

NECE – Networking European Citizenship Education “EYCE 2005: National Experiences – European Challenges”

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Country Profiles III. Portugal

Short synopsis

Structure

GAERI – Office for European Affairs and International Relations – is the Unit within the Portuguese Ministry of Education that coordinated the activities of the EYCE 2005 in Portugal. A wider Coordinating Group was also set up that gathered representatives from the following institutions and organisations:

- Ministry of Education: Central Services (5) and Regional Branches (7);
- National Cultural Centre (CNC, a voluntary association);
- North-South Centre (a voluntary association dealing with developmental issues);
- High Commissariat for Immigration and Ethnic Minorities (ACIME, a public institution);
- Ad-hoc Experts Committee for the EYCE

Main activities

- Regional Seminars were organised in the North (Santa Maria da Feira, 11/05) and South (Évora, 20/05) of the country and also in the Madeira Island (Funchal, 31/05). Target groups were schoolteachers and directors of local vocational training centres. Their format included two panels: one on Formal Education and another on Non-Formal Education.
- The “Europa in the School” Contest. 52 school (graphic or written) works were selected for prizes that were awarded during a ceremony in the National Parliament.
- A workshop in a middle school near to Lisbon (Carnaxide, 16/06) for teachers and pupils.
- An in-service training seminar open to educational staff of 48 countries (Caparide, 26-28/10).
- The EYCE Closure National Conference (Lisbon, 22/11).

The European Information Centre Jacques Delors (CIEJD) has also organised some special events for the EYCE, namely:

- 500 local sessions of information and debate on the European Constitution where the issues of European Citizenship were also considered;
- Training Courses (25h) for teachers on European Citizenship;
- 6-hour thematic days on “European Citizenship: Rights and Duties”, for school non-teaching staff;
- a contest for school children (8 to 18-year olds), where the question of European Citizenship is also included;
- several electronic newsletters dealing with related matters (Citizenship and Human Rights; Charter of EU Fundamental Rights; Freedom, Security and Justice; Citizenship through Education); the latter in September/October 2005);

- a sub-site in the CIEJD website where both a Thematic Directory of Sites and Teaching Aids on European Citizenship are available;
- topical articles in the CIEJD Journal;
- Tile Painting Workshops on the Charter of EU Fundamental Rights: run in partnership with local authorities, cultural organisations, schools, etc., these workshops assemble artists, trainers and school children during 5 days; afterwards the end product – a tile covered mural – is permanently displayed in a public site of the organising town. So far 11 Portuguese localities have carried out this activity.