

Newsletter Spring 2005.

We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas holiday, and that now like us you are ready to start on new challenges and projects. One of the last conferences we attended in the previous year was the conference "European Challenges" held in Bonn and organised by the Europäischen Akademie Nordrhein-Westfalen and **EUNET**. This conference brought together more than 50 representatives from 15 different nations. The participants enjoyed the social interaction as well as the programme, which contained a varied amount of topics such as: sharing of experiences with EU projects, a speech on the "European Year of Citizenship through Education", two workshops were set up - one on methods on communication and project development chaired by IUC's Nina Nørgaard and one on the "white spots" on the map of where little or no European educational facilities are available. The whole conference was framed by the exhibition "[europe-works](#)", an unusual travelling exhibition about "The enlargement of the European Union". The work with EUNET continues, and there will be new meetings in the spring and summer of 2005. The other last conference of the previous year was the conference "Human Rights Education in Europe: Taking Stock and Planning for the Future" organised by **DARE** and held in Soesterberg, the Netherlands in December. IUC participated in this conference and hopes to participate in the upcoming seminar in June, which is to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria. Another upcoming seminar we will attend is a **seminar in Carpi**, Italy. From the 7th to the 12th of May Nina Nørgaard will participate in this seminar, which is a cultural initiative (with 2 students from Sankt Annæ and 3 from Metropolitanskolen) - planned by the four secondary schools of Carpi, in close collaboration with the Municipality, to celebrate the Feast of EUROPE 2005 (a week of events in the city of Carpi to promote the European Union, especially on 9th of May, and to share an improved European civic education.

Our own projects include the upcoming conference **Model European Parliament/The Baltic Sea Region**, which will take place from the 6th to the 10th of April. The conference will host about 75 - 80 participants from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland Sweden, Denmark, Spain, Austria, Germany and Italy. The conference will focus on the following issues: **The question of human trafficking and teenage prostitution in the enlarged EU**: How should the EU combat this problem? **The question of post-war Iraq**: how should the EU assist in the political, social and economic reconstruction? **The question of developing disadvantaged regions in the Baltic Sea region**. How should the EU assist its member states in this process? **The question of improving the communication gap between the EU Commission and the civil society**. **The question of the need for a knowledge-based economy**: what steps need to be taken in secondary and higher education to encourage young people to take up this challenge?

We have also started working on another project called **Next Generation Educators**, which is a follow up project of A North European Network of Young Female Teachers in the Baltic Sea Area, which we organised in cooperation with the Danish Cultural Institute. This project will run from 2005 into 2006 and its primary aims are: to strengthen and expand the existing network, to focus on new strategies and methodologies in global education and education for democratic citizenship by bringing together experience and expert knowledge from the network and invited speakers/experts connected to **The European Year of Citizenship 2005 through Education** (launched by The Council of Europe, Sofia, Dec. 2004, www.coe.int), to develop, organise and run multi-national in-service training courses/modules.

One of our projects with Zonning Multimedia **eVisioner** has been completed in the end of January, but we are continuing our other project **eFormidler** with a new group of students. This project offers training for unemployed academics in the area of human resource management and eLearning. Last but not least we have also begun working on the project **Europe 4 You**, which is going to be a further development of the ideas behind our previous project the Vision 5 Team Roadshow and Youth 2004. The project will focus on improving the communication gap between the EU institutions and the civil society and will be developed with teachers of civic education from the upper-secondary field.

We are looking forward to a very busy spring and for further information on the above project please visit other areas of our website, where upcoming news and further developments will also be posted.

Nina Nørgaard
Chairman IUC-Europe