



International Association  
for  
Christian Education



Intereuropean Commission on  
Church and School

# newsletter

June 2013, No. 3

## Editorial

*We are in the middle of the European Year of Citizens. Did you recognize that distinguished reader? The year has been proclaimed by the European Union to remember the rights of the EU Citizenship that was defined in 1993 by the Maastricht Treaty. Also, an active citizens' dialogue is planned regarding the future of the European Union. EU Citizenship includes the right to free movement, the right to live and to work and to shop throughout the 27 Member States, as is the case in one's own country. You need not worry that EU Citizenship abolishes national identities; rather, EU citizens gain in addition to their national rights further rights, guaranteed by the Treaties and the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights. This includes the rights to move and reside freely within the EU and not to be discriminated against on the grounds of nationality. There is an urgent need for more intense dialogue, if the slogan, "It's about Europe, it's about You" is to be filled with life.*



European Year of Citizens 2013  
[www.europa.eu/citizens-2013](http://www.europa.eu/citizens-2013)

*EU Citizenship is a cornerstone of the EU as a Political Union, and this is a core message of the European Year of Citizens. An important related date is May 2014 with the election of the European Parliament. For the first time there will be prime candidates of the European Parties and the future president of the European Commission will be elected by the Parliament. The coming elections could be disastrous with reference to election turnout and also strong mobilization of votes in favour of radical nationalists and anti-EU parties. The disappointment about the effects of the massive fiscal and economic crisis is immense, and also the huge youth unemployment rates rising to 60% create no confidence in Europe. European integration itself has to become a central issue and IV and ICCS want to contribute with their educational activities to the debate. Reports are included in this newsletter. Your feedback and comments are welcome. We are pleased to stay in contact and exchange with you.*

Warm regards

Dr Gerhard Pfeiffer und Dr Wim Kuiper (IV)  
Dr Tania ap Sion und Dr Peter Schreiner (ICCS)

## Information from IV and ICCS

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### ICCS: New developments in Religious Education in Switzerland

#### *Religion in the "Curriculum 21" for German-speaking Switzerland*

In future Swiss schools will have common curricula in the different language regions. These will replace the existing curricula of the cantons. It is a special challenge that religion is incorporated because of the traditionally confessional differences between the cantons as well as the existing religious plurality and the secularization of society. This context provides a special challenge for the school system.

In the French-speaking cantons of West Switzerland a common "Plan d'Etudes Romand PE" has already come into force. It includes a section on "Ethique et Cultures religieuses". As a "spécificité cantonale" it is not binding and is used according to that status.

With regard to the 21 German and multilingual cantons a common curriculum project has started called "Lehrplan 21"; here, within a comprehensive area of studies, "Nature – Human – being-Society", there is a sub-area called "Ethics – Religions – Community". Through this, the theme of religion is positioned in the general education of primary school; a confessional religious education is no longer part of the school. This is dedicated to the religious communities. The Curriculum 21 is competence oriented and it is planned to have it implemented from 2015 onwards.

#### *Religion and Culture: new school books for students*

In the canton of Zürich a new school subject called "Religion and Culture" has been in the process of implementation for a couple of years. The subject is obligatory for all pupils of grade 1 to grade 8, whatever religious affiliation they have. In cooperation with the different religious communities and with experts new school books have been developed. The volumes "Blickpunkt 1 bis 3" are available from June 2013 onwards. Now, for the first time German school books exist for religious education where all pupils attend, those with and those without a religious affiliation. The books are published by the state-owned publisher of the canton of Zürich: [www.blickpunkt-religionundkultur.ch](http://www.blickpunkt-religionundkultur.ch) (Johannes Kilchsperger, ICCS correspondent)

### ICCS: Developments in the Ukraine

In 2013 in Ukraine the celebration of 1025 anniversary of the Baptism of Kyivian Rus (Ukraine) is taken place. The Ukrainian government initialized the following reforms, including the education ones:

It is planned to make changes in Ukrainian laws, by which it would be allowed to open private schools (but this initiative is still on process);

On May the online questionnaire for clarifying the level of tolerance among the pupils of Ukrainian schools has been realized (<http://q-sort.mar.in.ua/respondent/stage0.php>). The questionnaire has been developed on the basis of Fyodor Kozyrev method. Organizers: Center for the study of religious education of National Pedagogical Dragomanov University and the Laboratory of society disciplines of National academy of pedagogical sciences of Ukraine.

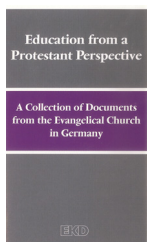
In April the Centre for the Study of Religious Education of National Pedagogical Dragomanov University has been launched a seminar on questions of religious education. The seminar meets once in two weeks and coordinator is Vitalii Khromets. During the seminar the discussion of theoretical and practical aspects of religious education in Ukraine and Europe is taken place.

In October the III All-Ukrainian congress of the teachers of religious subjects will take place. It is planned to invite not only the teachers, but the directors of the regional centres of excellence in teaching, by which the training for the teachers takes place Organizer: Ministry of education and science of Ukraine and National Pedagogical Dragomanov University. (Vitalii Khromets, ICCS correspondent)

### **ICCS: Meeting of ICCS Correspondents planned for 2014**

In a common letter to the 40 national ICCS correspondents, ICCS Secretary Dr Tania ap Siôn and ICCS President Dr Peter Schreiner have proposed to organise a meeting of the correspondents in 2014. The initiative is based on an idea that was discussed at the last meeting of correspondents at the IV and ICCS Conference in Prague. Many of the ICCS correspondents work at a national level on issues of church and school, and others are based in training and research at universities or similar institutions. Furthermore, the relationship between church and school is organised differently in the various national contexts. Also, the number of Christian schools differs from country to country. The planned meeting would initiate exchange about current developments in the national contexts and to work out in which areas ICCS should become active in the next years. Proposals for a meeting place and for issues to discuss are most welcome.

### **Education documents of the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD) in English**



A new publication of the EKD church office in cooperation with the Comenius-Institut includes documents, memoranda and official statements of the EKD bodies on education. The publication is entitled: Education from a Protestant Perspective: A Collection of Documents from the Evangelical Church in Germany. The collection gives a comprehensive overview about education policy and perspectives in this field. The book has 320 pages and is also available through the bookshop at [www.comenius.de](http://www.comenius.de) for 17,90 euro.

[http://www.ci-muenster.de/bookshop/artikel/buecher/Evangelische-Bildungsverantwortung-in-Europa/A40094\\_Education\\_from\\_a\\_Protestant\\_Perspective\\_2013.php](http://www.ci-muenster.de/bookshop/artikel/buecher/Evangelische-Bildungsverantwortung-in-Europa/A40094_Education_from_a_Protestant_Perspective_2013.php)

### **ICCS & IV: Project “500 Protestant Schools worldwide celebrate 500 Years of Reformation”**

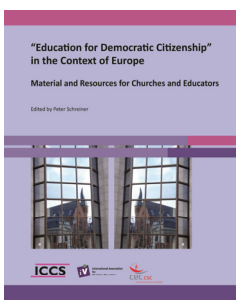
The international preparatory conference from 10 to 12 of April 2013 in Eisenach, administered by IV, has started the development of a worldwide network of Protestant schools. The focus is the celebration of the jubilee of the Reformation. Thirty participants attended from 14 countries spanning 4 continents. As motivators, practitioners and leaders, they are responsible for thousands of Protestant schools. Together they worked out themes and content for the project and developed milestones for the implementation of the ideas. As themes for the years to come the following were agreed upon. For 2014: “Rediscover roots in the reformation”. For 2015: “Love each other – serve others in the global world today”. For 2016: “Take responsibility and speak up – locally and globally”. For 2017: “Celebrate faith – live life”. Tools for networking will include regional conferences and a website for Protestant schools. Members of the steering group are Dr Wim Kuiper and Dr Gerhard Pfeiffer for IV and Dr Peter Schreiner for ICCS and the Comenius-Institut.

## IV & ICCS: Study Visit of Head Teachers to England & Wales

ICCS and IV offered for the second time a study tour focused on exploring the distinctive education system in England and Wales that included visits to Anglican schools in Wrexham, North-East Wales. A group of eight persons, active in school administration, teacher training and church-based education attended the 5-day seminar. It was organised by Dr Tania ap Siôn and Professor David Lankshear and took place from 16 to 20 April in Wrexham and Chester. The programme included information about the education system of England and Wales, the syllabi, teaching practice and the school inspection systems. A special focus was given to religious education and also collective worship. Participants came from Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Hungary and Switzerland.

“Participants agreed that they received an extremely valuable insight into the relations between church, church schools and state in England and Wales. The participants agreed that they owed the liveliness and passion of the gained impressions to the many face-to-face meetings in the institutions and the people they have met there with their openness and burning hearts that came up in their reports about their work and commitment.” (Michael Otte). An extensive report is available at: [http://www.int-v.org/index.php?a=2013041620\\_Bericht](http://www.int-v.org/index.php?a=2013041620_Bericht)

## ICCS & IV: Publication on Education for Democratic Citizenship



On the initiative of IV, and in collaboration with ICCS and the Comenius-Institut in Münster, a publication was produced with the title: “Education for Democratic Citizenship in the Context of Europe”. The book provides information about basic elements and initiatives in Education for Democratic Citizenship (EDC). EDC is perceived as an important issue that is elaborated by European institutions such as the European Union and the Council of Europe and also by national agencies. The publication introduces the content of EDC by providing definitions and presenting elements of the concept. Activities of the Council of Europe and the EU are introduced as well as other European and national examples of good practice.

The second part includes a glossary, a selected number of key documents and an annotated literature list. The book is especially aimed at churches and educators and a result of a collaboration of the Comenius-Institut with ICCS, IV and the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches. It is edited by Peter Schreiner in cooperation with the members of the CSC working group “Education” and the responsible CSC staff as well as Eckhart Marggraf, former IV secretary. The book is available at the bookshop at [www.comenius.de](http://www.comenius.de) for 8 euro plus posting. Link:

[http://www.ci-muenster.de/bookshop/artikel/buecher/Evangelische-Bildungsverantwortung-in-Europa/A30108\\_Education\\_for\\_Democratic\\_Citizenship.php](http://www.ci-muenster.de/bookshop/artikel/buecher/Evangelische-Bildungsverantwortung-in-Europa/A30108_Education_for_Democratic_Citizenship.php)

## IV & ICCS: Delegates at the General Assembly of CEC

IV and ICCS will have delegates at the general assembly of CEC at the beginning of July in Budapest. In the time before the conference exchange was organised with other associated organisations to discuss common interests and initiatives about how to become active in the new structure of CEC. It is feared that the proposals of the Uppsala report are too much focused on the formal representation of institutionalised churches and that expertise of associated members is no longer included when it comes to work with urgent issues and questions. Church is not an end in itself but should be a “church for others” according to their biblical mandate,

state the two representatives at the general assembly, Dr Gerhard Pfeiffer (IV) and Dr Peter Schreiner (ICCS) before the meeting.

#### **IV: Board meeting in Hannover 14 to 15 February 2013**

The focus of the first part of the IV board meeting in February has been the joint project with the EKD "500 Protestant schools celebrate 500 years of Reformation" (see above report). The director of the education department of the EKD church office Reverend Ms. Birgit Sandler-Koschel was a guest at the meeting. The collaboration between IV and the Evangelical Church in Germany is of mutual interest and creates great benefits beyond the context of Germany. The second part of the board meeting was held together with the board of ICCS. Both organisations collaborate closely concerning issues and their involvement in the activities of the Coordinating Group for Religion in Education in Europe (CoGREE) as well as concerning their strategies towards the church organisations in Europe and exchange their mutual experiences.

#### **IV: European seminar in Bad Wildbad "Dancing with difference"**

"Dancing with difference in Europe – Chances for a Christian inspired concept of education" was the title of a seminar that took place from 2 to 5 April 2013 in Bad Wildbad (Germany). It was aimed at taking account of the diversity of cultures and traditions in Europe from the perspective of Christian educators and to see the richness and opportunity for the future of the continent and to explore ways how this can be transmitted to students. The seminar was prepared in collaboration of IV and ICCS and the academy for in-service training and staff development at schools in the Bundesland of Baden Wuerttemberg. The target groups were teachers and multipliers in education. There were 34 participants, coming from 10 different countries (Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Ukraine). Details of the programme are available at:

[http://www.int-v.org/index.php?a=2013040205\\_Bericht](http://www.int-v.org/index.php?a=2013040205_Bericht)

#### **IV: „Séminaire sur l'Enseignement Protestant“ in Paris**

On invitation of "Défap – Service protestant de mission" more than 20 teachers, principals and other responsible staff in education from the French speaking part of the southern hemisphere assembled from 15 to 21 April in Paris. Together with their partners from Switzerland and France, they discussed the societal challenges that Protestant schools have to face and the added value that these schools can offer. In many countries in the south the number of Protestant schools is remarkable. The relations to the state as well as financial and staff resources differ considerably. Making the picture more complete, Dr Gerhard Pfeiffer (IV) introduced in his presentation the self-understanding and reality of Protestant schools in Europe using case studies from 5 different countries. The participants developed together a "Charta of Protestant School" and worked on guidelines for further cooperation.

#### **IV: General Assembly 2013**

From 21 to 22 November 2013 members of IV will meet in Soesterberg (NL). The theme of the study day, which is connected with the general assembly, is pastoral care in schools. The focus will be on experiences in West European countries, mainly the Netherlands. The association has taken the opportunity to connect its assembly with the CoGREE conference "Religions in schools in secular Europe?" (see separate report). Delegates are invited either to take part in



the CoGREE Conference from 20 November or to arrive on the evening of the 21 November and to take part in the morning programme that has been prepared in cooperation with IV. The statutory part of the general assembly will take place then in the evening.

## CoGREE and Member Organisations

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### CoGREE: Conference “Religion in Schools in Secular Europe?” – Invitation and Programme



The programme of the international conference of the Coordinating Group for Religion in Education in Europe is now available. The event takes place from 20 to 22 November 2013 with the title: ‘Religion in schools in secular Europe? Perspectives from research, politics and practice’. The conference venue is the conference hotel ‘Kontakt der Kontinenten’ in Soesterberg/the Netherlands ([www.kontaktderkontinenten.nl](http://www.kontaktderkontinenten.nl)). CoGREE cooperates with the Besturenraad, the organisation for the 2,300 Protestant schools in the Netherlands, the Protestant Theological University in Amsterdam and Groningen and the Theological Faculty of the VU Amsterdam. The aim of the conference is to promote a dialogue between politicians, researchers and practitioners about the recognition, the value and the specific attention of religion in schools in Europe. Programme and further information is available at: [www.cogree.com](http://www.cogree.com).

### CoGREE: KAICIID-Workshop in Wien “The Image of the Other” (22 May 2013)

The KAICIID Dialogue Centre in Wien (King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue) was founded in November 2012 by the Kingdoms of Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the Republic of Austria, with support by the Holy See. Members of the board include leading figures from world religions. KAICIID sees itself as an autonomous international organisation, free of political and economic influence, and aims to enable a worldwide dialogue between followers of different religions and cultures, and to promote and encourage it (see: [www.kaiciid.org](http://www.kaiciid.org)).

On 22 Mai 2013 a consultation and a workshop took place with the title: “The Image of the Other – Interreligious and Intercultural Education – Best Practices in The Europe-Mediterranean Region”. More than 100 experts and representatives of international organisations attended the meetings. Dr Gerhard Pfeiffer represented IV. In the forthcoming months three follow-up conferences are planned in different regions of the world and a final conference in planned (again in Vienna). Press release at: <http://www.kaiciid.org/en/press/statements/kaiciid-first-kaiciid-conference-in-vienna-on-the-image-of-the-other.html>

## EFTRE: Conference in Malmö/Sweden

The 2013 EFTRE conference will in Malmö, Sweden from 21-24 August 21 with the title: Religions and Relationships: Dealing with Diversity. The EFTRE conference is aimed at those working with teachers of Religion, Citizenship or Ethics in schools across Europe. You might be a teacher in a school, a teacher educator, an advisor of teachers or a researcher in RE teaching. The pattern of the conference is keynotes, workshops, seminars and language groups.

Religions and relationships are deeply integrated areas. Religions create communities and make people come together. Religious traditions have great impact on people's ideas of family-life, upbringing of children, gender and sexuality. But how does it work in a society with many religions and traditions? Their different religions and habits may create misunderstanding and deep divisions between people. How can a multi-religious society prosper under the umbrella of 'Human Rights'? How can school and education support the process of understanding and mutual respect? [www.eftre.net](http://www.eftre.net)

## EuFRES: Theme for 2014 Conference agreed

The board of trustees of the European Forum for Religious Education (EuFRES) has decided at its meeting in April the theme and the place of the XVI European Forum for Religious Education. The theme is 'Departure at the Periphery of Christianity: Religious Education as an invitation.' The main aim of the conference is to deal with the issue of how religious education in school can support the concern to find a new language and new expressions of faith that can be heard and conceived in a secular society. The event will take place from 23 to 27 of April 2014 in Prague.

## CEC and CPCE

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## CEC: Churches together for Human Rights

The consultation for churches and human rights was held in Helsinki in March. It was organised by the Church and Society Commission of the CEC, the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland, the Orthodox Church of Finland and the Finnish Ecumenical Council. Theological and legal perspectives of human rights brought together 60 participants for discussion and reflection.

As a representative of ICCS I was especially interested in religion and human rights in school contexts. These were discussed under the topic "individual and collective rights" and were also raised within the minority-majority issues. One of the discussions dealt with the Italian crucifix-case, which is one of the best known trials in the European Court of Human Rights concerning religion in the European public sphere. The first decision of the Court declared that there had been a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights. The decision caused uproar not only in Italy, but in many other Catholic and Orthodox majority states. Also, the Vatican and the Orthodox Churches of Greece and Russia indicated their discontent with the judgement. The case was referred to the Court's Grand Chamber, which announced its decision to overturn the ruling of the Lower Chamber.

The crucifix-case discussion in the consultation concentrated mainly on the juridical side of the case. My study of the case shows also that the legal aspect, with interpretations of subsidiarity and the Margin of Appreciation, dominates the academic interest and research of this case. However, it draws only a narrow picture of the debate around the crucifix in the Italian classrooms. Such approaches and discourses as national identity, secularism, church and state, democracy, religion, education and human rights are highly important in the arguments of the different people and institutions involved. (Kaarina Lyhykäinen, ICCS board member)

### **CEC: Commission on Church and Society deals with the European Year of Citizens 2013**

Representatives of ICCS & IV took part in the plenary of the Church and Society Commission of CEC in April in Brussels. The main theme was European Year of Citizens. Dr Peter Schreiner sat on a panel and introduced the work of the working group "Education" of CSC and the new publication: Education for Democratic Citizenship in the Context of Europe. Due to the coming reform of the structure of CEC, the mandate of the Commission will end with the general assembly of CEC in July.

### **CEC: New organisation structure of CEC proposed**

Revision of structure and mandate will be the central issue of the 14th general assembly of the Conference of European Churches. It takes place from 3rd to 8th of July in Budapest. The theme of the conference is: "And now what are you waiting for? CEC and its Mission in a changing Europe". The assembly will decide on mission and mandate of CEV for the coming years. The delegates will discuss a report with proposals for a new strategic frame and a new organisation model (Uppsala report). It is a crucial point from the perspective of IV & ICCS that the existing structure of commissions will no longer exist and that also the status of „associated member" will be abolished. Members of CEC will be exclusively institutionalized churches and their representatives will meet in a small general assembly. A small board is planned as governing body and the post of a general secretary leading the only office then in Brussels. The report includes no concrete proposals for new working structures replacing the commissions. For the cooperation with associated members a "register of partner organisations" is proposed. It remains to be seen for ICCS & IV if offers of cooperation will come out of the new structure.

### **CPCE: Education activities of CPCE**

A workshop for planning the agreed activities on education of CPCE took place on 25th of June in Erlangen. An item was to develop a concept of the planned „Forum Education", as an annual meeting of experts in the Protestant Academy of Tutzing.

Already in 2011 CPCE in cooperation with the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Bavaria, the academy and the association bildung evangelisch in Europa (beE) organized a consultation. Also IV & ICCS were involved. The general assembly of CPCE - in September 2012 in Florence/Italy – has appreciated the proposal to establish a "Forum Education" and asked the newly elected Council of CPCE to make the next steps. The Council has agreed to make education a key issue for the working period up to the next general assembly (2017 or 2018) and asked Ms Dr Klára Tarr to coordinate the implementation. Now two projects are planned: The "Forum education" at the Protestant academy of Tutzing and a research project on "Education for the Future" of the regional study group Southeast Europe. Results of the workshop on 25th of June will be transferred to the Council for discussion and decision. ICCS is involved in these activities.



## Council of Europe (CoE) and European Union (EU)



### CoE: Expert group and “Signpost Document”

The expert group of the Council of Europe and the European Wergeland Centre gathered for another meeting on 27-28 May 2013 in Paris. It worked on the draft of a document called “Signposts: Teaching about Religions and non-religious Worldviews: Towards Policy and Practice in European States”. The document’s purpose is to take up the recommendation of the Council of Ministers on “Dimension of religious and non-religious convictions within intercultural education” CM/Rec(2008)12 and to propose measures and ideas on how to implement the recommendation with a national context. The document will contain about 50 pages and shall be available end of the year. Dr Peter Schreiner (ICCS) is a member of the expert group.

### CoE: European Ministers of Education on “Governance and Quality of education”

The main focus of the meeting of the Ministers of Education from the 47 member states of the Council of Europe at the end of April in Helsinki was the issue of ‘Governance and Quality education’. The final declaration

([http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/standingconf/Source/Reference\\_textes/Final\\_Declaration\\_ConfMin\\_april13\\_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/standingconf/Source/Reference_textes/Final_Declaration_ConfMin_april13_en.pdf)) includes for main aims of education: (1) Preparation for sustainable employment; (2) preparation for life as active citizens in democratic societies; (3) personal development, (4) the development and maintenance, through teaching, learning and research, of a broad, advanced knowledge base. The declaration underlines that a common set of shared values, made up of human rights, are a prerequisite for achieving quality education and quality teaching. In a recommendation, already adopted in December 2012: CM/Rec(2012)13 “Governance and Quality education” (<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2014671&Site=CM>) the ministers have emphasised the importance of private education provision as part of national education systems and on initiatives of lifelong learning which develops and updates individuals’ competences and helps them to realize their full potential as citizens.

### EU: New EU Citizenship Report 2013



The EU Commission has launched a new report in May 2013 on the situation of citizens, with the title: “EU Citizens: your rights your future”. The Commission is putting forward twelve new actions in six key areas to remove further obstacles standing in the way of citizens’ enjoyment of their EU rights. This includes the urging of Member States to make

full use of the current rules for allowing jobseekers to receive their unemployment benefits for up to six months while looking for a job in another Member State, clear regulations about traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities, to protect exploitation through unpaid work, and to remove obstacles faced by EU citizens and their family members who live in an EU country other than their own in relation to identity and residence documents and in recognition of road

worthiness certificates of cars from other EU countries. These proposals complement the actions of 2010 to put the civil rights more fully into practice. "Participating in the democratic life of the EU" is another request. The text is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/citizen/files/com\\_2013\\_269\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/citizen/files/com_2013_269_en.pdf)

### **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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