



International Association
for
Christian Education



Intereuropean Commission on
Church and School

newsletter

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Editorial

We present to you, esteemed reader, herewith the first common Newsletter of the International Association for Christian Education (IV) and the Intereuropean Commission on Church and School (ICCS). This Newsletter informs you about current developments in the area of religion and education as well as about Christian schools in Europe. The collaboration between IV and ICCS has become more intense over the past few years. We organize common projects, represent each other in meetings of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) and the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE), and also at the European institutions, the European Union and the Council of Europe. We also develop common views and initiatives. Furthermore we cooperate together with other organisations in CoGREE. With this background, publishing a common Newsletter for IV and ICCS reflects our close working relationship. In this Newsletter you will find short reports about our own activities, about CoGREE and its other member organizations. Also, news is shared from church organizations and networks in Europe and from the European institutions. We plan to publish the Newsletter twice a year in English, French and German as electronic versions. We would welcome your feedback on this first issue and your suggestions about how the Newsletter could develop further.

With our very best wishes

Peter Schreiner, ICCS President / Dr. Gerhard Pfeiffer, IV Secretary
Dr. Wim Kuiper, IV President / Dr. Tania ap Siôn, ICCS Secretary

Information from IV and ICCS

IV & ICCS: Study Tour for School Leaders in Wales & England

“Church Schools and Citizenship” has been the theme of a study tour from 6 to 10 March 2012. School leaders from Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands and Switzerland visited Great Britain. Prof. David Lankshear (ICCS) and Dr. Tania ap Siôn (ICCS) were the organizers responsible for the program and gave a lot of information about the work of Church schools in their countries. The guests were introduced to the British education system and the role of the Anglican Church in this development. They learned about the guiding pedagogical principles of the education activities of the churches, as well as about religious education in British schools. Some were quite surprised, for example, about the statutory requirement for daily “collective worship” in state-maintained schools in England and Wales. The visit to the ecumenical Liverpool Hope

University presented the opportunity to learn about the training of teachers for Church schools. Prof. David Lankshear introduced the system of school inspection of the Church of England, developed by him a number of years ago, and the system had been implemented with success. Visits to Anglican and ecumenical primary and secondary schools were also part of the program and provided opportunities for talking with teachers and students.

The study tour will be organised again in 2013. Pre-applications expressing interest on participation can be sent to the IV office in Hanover.

IV & ICCS: European Teacher Seminar in Bad Wildbad, April 2013

The International Association for Christian Education continues its well-established collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of the Bundesland Baden Wuerttemberg. In 2013 another European seminar is planned for teachers and multipliers in education, this time with participation of ICCS already in the planning. The seminar will take place from 2-5 April 2012 in the Academy for In-Service Training and Personal Development in Schools in Bad Wildbad in the Black Forest. The planned title is "Dancing with difference in Europe – Chances for Christian inspiration in education". The differences of national and regional contexts will be discussed from political, pedagogical and sociology of religion perspectives. The programme of the seminar will also include reports of examples of good practice in different countries to illustrate that cultural and religious plurality can be used as a positive factor in education. The seminar will be chaired again by head teacher OStDin Dorothea Eisele (Heilbronn).

ICCS: Board Meeting in Pomaretto

The annual board meeting of ICCS with participation of IV was held at 16-17 March 2012 in Pomaretto near Torino. The evaluation of the joint conference with the International Association for Christian Education IV in July 2011 in Prague was an issue on the agenda as well as the study visit of a group of school leaders visiting Church schools in Wales.

The following projects of ICCS were discussed:

- A publication on Education for Democratic Citizenship as a manual for schools and teachers. This was done in collaboration with IV;
- More initiatives to establish contacts with members of the European Parliament;
- the planning of the fourth Colloquy in Klingenthal that will be held from 8 to 12 October 2012 with the theme: "Religion and its contribution to social cohesion in Europe".

At the meeting the board said farewell to the treasurer Prof. David Lankshear, representing the Church of England on the board for many years, and to Elza Kuyk from the Netherlands who will continue contacts and exchange with ICCS as Secretary of CoGREE.

IV: Board Meeting in Vienna

The recent board meeting of IV, with participation of ICCS, was located in Vienna on 29 April for practical reasons. Some members had already been to Vienna for the meeting of the CoGREE steering group that had also been held there. After attending a church service, the board dealt mainly with the preparation of the General Assembly in 2012. Other points on the agenda were public relations, collaboration with the Conference of European Churches and common projects of IV and ICCS. On request of the Evangelical Church in Germany the board agreed to contribute to the development of a project entitled "500 Protestant Schools celebrate 500 Years of Reformation". IV will be the main organizer of an international preparatory conference of the project that will be held in Eisenach from 10-12 April 2013.

IV: General Assembly in Teschen

The General Assembly in 2012 will be held on 9-10 November 2012 in Teschen/ Cieszyn (Poland). Teschen, based in the outskirts of the Silesian Carpathes (Beskiden) has been mainly Protestant from the 16th century. The "Evangelical Society" a well-established organization for education with a highly appreciated school centre in the town, will be the host of the meeting. The theme of the Assembly will be: "Pastoral Care in Protestant Schools". IV combines the General Assembly again with a study day. Contributions will come from Poland and Hungary. Also, the presentation of member organisations of IV will have its focus on central and Eastern Europe.

ICCS: Publication on RE in Europe available

In 2007 ICCS together with the Norwegian Institute for Christian education (IKO) has published a book on "Religious Education in Europe: situation and current trends in schools". Editors of the book are Elza Kuyk, Roger Jensen, David Lankshear, Elisabeth Löh-Manna and Peter Schreiner. It contains 246 pages. The book includes basic articles about the conditions, the context and current developments in religious education in schools of 33 European countries. The volume can be ordered now at the Comenius-Institut for a reduced price of 19 euro plus mailing (original price was 29,50 €). Sent your orders to bookshop@comenius.de

ICCS & CoGREE: Colloquy in Klingenthal October 2012

The fourth colloquy of ICCS organized in collaboration with CoGREE will be held from 8-12. October 2012 in Klingenthal near Straßburg. The theme will be: "Social Cohesion, Religion and Education in the Context of Europe". The program includes presentations and statements on current national and European developments, on related research projects and political initiatives. Also a visit to the Council of Europe is part of the program with meetings of staff in the department of education and culture. More information about the program is available. For contacts and registration please use schreiner@comenius.de.

CoGREE and Member Organisations RE in Europe – Christian Schools in Europe



CoGREE: More European Cooperation in Religion and Education

The Steering Group of the Coordinating Group for Religion in Education in Europe (CoGREE) has held its first meeting in 2012 from 27-28 April 2012 in Vienna. The group discussed the draft programme of the Colloquy in Klingenthal (8-12 October 2012) with the theme "Social Cohesion, Religion and Education in the Context of Europe". Registration is now open. Also the work on statements about burning issues such as the right of the child to religion and to religious education was continued. A process to work out short statements has been started by using google.docs, a working instrument on the web. Please let us know if you like to contribute to this project.

Initial ideas for a planned CoGREE Conference in 2013 in Amersfoort/the Netherlands were discussed that will deal with the right of the child to religion. A preparatory group with Dr. Gerhard Pfeiffer, Prof. David Lankshear and Elza Kuyk as members will prepare a proposal for the programme. The next meeting of the Steering Group will be held in September 2012 in Münster at the Comenius-Institut.

CoGREE: Participation in EMIE Meeting

On 31 May the annual "European Meeting of Independent Education" (EMIE) was held in Antwerpe. IV and CoGREE were represented by Dr. Wim Kuiper, President of IV. At this meeting of associations of different European organizations for 'independent' schools (such as Protestant and Catholic schools, Jewish schools and Steiner schools), developments in education policy of the EU and the Council of Europe were discussed as well as how to coordinate their own interests. OIDEL, a NGO that is situated in Geneva, working for freedom in education and recognized by the UN and UNESCO, is ready to take coordinate EMIE in future.

EuFRES: Assembly in Spain

Dr. Gerhard Pfeiffer participated in the 15th European Forum for Religious Education in Schools EuFRES representing CoGREE. The meeting took place from 11-15 April in Guadarrama, near Madrid/Spain. More than 30 delegates from 10 countries participated in the forum, most of them responsible for Catholic religious education and for training and in-service training of teachers of this subject. The theme of the meeting was "Religious education and social cohesion in Europe". Key lectures dealt with the theme from the perspective of law, sociology and religious education. Other contributions introduced the situation of Catholic religious education and support tools for teachers in different countries. Dr. Gerhard Pfeiffer contributed to the range of issues by presenting ideas for a Protestant religious education and approaches for ecumenical collaboration. He also emphasized alternatives to confessional religious education.

Europe: Religious Education *in* Europe, Religious Education *for* Europe

The international symposium on religious education in vocational training schools took place from 8-10 March 2012 in Schloss Seggau near Graz/Austria. It was organized by the German Association of Catechets, the Association of Protestant Teachers in Germany and other partners. Peter Schreiner had a key note on “Religious education in the context of European Education Policy: potential and challenges”. The text is available through the website of Comenius-Institut (www.comenius.de).

At the conference a draft of the “Seggauer Thesen“ was discussed, which is planned to be guidelines for the contribution of religious education and vocational schools in Europe. You can download these at: http://www.rpz-heilsbronn.de/fileadmin/user_upload/daten/arbeitsbereiche/schularten/berufliche_schulen/seggauer_thesen.pdf

CeC and CPCE

CEC: Activities of the Working Group on Education

An outcome of the conference on “Education for Democratic Citizenship (EDC)”, that was organized in October 2011 in Straßburg, is a list of proposals for further activities that should motivate member churches as well as CEC itself to continue activities in this area. In a letter to the participants in June 2012 contacts are recommended to the national coordinators of EDC and information is given about existing opportunities for networking.



The working group has also developed a briefing paper that should enable member churches of CEC to deal with a central document of the EU for education, the Strategic Framework for Cooperation in Education and Training in the next 10 years (ET 2020). The documents can be downloaded through <http://csc.ceceurope.org>.

Council of Europe and European Union

Council of Europe: Meeting Expert Group

How can issues of religious and non-religious convictions become a theme in school in the framework of intercultural education? This is the task of an expert group of the Council of Europe, in which Peter Schreiner is a member. At a meeting of the group at the beginning of May in Oslo, it was discussed which concepts are appropriate to deal with questions about religion and non-religious convictions. The existing diversity in Europe reflects the different views about the place of religion and religious education in general, but also when it comes to concepts of intercultural and interreligious competence. It is the task of the expert group that has a mandate up to 2013, to develop material and ideas that can be used in the member states in fields such as teacher training and in-service training.



Council of Europe: New Committee with Participation of Churches

As a consequence of the structural reform of the Council of Europe, the two existing committees on higher education and on general education have been merged into one committee entitled "Steering Committee for Educational Policy and Politics (CDPPE)". The committee held its first meeting from 27-29 March 2012 in Straßburg. The national delegates from 45 Member States and a range of observers dealt with current issues and projects on:

- ✓ Developments in Higher Education
- ✓ Learning Democracy
- ✓ Human Rights Education
- ✓ Education for intercultural understanding including the religious dimension.

Peter Schreiner attended the meeting as an observer of the Conference of European Churches (CEC). He could report about CEC-activities on "Education for Democratic Citizenship" and about his involvement in the expert group of the Council of Europe on intercultural education. The observer status in the committee enables CEC to dialogue about education activities and to participate actively in projects of the Council of Europe.

Colofon

This Newsletter is edited under the responsibility of the Board of the Intereuropean Commission on Church and School and the Board of the International Association for Christian Education.

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Informationen and News

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