

Newsletter Spring 2006.

IUC-Europe welcomes you to another year full of interesting projects and activities; below you will find brief presentations of some of them, and more detailed descriptions can be found on the projects page now and later in the year.

Projects:

In the spring we are organising a very challenging project with 12 Danish High Schools in a number of regions in DK. The project is linked to the European pause of reflection after the referendums in France and The Netherlands last year. The project is called “**Vi mødes i tænkepausen**” (We are meeting during the pause of reflection), and in the regions youth parliaments will gather to discuss issues of European interest in committees: *immigration/integration, EU value/human rights, security/defence/surveillance, education/life-long learning, the environment and sustainable development, e.g.* Resolutions will be worked out and debated in the parliaments, and a joint statement will be made. App. 300 high school students will join the project in the month of March, and representatives from the schools participating will subsequently take part in the Model European Parliament Baltic Sea Region – conference, which invites students from 12 countries in the EU. (www.mep.se) This spring the Europe House in Tallinn, Estonia, will be hosting the conference. IUC's Nina Nørgaard now works as the administrative coordinator for the organisation.

In the Nordic/Baltic region we plan to implement a network with our partners to develop modules in the fields of *global education and European citizenship* based on the experiences gained through our projects in 2005 linked to The European Year of Citizenship through Education, and to the youth parliaments. The work title is **Next Generation Democracy in the Baltic Sea Region**.

With our partners in New Europe and Brandbjerg Højskole we will be hosting a European conference: **Waves of Democracy** in September for young Europeans from as many countries in Europe as possible. This project is linked to our work with Houses of Europe and other international organisations in Germany and The Netherlands, who will be hosting similar events at the same time. Each meeting place will gather about 50 young Europeans. The conferences will address questions about the EU following the referendums of last year – discussing strategies of how to deal with vital issues and problems related to the European integration process and enlargement. This project is a pilot project, which we hope to develop and expand with many more partner organisations in 2007.

Based on experiences from our Dutch partner organisation Kontakt der Kontinenten and our Vision 5 Team/Europe4You projects we plan to develop and implement a project called **Connecting Europe – unity in diversity** based on workshops/modules in the field of intercultural communication – a field which has always been in the very centre of IUC activities right from its origin. We consider ourselves pioneers in this field, which has become increasingly important not least in the light of recent developments in our region. We want to link this project to the international week in November in the Danish education system within the framework of high schools. With the new reform recently implemented in upper secondary education in DK a much stronger focus has been set on social studies, thus giving students better opportunities of relating to the world around them.

Networks:

IUC is engaged in a number of networks within and outside of DK. Here I will just briefly mention 2 important European networks, which we are involved in actively at the moment: **DARE** (www.dare-network.org) and **EUNET** (www.european-net.org).

DARE is a network for Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe, in *principle a learning community of practitioners of EDC and HRE*. The network operates in a number of European countries and brings together researchers and practitioners in the field, some working formally as partners within the Grundtvig programme, others linked to the network in a more informal manner meeting at conferences and seminars. Within its short lifetime DARE has grown from 13 members in 11 countries to 36 members in 24 European countries. As a result of the success of DARE 22 of the 36 member organisations (including IUC) will become formal partners in the Grundtvig project: *DARE-Democracy and Human Rights Education in Adult Learning*. DARE has published *Why DARE*, which gives an introduction to the work and lists/describes the organisations affiliated.

EUNET – European Network for Education and Training - is another very important network for IUC. We were among “the founding fathers” of the organisation of Europe Houses and international organisations in 2004

and have been very actively involved in the development of the network. Nina Nørgaard is Vice-president on the board and coordinator for the Committee on Content and Method. The above mentioned project **Waves of Democracy** is developed with partners from this committee, awaiting funding and ready to be launched. From this month the organisation will publish an electronic newsletter for information.

Further information about our activities and partners can be found in our websites.
Please also notice that as of July 2005 we have **a new office address in Svendborg:**
A.P.Møllersvej 31, DK 5700 Svendborg.

Nina Nørgaard
Chairman of the Board
IUC-Europe