

## Newsletter 2014

Working internationally in a global world has become a vital part of the work that educational institutions and NGOs are involved in – for IUC-Europe this was always at the centre since its origin in the 70s and its reconstruction in 2000. Long before anyone in DK was actively interested in this field, it was our main interest and work; over the years we have built up extensive international networks of great benefit to our project activities in DK and abroad. In 2014/15 we will e.g. continue to develop the Waves of Democracy concept, which originated in Rhodes in 2007, was continued in Novi Sad, Serbia, in 2010 and Belgrade 2011 with the support of Danish Ambassador to Serbia, Mette Kjuel Nielsen, and local NGOs and organizations.

Our flagship project in 2013 was the preparation and setting up of the Summer Academy in Sønderborg, DK, and the running of the conference in July 2013 at Alsion, which houses the University of Southern Denmark, Centre for Culture/Concert Hall and a cluster of businesses. Please look for information about the Academy and its recommendations from the seminar [www.wavesofdemocracy.org](http://www.wavesofdemocracy.org). The conference was titled **beyond borders** and aimed at young Europeans between 18 and 30 years of age from the region and others - in Europe and abroad.

An important part of IUC's work is to network, make alliances and act as consultants all over Europe. Below please read about some of our most important networks.

## **Networks:**

### **EYCA /European Year of Citizens 2013 Alliance <http://ey2013-alliance.eu/>**

The European Year of Citizens 2013 was proposed from the EU to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the European Union Citizenship under the Maastricht Treaty. Major European civil society organizations and networks joined their forces and created the EYC2013 Alliance to put forward proposals aimed at placing European citizenship at the heart of the EU political agenda. National alliances in most of the 28 EU states were set up, and met in Brussels and elsewhere to exchange experiences and establish a common platform for European activities in 2013 and beyond.

In DK IUC- Europe and New Europe invited civil society organizations to meet to form a national alliance in close cooperation with the European Movement DK. The EYCA network presented its recommendations in Brussels and will continue its work in 2014 to highlight the important task of including citizens and promote active citizenship in the EU integration process at a time of growing nationalism and skepticism.

### **EUNET/European Network for Education and Training ([www.european-net.org](http://www.european-net.org))**

We have always been a very active member of this European network of close to 60 Europe Houses/Academies. We have been represented at board level, been president of the organisation and active in the Committee on Content and Methodology. In order to revitalise the organisation, key members of EUNET and Head of the Secretariat Thomas Heckeberg set up a working committee at Bad Marienberg in March 2012 for a new and efficient structure to be established. This work has been continued in 2013, and EUNET members have started projects in the Balkans and in relation to the European Parliament election for young first time voters.

Please read more about EUNET and its projects at the website. The next EUNET General Assembly will be held in Prague in the autumn, where the development of the organization will be discussed.

**DARE** ([www.dare-network.eu](http://www.dare-network.eu))

For a number of years we have 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 raising 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. 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](http://www.mepbsr.org))

IUC acts as administrative coordinator to this network, which consists of educational schools/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 11 countries. In 2013/14 sessions have been held in Bruges and Tartu, and future ones will take place in Stockholm, Helsinki and Oslo. The conferences are important training ground for future young leaders and for students who take an interest in discussing current issues in the region. MEP BSR is represented in the international MEP organization, seated in Madrid, Spain.

**Baltic Development Forum** ([www.bdforum.org](http://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 rapidly 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 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. After a short break we will hopefully continue our cooperation with this important network, whose new chairperson is Ms. Lene Espersen, formerly Foreign Minister to DK.

**Global Citizen** ([www.globalcitizen.net](http://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). It presents itself in this way:

*“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.”*

## **Heading towards 2015 and new horizons?**

In the near future (April 2014) IUC will be hosting a vision seminar for partners, colleagues and guests after our restructuring last year. Jette Petersen, vice-chairman of IUC since 2000, decided to step down after many years on the board and active in numerous project activities. Her successor will be Rasmus Stobbe, who already re-presents IUC on the board. Ifor Molenhuis, who has worked for IUC in a number of contexts, will become a new member of the board. Also it should be mentioned that IUC's logo and website have been redesigned by our new webmaster and volunteer, Micky Wang, Chinese student, long-time resident in Sønderborg, at present Beijing.

The seminar will be discussing the development of our organization and the work with young people, who are at the core of our activities, based on inputs from partners and guests. Everybody is welcome to join – please look for the invitation on our site.

For further information about IUC and its projects, activities and networks please take a look at our website, or contact us at [iuc@iuc-europe.dk](mailto: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  
Nina Nørgaard, Executive Director  
Copenhagen April 18, 2014