



Newsletter 2012

Internationalization in a global world has become a vital part of the work that educational institutions are involved in – for IUC-Europe this was always at the centre since its origin and reconstruction in 2000. Long before anyone in DK was actively interested in this field it was our main interest; over the years we have built up extensive international networks of great benefit to our projects in DK and abroad. In 2012 we will continue to work on and develop the Waves of Democracy concept which was started in Novi Sad, Serbia in 2010 and continued in Belgrade 2011 with the support of Danish Ambassador to Serbia, Mette Kjuel Nielsen, and local ngos and organizations. Apart from this work we will primarily concentrate our efforts on two flagship projects in DK under the Danish EU Presidency in the first half-year of 2012. One is the **Baltic Youth Forum** taking place in late March, the other one is **Solutions for Rethinking Europe** in cooperation with our Danish partner Global Citizen. We act as consultants and partner in the latter project. In the newsletter you will be able to read about our major networks.

Major project activities:

Baltic Youth Forum

The project aims at gathering young high school students from the Baltic Sea Region and representatives from guest nations: Belgium, Austria, Serbia and India. They will set up a youth parliament and discuss 5 specific issues linked to EU's 2020 plan and the Danish EU Presidency. Prior to the General Assembly/Youth Parliament they will work in committees run by experienced students. The overall objective is to develop an interest in cultural and political issues on the EU agenda and give young people and their teachers/ directors possibilities of developing permanent networks as well as an insight in an important region in the EU. Also the ability to discuss and write in English is an important aspect of the conference. All in all a concept which IUC has developed for MEP BSR over the last couple of years. For the teachers/directors there is a good chance to establish educational networks and to cooperate on curriculum development.



Solutions for Rethinking Europe

The Great Debate/Solutions for Rethinking Europe is a *high visibility event* in connection to the Danish EU Presidency in the first six months of 2012. All interested citizens, organizations, associations, companies, parties, think tanks and universities will have an opportunity to activate themselves and each other in the debate about the problems and possibilities we face in Europe towards 2050.

- What are the key problems we need to tackle?
- What do the solutions look like?
- Who should make it happen?

These are the main questions to be addressed during the conference. IUC's longtime partner Global Citizen is the main organizer behind this spectacular event taking place at the University of Aarhus in the beginning of June. We act as consultants and are one of the main partners behind the event, which will gather 400 specially invited guests from all over the EU. The project is supported by the European Commission and will result in concrete solutions for our common Europe towards 2050. The overall purpose is to bring together as many EU actors in the field of civil society to develop new and innovative solutions. The underlining ambition is to make the Great Debate a lasting process and continue it over the coming years in DK and abroad.

Networks:

EUNET/European Network for Education and Training (www.european-net.org)

We have always been a very active member of this European network of more than 60 Europe Houses/Academies, and at present IUC's Nina Nørgaard chairs the Committee on Content and Methodology, which is one of 4 working committees of EUNET. Other committees are: *Council for Cooperation and Development, Committee on Migration and Intercultural Affairs and the Youth Committee*. The organisation is revising its structure at present, and in March NN participated in a workshop to this



effect, and with other key EUNET members and Head of the Secretariat Thomas Heckeberg , a new structure has been suggested. Please read more about the EUNET facelift on the download page, where the entire document, which will be presented at EUNET´s General Assembly in September in Vukovar, Croatia, can be studied.

DARE (www.dare-network.eu)

We have for a number of years been a member of The Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe (DARE) Network, which currently consists of 49 members from 28 countries in Europe. This network is devoted to raise the profile of Education for Democratic Citizenship (EDC) and Human Rights Education (HRE), to promote intercultural and transnational cooperation, and enhance the quality of education within these fields. Lately IUC was a partner in DARE´s EU-project, which focused on “**Democracy and Human Rights Education in Adult Learning**”.

MEP BSR (www.mepbsr.org)

IUC acts as administrative coordinator to this network, which consists of educational institutions in the Baltic Sea Region, who host youth parliaments twice a year. It has grown into a very influential network in the Nordic/Baltic region and now comprises 10 countries. There are 2 parliamentary sessions per year, – in 2011 in Vilnius and Gdynia/ Gdansk. In the spring 2012 the session will take place in Copenhagen. For the last two years experienced students from the network and organizers have been invited to take part in the Baltic Development Forum Summits. At the summit in Gdansk the organization had its own slot and presented itself to the participants in the conference.

Baltic Development Forum (www.bdforum.org)

A network for business, media, academia and politics, established by former Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann Jensen as a Nordic World Economic Forum and rap



idly becoming one of the most important and influential networks in Northern Europe. MEP BSR students have kindly been invited to the Summits in Copenhagen

(2008), Stockholm (2009), Vilnius (2010) and lately participated actively in the conference in Gdansk in October 2011. For the first time Poland hosted the annual Baltic Development Forum Summit in association with the Polish Presidency of the European Union. The BDF will continue this line of operation during its summit in Copenhagen in June 2012.

Global Citizen (www.globalcitizen.net)

Global Citizen is a fact-based online platform for solutions without borders. It is a recently established network that IUC works closely together with, run by Søren Winther Lundby (New Europe).

“Modern media and traditional dissemination of scientific insights fall short in providing operational knowledge, broad networks and practical solutions. Thus, Global Citizen tries to find new ways of sharing knowledge, building networks and generating solutions.” The very innovative network presents itself in this way, Global Citizen was a partner in the project “Waves of Democracy 2011 in Serbia and is the main organizer behind Solutions for Rethinking Europe, which is one of the 2 major projects IUC is working on in 2012.

For further information about IUC-Europe and its projects, activities and networks please take a look at our website, or contact us at iuc@iuc-europe.dk. We will be looking forward to an interesting and rewarding year as always with partners, colleagues and friends. Stay in touch!

On behalf of IUC-Europe
Nina Nørgaard
Chairman of the Board