

INTRODUCTION

Why is History Education in Europe so closely connected with Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education? Why does lifelong learning play a crucial role for integrating the national concepts of history, remembrance and citizenship into a European perspective? And how does the impact of the 1989 regime changes shape these concepts? Which theories and practical tools have already been developed to include this European dimension into local, regional, and national projects?

These questions were the guiding stars of the DARE Conference “Pathways Interconnecting History Education and Democratic Citizenship / Human Rights Education in Adult Learning” in Berlin, May 29/30, 2009. In the frame of the “HistoryForum09 / Geschichtsforum09, AdB Arbeitskreis deutscher Bildungsstätten and DARE Democracy and Human Rights Education in Adult Learning organised a joint conference with the aim to bridge the gap between academia and practice approaches in non-formal education on the issue of the European 89 regime changes and their role for non-formal civic education in Europe. About 40 participants from more than 15 European countries engaged in experts’ discussions, presentations, workshops and trainings. The second conference day was used to present results and best practices to the public during two panel discussions at the HistoryForum09. This central German event commemorating the 20th anniversary of the 89 revolution was attended by thousands of visitors.

The reports and educational tools collected in this conference documentation are structured in three sections:

1. Research Results
2. Country Reports / Good Practices
3. Trainings / workshops

The results presented in section 1 show clearly that knowledge about mechanisms of adopting recent history has become a cross cutting issue for (re)conciliation, peacebuilding, formation of identity and collective memory. Section 2 is focused on concrete regional examples of intersections between history education and citizenship education in Romania, Scotland and Slovenia. As these reports show, individual perceptions of everyday-life in connection with regime changes, (forced) migration and marginalization have become a hot topic for concepts of identity and citizenship. Section 3 presents two innovative educational tools for lifelong learning: a simulation on the 89 regime changes and a gender workshop to raise awareness on the differences between *history* and *herstory*.

The conference documentation is available as well in print as for download (pdf-file) at www.dare-network.eu. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need additional information.

Our warmest thanks to the workshop leaders, training facilitators, moderators, speakers, researchers and all others who helped to make this conference a success!

Georg Pirker, Anne Stalfort
DARE Project Office Berlin

For further information on DARE and on the EU project, Democracy and Human Rights Education in Adult Learning, please visit www.dare-network.eu or contact Georg Pirker at pirker@adb.de.