ICT be constructive tools for the consumer citizen?* This group met in Malta in October and worked among other things on developing the glossary of terms relevant to consumer citizenship. The importance of communicating with businesses and governments about consumer citizenship was also emphasized.

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Thematic group 3 Rights and responsibilities: *What are the consumer citizen's rights and responsibilities as regards food, transport, housing, energy use and personal finances?* The meeting was held in November in Riga. Among the numerous topics dealt with, one which received special attention was the consumer's right to be heard and to influence decisions of both the government and producers. The group felt it was necessary to be cautious about sharing consumer information in a paternalistic or moralistic manner.

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Thematic group 4 Global solidarity: *What contributions can the European consumer citizen make towards the eradication of poverty in the world?* In November this group met and agreed, in addition to the other activities, to prepare a guideline for teachers about short term projects with students to countries outside their own, using consumer citizenship as a basic theme. It was also agreed that a part of the teaching/learning guidelines should deal with understanding global inequalities and ways forward to global cooperation.

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Thematic group 5 Involvement: *How can awareness and social involvement be stimulated in the consumer citizen?* Group 5 met in Berlin in October and analysed a number of new consumer citizenship education materials and methods. The group strongly encouraged the other groups to also join them in collecting case studies to be used in teaching.

Case studies: Kindly send examples of best practice/case studies connected to consumer citizenship education to the CCN Core Unit .

Website developments

The development of the member site (intranet) with information specifically for CCN partners and the database reference library has taken more time than anticipated to establish. Please remember to send your contributions electronically and preferably using the form which was previously sent to all partners and which is available online. If you should still have difficulties getting into the member site with you password, contact the Core Unit. For news and updates look regularly www.hihm.no/concit. Booking for the upcoming CCN conference, "Taking Responsibility" can be done online also.

Relevant references

The following sites provide interesting information about projects relevant to the work of the CCN:

www.criticalthinking.org

www.eeeee.net

www.civiq.nl

www.servicelearning.org

Dates to remember

15 JANUARY Extended deadline for submission of proposals for presentations, papers and symposia for the CCN annual conference, "Taking Responsibility".

30 JANUARY Deadline for expressing interest to the CCN Core Unit about participating in the proposed dissemination project, "Mobile Mediatek for Education for Sustainable Development". For more information see CCN member website.

11 FEBRUARY Meeting of thematic group 5.

25 FEBRUARY CCN steering group meeting in Kortrijk, Belgium.

1 MARCH Final registration date for participating in the CCN Conference, "Taking Responsibility". Submission date for complete papers. Final submission date for applications for stipends to conference.

1 MARCH Submission date for application to Socrates Action for funding for third year of CCN (final year of first cycle).

4 MARCH Meeting of thematic group 2

11 MARCH Meeting of thematic group 3

18 MARCH Meeting of thematic group 4

26-27 MAY CCN Conference, "Taking Responsibility", at the University of Economics, Bratislava, Slovakia.

28 MAY Meetings of steering group and thematic groups in Bratislava, Slovakia

REMEMBER. Kindly send in reports of CCN related activities at your institution and dissemination in your country (articles, reports, websites)

The UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development: cooperation with ASP schools

The UN Decade for education for sustainable development (DESD)(2005-2014) is being launched around the globe. Seminars, conferences, television programs, festivals and other events are highlighting the importance of learning about responsible lifestyles and cooperation. CCN partners have participated by giving lectures at conferences, arranging teacher training seminars and publishing articles in relevant journals. Those involved in education for sustainable development have, to a great extent, been environmental educators, and the participation of CCN partners provides valuable perspectives on the social and economic dimensions of DESD.

One experience which has been very positive has been cooperation with national UNESCO-commissions and their Associated Schools Projects. Most ASP projects have annual meetings with representatives of the ASP schools. These teachers and teacher trainers are often keenly interested in how to include consumer citizenship in their classroom situations. They appreciate contributions and collaboration with educators, researchers and ngo representatives on issues related to sustainable consumption.

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TAKING RESPONSIBILITY



The 2.nd international Consumer Citizenship Network Conference

Bratislava, Slovakia 26-27 May 2005

Please provide the following contact information:

<i>Last name</i>	
<i>First name</i>	
<i>Title</i>	
<i>Organization</i>	
<i>Organization(cont.)</i>	
<i>CCN partner</i>	
<i>Address</i>	
<i>Address (cont.)</i>	
<i>Zip/Postal Code</i>	
<i>City</i>	
<i>State/Province</i>	
<i>Country</i>	
<i>Work Phone</i>	
<i>FAX</i>	
<i>E-mail</i>	
Presenting a paper:	Yes: No:
Making a presentation:	Yes: No:
Providing a poster:	Yes: No:
Room	Single: Double:
Date of arrival:	
Date of departure:	

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