

# LEARNING AND LIVING TOGETHER

## Annual 2004 of the ACC



*Tell me, I will forget. Show me, I may remember.  
Involve me, and I will understand (Chinese proverb)*

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Annual 2004

Association for Community Colleges

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# INTRODUCTION

Dear Europeans, dear ACC members,

On May 1<sup>st</sup> a number of states entered into the European Union, and diversities in points of views, political cultures, and approaches to the EU co-operation became even more profound. Europeans celebrated the enlarged Union, when at the same time they held opposite views on major events on the world stage. More than ever the political unification needs unifying elements - even in the most ambitious of political forums in Europe.

However, manmade catastrophes in Madrid on March 11<sup>th</sup> and in Beslan on September 1<sup>st</sup> as well as the ongoing nature catastrophe along the coastlines of the Indian Ocean remind us that a Europe considering itself an island in the world is not a perspective.

Our ideas are as important as ever!

Our concept is the well known: (1) there are European issues on the agenda, (2) we debate among Europeans not among nationals, (3) and we meet within the residential format of the European Community Colleges - learning by living together makes the difference! The material result (4) is sometimes a report, sometimes a TV-production, sometimes a publication but always a contribution to the development of a European public sphere.

This year our organisers have made our ideas become real another 4-5 times. European Community College events have been implemented in Latvia, Italy and Slovenia by the ACC Italy Committee, the ACC Good Will Committee and the ACC Latvia. These main activities are described within this annual. Summer events have - as always - made many more believe in the ACC ideas, and we are now 450 members in 40 different states.

We have also followed the ACC's work-plan for 2003-2005 that gives priority to the lobby work, to the establishing of an office with a permanent staff member, and to work for the founding of the First European Community College.

Particularly the preparation and policy development for the next generation of Youth and other programmes of the EU has our attention. Time and again there are chances to express opinions in this process. The aim of contributing to the development of a European public sphere can be served even better through these next generation EU programmes. Under headlines like "participatory democracy" and "citizenship in action" we try to make aware how current programmes limit possibilities. We opt for the possibility to organise real European educational events and for all layers of society. The so-called Lisbon agenda affects a range of issues including ambitions to make visible and comparable the learning obtained within non-formal education and civil society organisations. It is a process we follow with great interest, as our cause, our organisers and participants could benefit from it. The Council of Europe has launched its *European Year of Citizenship through Education*. We have followed the launching of the "Year" and argued for a multilayered approach - meaning, that the European dimension is for us as important as is local, regional and national approaches.

Sometimes the learning of the organisation ACC is unintended (informal) and sometimes it is intended. Anyway, whatever we do can be considered accumulating knowledge and resources for founding the First European Community College. More actively taking part in conferences, symposia and events throughout Europe should be understood in the context

of making aware of our ideas. By taking part in bottom-up policy making, we both expand our network and create the basis for the FECC.

We have altogether accumulated the courses, the active and passive networks, school-plan, a team of practioners and organisers, communicative skills and means, and ways of sharing competences and knowledge. Speaking about the FECC; we are ready for whenever somebody passes by with a big bag of money to invest.

Whatever can be uploaded, will be uploaded! The intense media-work by a number of members this and the previous years is just one example of what is mirrored in *The Multiplier* at the website.

The mission of establishing an office with a permanent staff has been accomplished, even if the finances are guaranteed only for one year at a time. Ending 2004, we are 2 full-time employed in the office plus a varying number of volunteers and visiting committees, organisers or practioners. In the beginning of 2004 we had our - so far - last volunteer within the EU/EVS-frame. Due to co-operation with the Århus Idrætshøjskole, it was possible to host Hristina Raycheva from Bulgaria.

ACC is actively bringing activities and commitment to the Rites Tautskola in the Jekabpils rajons, Latvia. Also in terms of the organisational background of the school, the ACC is doing whatever possible to make this school in the making grow and to make it link the local surrounding, Latvia, Europe and the wider world.

Rites Tautskola in Latvia is run by an NGO in which the ACC is a co-founder. This Latvian NGO has been approved by the Latvian NGO-register on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2004, it has 21 Representatives of the Board, of which 7 are from the ACC (Siebren de Boer, Linda Jakobsons, John Petersen, Inese Ardone, Sandra Salmina, Dainis Lasmanis, Ieva Astahovska)

At the International Assembly of the Association for World Education (AWE) in Tanzania, the ACC's membership has been reconfirmed in accordance with AWE bylaws.

Following the recommendation of the General Assembly, the ACC applied for membership in the European Association for Education of Adults (EAEA). Our associative membership was approved at the EAEA General Assembly in Metz on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

In 2004 the board has had some debates that concern the identity of the ACC. We have been debating, if we want ACC to become a more *political organisation* or if we are "only" an *activity based organisation*. As both fundraising for and decisions on contents of activities and ACCENT-issues are decentralised tasks depending on the energy, ambitions and of what is at heart of our organisers, we consider ACC an *activity based organisation*. We wouldn't find it right to rule practioners as what contents of events concern. On the other hand, we still consider it the main mission of the ACC to make aware of the need and the ways to establish a European public sphere. This is definitely political. Education matters are then the exception from our definition of ourselves as activity-based, and in the context of Education issues our political and lobby-work will continue.

This reflection affects the way we see the members. We are into providing the frames for common European goals and plans to emerge. We cannot say that we are a grass-root organisation in the sense that we have political goals and action-plans ready to be implemented by members throughout Europe. There are three main roles our members can

take. They can become organisers of European Community College events, they can take on the task of editing an issue of the ACCENT, or they can be members contributing with their name and moral support. If the first two categories are the bricks of the ACC, the last category is the cement. It is of utmost importance that there are people throughout supporting the idea that dialogue should bind Europe together, and that they are willing with their name to make the bricks useful.

The very existence of networks like ours has a effect much wider than within the ACC in itself. We are still rather small, but we are a proof, that it is possible.

It should be mentioned in the context, that we are considering outsourcing certain tasks of the ACC Office. It could be fundraising, PR-work, the website and/or the annual. This may provide us with new possible roles for members.

There is already a fourth role, however, that a number of members play. There is really a lot of work done by a number of persons. Necessary work, that doesn't get much attention: auditing, networking, media-work, book-keeping, IT-work, and many more necessary tasks, that we haven't ever been able to pay for.

Once again, thank you to all those working as volunteers in different ways.

John Petersen, Chairman



*The Association for Community Colleges is the 2004 recipient of the Organisational Development Network's (ODN) Outstanding Global Work Award. Ceremony in San Juan, Puerto Rico. From left Bob Marshak, ODN Board of Trustees, and John Petersen (See p.30).*

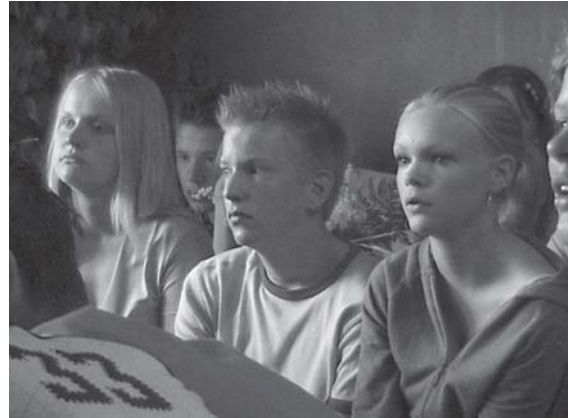




# ACTIVITIES 2004

## Rural Development Community College (RDCC) and ACC in Latvia

Around 30 young Europeans from Denmark, the Netherlands (Frisia) and Latvia (Latgale/Jekabpils) took part in a Community College in Rites Tautskola (Jekabpils, LV) from July 17<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>.



During the RDCC several study visits took place in order to analyse the role of different institutions and organisations in rural development, their successes and failures, and to compare it with participants' experience from their local municipalities in their respective countries. A number of plenary debates, socialising games, presentations and more general discussions on the nature of the European integration as well as the role of periphery areas were on the agenda.

ACC Latvia has considered the Rural Development Community College to be of particular importance in order to create contacts to other regions in Europe considered to have parallel challenges - even if on a very different level.

The contacts created among Danish, Frisian/Dutch and Latvians are hopefully going to be of importance for inspiring young people to take part in the development of a future more integrated Europe. The learning and living together format of Community College events like RDCC has once again proved to be a very important tool for the development of human resources, for the development of a model European public sphere and for creating lasting contacts across borders of cultural, political and linguistic nature.

The partners of the RDCC were Rites Tautskola ([www.zednet.lv/~rta/](http://www.zednet.lv/~rta/)), the international committee of the Fryske Folkshegeskoalle Schylgeralan ([www.folkshegeskoalle.nl](http://www.folkshegeskoalle.nl)), the ACC Tautskolas Eiropai/ACC Latvia Committee and the ACC ([www.acc.eu.org](http://www.acc.eu.org)). The project was supported by the EU-Youth programme through national offices of the Netherlands and Latvia.

Already now partners are planning another RDCC in August 2005.

## Activities by our members (Latvia)

Since 5 years, the ACC Tautskolas Eiropai has arranged children's summer camps at Rites Tautskola. In 2004 as well, and as always with success and due to the commitment and hard work of ACC members and Rites Tautskola staff. This year it was even decided to organize a reunion and to invite all the kids that have taken part in all 5 summer camps. The reunion was planned and carried out from August 27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup>. The programme proved to be both entertaining, creative with a lot of workshops, games, activities, memories and fun. Thanks to events like this one, the commitment to the Rites Tautskola is positively

developing ([www.zednet.lv/~rta/](http://www.zednet.lv/~rta/)).

In the children's summer camp "Diverse World" took part altogether 22 kids (12-15 years old). There were visitors from the Embassy of Canada and the USA as well as a speaker on the Republic of South Africa. There was also a lot of material received from different Embassies and Ministries of Foreign Affairs.... and Indian cooking, English 5 o'clock tea, mehendi or henna painting, Aboriginal party, a hike to the local museum and that all besides English, computer, singing and painting classes.



## Challenges of Enlargement Community College (CECC)

From July 23rd to August 6th 40 young Europeans from Spain, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Germany, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia and Italy gathered in Trieste (Italy) and Pliskovica (Slovenia) to focus on challenges of the EU-enlargement.

In the summer 2004 when the CECC took place the enlargement was a fact. In a rapidly transforming European Union the debates and discussions in the accessing states and the member-states about the new shape of the EU are vivid and fervent. How can the accessing countries contribute to the enlarged EU and how can the member states help the integration process in the Union? These were leading questions during the CECC.

Particular attention was devoted to crucial issues such as mobility, integration and networking. The discussion also dealt with the role of cultures and identities in intercultural dialogue and regionalization in the definition of Europe of "15" and "25".

The participants experienced the residential Community College format in the context of the Italian - Slovenian border region.



The ACC Good Will committee organised the CECC in close cooperation with the Students organisation of the University of Ljubljana and Progetto Aggregazione Giovanile. The CECC was financially supported by the Students Organisation of Slovenia, Slovensko Kulturno Gospodarska Zveza, Svet Slovenskih Organizacij, Trzaska matica, Slovenski Raziskovalni Institut, the European Commission - Youth Programme, the Regione autonoma del Friuli Venezia Giulia, and with the help of the Slovenski Dijaski Dom Srečko Kosovel, Slovenski Deželni Zavod za Poklicno Izobraževanje, Youth Hostel Pliskovica, Slovenski Taborniki v Italiji RMV. At this point we would like to thank all our supporters and co-operators and invite them to many more events like this in the future.

An ACCENT issue will be edited within autumn this year on the main topics and conclusions of the event. The title of the ACCENT issue no. 3 is going to be "European Love and other Challenges of Enlargement" (see organizational).

The event was closely followed by local Italian and Slovenian media both from Italy and Slovenia.

## Europe of Rights Community College II (ERCC II)

The ERCC II took place from September 14<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> at Casa Cares, Reggello (Florence), Italy, and was attended by 35 young Europeans from 17 countries.



During the lectures, workshops and debates, the participants discussed about European identity, the role of religion in human rights and new rights. A final document on these issues was approved as an expression of the ideas shared by the participants. Three groups took one chapter each to express, in the form of articles, the principles they considered most

important. The articles were then exchanged and discussed in the groups and proposals for amendments were presented by group representatives at a plenary session. Each proposal was discussed by all participants and a compromise was reached using a consensus method. In the end the whole Final Document was one by which every participant could feel represented.

The complete version of the document is available on the ACC website [www.acc.eu.org/uploads/Final\\_Document\\_ERCC\\_II.pdf](http://www.acc.eu.org/uploads/Final_Document_ERCC_II.pdf).

A range of local co-operators took part in implementing and preparing the project with moral and financial support. Mainly, the project was possible due support by European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe, the Porto Franco Project of Regione Toscana and the Waldensian Reformed Church.

## FECC Publication, Networking, Seminars

This project implemented in the second part of 2004 is a true resource producer for the future First European Community College (FECC). Consisted of three parts: Publication, Network and Seminars this project tackled three aspects of the development of the FECC.

*Network* element of this project was accomplished in the way that for one more time in our strives to get as many individuals, NGOs and other institutions onboard our supporters we sent letters through snail mail and electronically to the upper mentioned seeking for support together with an invitation to take part on the third element of this very project- the web- seminars. Tremendously enough there were many organizations replying to this invitation with a strong supportive note on the geniality of the idea of the FECC and most





significantly its importance in the creation of the European public sphere. Thanks to this very initiative the FECC has now supporters from all corners of Europe.

*Seminars* were organized on the website of the ACC. Our members, NGOs that supported the FECC as well as other individuals and institutions that have shown interest on the FECC and the progress of this initiative were invited to take part on three one-week web-seminars. During October, November and December one week was reserved to welcome comments on the existing description of the project for the realization of the FECC, give ideas on the

contents of the community colleges that will be implemented through the FECC, collect and exchange tools and teaching methods that will be used during the community college courses. These three weeks were truly resourceful for the ACC but for the ones participating in it as well. The way all this was posted and managed on the website made it possible for everybody to deliver their ideas but also take a look at what has the ACC itself accumulated for these 5 years of implementing successful projects all around Europe, and what has everyone participating on the web-seminars brought as an asset and positive practice from their own experience. These three one-week seminars of practising "experience exchange laboratory" is available on our website for all the interested parties.

A very valuable tool for promoting this project were events organized this summer by the ACC. The events where this project was presented were: the Challenges of Enlargement CC (CECC) in Trieste and Pliskovica, the Europe of Rights CC II (ERCC II), Reggello, and the Rural Development CC (RDCC), Rite. These were the live media where we could talk about this upcoming project with the participants and where they could contribute with their ideas directly through workshops. The workshop was concentrated around the participants of each of the events mentioned being asked to contribute to a discussion on "What is common for Europe?" and, considering their own answer, "What would a future European Citizenship Education, taking place at the First European Community College eventually consist of?" ([www.acc.eu.org/SEEEMS/1381.asp](http://www.acc.eu.org/SEEEMS/1381.asp)) The video-documentaries are made available at the shared ftp-server from [www.acc.eu.org/SEEEMS/2702.asp](http://www.acc.eu.org/SEEEMS/2702.asp).



*Publication* bit of this great project will come in the beginning of 2005 (January). It will contain the report of the project, as well as the revised version of the FECC description - incorporating contributions from the web-seminars. None-the-less, the list of the partners and the network behind the FECC will be in a large scale enlarged when we add all the ones that used this particular project to express support and join the network behind the FECC initiative.

The project FECC Publication, Network, Seminars was supported by the EU Commission General-Directorate for Education and Culture.

# PUBLICATIONS

2004 is the year when ACC has broaden its ways of communicating with its members and the ones interested in our issues. ACCENT, ACC's publication, has seen the light of the day. With not only one, but two issues 2004, will be remembered as an important step for our organization.

It is an aim of the publisher, ACC, to work for the development of a European public sphere. ACCENT is a European magazine that is to be a mean towards that aim.

The first issue of the ACCENT is made in Tuscany. It deals with human rights issues and in particular in the context of the future EU-constitution-treaty.

The second issue of the ACCENT is made in Transylvania. As a special topic it deals with the Central and Eastern European minorities in the context of the EU enlargement.

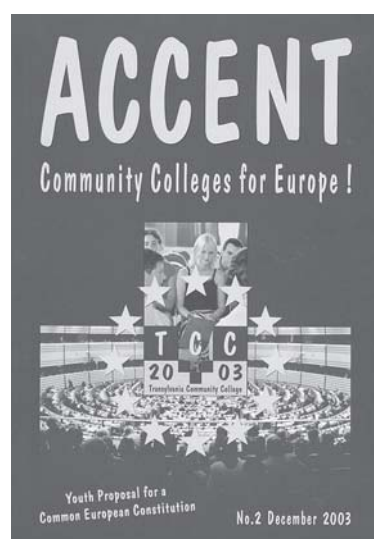
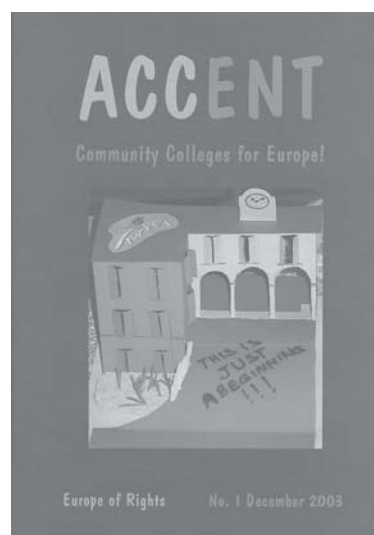
ACCENT will be published whenever a group of ACC-members expresses the need for it. The concept is that of a changing and voluntary editorial staff.



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Association for Community Colleges



on the Eu

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An Ecumenical Charter for

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New rights: individual right  
(Maria Gigliola TONOLLO)

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High up in the North (To

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ACCENT  
European Community College 2003

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ACC

## *A New tool for a European public sphere*

*"... It is the aim of the ACC to work for the development of a European public sphere. The European Community College events we organise, as well as ACCENT, are means towards that aim. A publication like ACCENT is, however, just another element in composing a public sphere. This goal is preconditioned by a European audience and European voices, as well as by European media. Even if it is a small crowd so far, our readers constitute a real European audience with real European voices. This is the reason why we have started a European magazine..."*

*"The EU-Commission White-paper on European governance as well as the one on youth policy, the Nice protocols, reports and memoranda en masse all describe a crucial and basic issue within the European integration process, namely that of a gap between the political institutions promoting the European integration on the one side and the citizens of Europe on the other.*

*Dear reader, with this issue of the ACCENT, it is once again described how the ACC Transylvania Committee has proved the validity of our ideas on how to fill in the gap. We need forums for establishing a European public sphere."*

*(From the ACCENT no. 1&2)*

ACCENT no. 1

*"Europe of Rights"*

*Editorial Committee: Elisabeth Alber, Silvia Cardi, Marzia Plstolesi & Emma Yeoman*

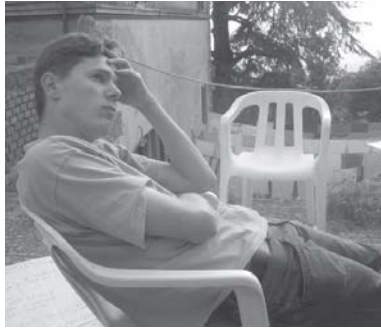
ACCENT no.2

*"Youth proposal for a European Constitution"*

*Main editors: Agota Illyes and Barna Kovacs*

ACCENT issues are downloadable from the website  
[www.acc.eu.org](http://www.acc.eu.org)





2004



# PARTICIPATION IN MAJOR CONFERENCES

## Youth of European Nationalities' (YEN) Easter Seminar, South Schleswig, Germany, April 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 2004

One of our members, and the president of Youth of European Nationalities Stephan Kleinschmidt extended an invitation to the organization to participate at the Easter Seminar and fair of their member organizations taking place at the Danish Youth Center in Germany Christianslyst in Southern Schleswig. ACC took part with two representatives, Board members Mjellma Mehmeti, Secretary, and John Petersen, Chairman. We had a stand with a PC presenting the ERCC I, pictures from our events and the TCC 2003 video. In particular participants were interested in the TCC groups' constitution amendment proposal and probably want to further elaborate it. ACC was also given time to present itself and its aims at the Seminar.

## Networking European Citizenship Conference (NECE), Santiago de Compostela, Spain October 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> 2004

The European Year of Citizenship through Education 2005 of the Council of Europe was one important background when the Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung (Federal Agency for Civic Education, Bonn) invited ACC to the "Networking European Citizenship Conference" in Santiago de Compostela. The NECE conference took place from September 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> and ACC participated on this event with three representatives: Conchi Gallego, Daša Bolcina and John Petersen.

The forwarding of the FECC-project in beforehand to the organisers, made organisers send a special invitation to the ACC. We were invited to present our good practise as what European Citizenship Education concerns in the workshop dedicated to (a) "non-public organisations" (NGO's etc). Other workshops were dedicated to the (b) public units (universities, ministries), (c) projects dealing with competencies in the media and information society, (d) projects on participatory engagement for increasing voting rates and (e) projects on education for sustainability and intercultural learning.

Participation of the ACC in the NECE-conference should be viewed in the context of creating a network of First European Community College- sympathizers and of European Citizenship Education for the development of a European public sphere in general.

Conclusions from the conference as well as the resolution from the non-public workshop is available from: [www.bpb.de](http://www.bpb.de)

## EAEA Conference, Metz, France, November 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 2004

John Petersen and Elly Andersen represented the ACC at the conference on Basic Skills organized by the EAEA.

EAEA has been working on the topic **Basic Skills**, in the broad sense intended in the EU's "Communication on Making a European Area of Lifelong Learning a Reality" (2001), with an intention to make work carried out to promote Basic Skills more visible (events, projects, training, production of learning material, web sites, promotional material, Grundtvig 3



courses, etc.). EAEA collected examples of good practices that were uploaded on their website and discussed and shared at the Conference this November. The conference was basically organized through the work of 4 workshops. ACC representatives took part in the workshop number 4 "Influencing the national authorities and the Commission on further policy formation".

More information can be found at [www.eaea.org](http://www.eaea.org)



## Launching Conference of the European Year of Citizenship through Education, Sofia Bulgaria, December 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2004

The Council of Europe in cooperation with the Bulgarian authorities organized a conference to launch 2005 as the European Year of Citizenship Education. This "Year" will give the Council of Europe as well as all the involved entities in the citizenship education activities the opportunity to emphasize the crucial role of education in promoting and protecting human rights, fostering active citizenship and effective participation in a democratic society.

The objectives of this conference were in the direction of: endorsing the concept of the European Year for Citizenship through Education as well as the plan of action which will serve as a source of inspiration for activities within and by member states and all the ones involved in the citizenship education processes during the "Year". During the Conference all the invited representatives of the governments of member states, international and European organizations as well as the many experts working in the field of citizenship education had a chance to exchange experiences and inform each other on the different approaches each of the mentioned parties practices.

The Conference was finalized with the common Final Draft Communiqué that has elaborated on the later mentioned. ACC was invited as a European organization working in the field of citizenship education and Mjellma Mehmeti represented ACC at the conference.

## CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

- 14 ACC mentioned by Naomi Woltring in Dutch TV programme Dolce Vita, KRO channel (NL)
- 16 John Petersen meeting Jesper Nielsen and Allan Kruse at Højskolen Østersøen, preparing article (DK)
- 16 ACC presented in one of the Bulgarian newspapers "Trud" and in a reportage on a local TV station in Varna (BG)
- 22 Study visit for high school students from Jekabpils rajons to the institutions dealing with the EU affairs in Riga
- 28-29 Siebren de Boer visiting the ACC Office

## JANUARY

- 17 ACC presented by Nataliya Nikolova on a seminar of Club Mensa and "Friends of Europe" in Varna (BG)
- 17 John Petersen meeting the auditor Lene Albrechtsen
- 21 John Petersen meeting the International Committee of Association of Folk High Schools in Denmark - FFD, Odense (DK)
- 24-27 Rhisiart Talebot visiting the ACC Office, preparing the Cornwall CC
- 26 John Petersen and Jan-Christoph Napierski meeting, Copenhagen (DK)
- 26 Jan-Christoph, John Petersen, Leif Roth and Peter Bendix meeting about Køng-cooperation, Copenhagen (DK)
- 26 Jan-Christoph and John Petersen take part in an FFD meeting about the "Global Folk High School in the context of development work", Copenhagen (DK)
- 27 John Petersen and Lene Albrechtsen (auditor) meeting about the 2003 accounts
- 30 Maria Bakari visiting the office, preparing the Demos CC

## FEBRUARY

- 2 Maria Bakari and John Petersen meeting "Days Like This": Toke Paludan Møller, Jan Hein Nielsen, Tim Merry, Voervadsbro (DK).
- 11 Perrine Martin and Joan Pedersen visiting the ACC Office
- 8 Naim Özgür taking part in the opening of the "Youth and EducationThrough Life", Boğaziçi University-Istanbul, (Organized by Umit Gediman, inspired by the Youth2002, Istanbul (TR)
- 23 John Petersen meeting Jakob Erle, Copenhagen (DK)
- 23 John Petersen at AWE-meeting Copenhagen (DK)
- 23 John Petersen meeting in th Folk High School House, Copenhagen (DK)
- 23 John Petersen meeting Anders Panum at the Danish Europe Movement, Copenhagen (DK)

## MARCH

- 3 John Petersen at the Rite meeting in Ribe (DK)
- 3 ACC Latvia meeting, Riga (LV)
- 4 Jan Christoph Napierski visiting the ACC Office
- 5 Eva Valvo, Peter Ciaccio and Angie Praom visiting the office
- 17-20 Nadir Kamaladdinov representing ACC in the Conference: "Caucasus Youth Against Racism and Related Intolerance".
- 23 Thore Fogh Johansen visiting the office

## APRIL

- 1 Rites Tautskola officially registered in Latvia as an NGO
- 1-3 Jan-Christoph Napierski visiting the office and working on the FECC.
- 3-5 John Petersen and Mjellma Mehmeti taking part in the Youth of European Nationalities' (YEN) Easter seminar in South Schleswig (D).

## MAY

- 1 Meeting in the ACC Cornwall Committee
- 3 Anna Littke at the Podiumsdiskussion zum Thema „Die Türkei - Mitglied der Europäischen Union?“ Europäischen Haus, Unter den Linden (D)

- 11 John Petersen meeting the Board for EU-Enlighthent, Copenhagen (DK)
- 13-14 John Petersen at the Annual Meeting of the FFD, Ebeltoft (DK)
- 22 Inese Ardone, Sandra Salmina, Linda Jakobsone and John Petersen
- 27 representing ACC at the Rites Tautskola General Assembly, Rite (LV)
- Cornwall Committee meeting

## JUNE

- 4-6 Working group meeting /ACC board meeting Trieste/Dutovlje/Pliskovica (I/SLO)
- 8-16 Erik Jentges presenting ACC in China
- 24 CECC presented for local media/public in Opicina (I)
- 24-25 ACC Italy Committee meeting
- 25 John Petersen and Mjellma Mehmeti meeting Jan Ifversen and Lisanne Wilken at the European Studies, University of Århus (DK)
- 28-29 Europe by Satellite broadcasting the Transylvania Community College documentary
- 28-July 23 ACC co-organises the exhibition "Bulgaria in the pictures of one Englishman"- Bulgaria Regional Library of Varna, by Nataliya Nikolova, Varna (BG)

## JULY

- 2-11 "Diverse world" children camp in Rites Tautskola, Rite (LV)
- 3 Europe by Satellite broadcasting the TCC documentary
- 10-11 Kerttu Lohmus and Helena Soares visiting the ACC Office
- 18-25 Rural Development Community College, Rites Tautskola, Rite (LV)
- 19 ACC Hellenic Committee meeting
- 27 Perrine Martin visiting the office
- 23-29 Nataliya Nikolova represents ACC at the "Contact 2004 The Illegal Odyssey" Malta
- 23-Aug 7 Challenges of Enlargement CC, Trieste (I) and Pliskovica (SLO)
- Jul-Aug Mjellma Mehmeti consultant at the Båring Folk High School (DK)

## AUGUST

- 7 ACC General Assembly (SLO)
- 20 Alf Christensen visiting the office
- 27-29 5 years reunion of children camps participants at Rite (LV)

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 Helle Villekold Jørgensen beginning at the ACC Office
- 1-3 Rhisiart Talebot visiting the ACC Office, preparing the CoCC
- 6 ACC-members attending the Heinz-Schwarzkopf-Stiftung-lecture, Berlin (D)
- 10 From this day Perrine Martin volunteering in the office
- 12 GA in ACC Tautskolas Eiropai
- 13 ACC Italy Committee meeting at CasaCares, Reggello (I)
- 14-23 Europe of Rights Community College II, Reggello (I)
- 15 Alf Chistensen interviewing Mjellma Mehmeti, Århus (DK)
- 16-20 Mjellma Mehmeti and John Petersen at the ERCC II doing a FECC intro in Reggello (I)
- 21
- 23-26 Bori Ivanov, Laszlo Dani and John Petersen at the Hungarian Radio
- Conchi Gallego, Dasa Bolcina and John Petersen representing the ACC at the Networking European Citizenship Education conference, Santiago (E)

## OCTOBER

- 2 AWE International Council meeting in Moshi, Tanzania (No participation from the ACC). ACC reapproved as an associate member
- 5 ACC receives the "Outstanding Global Work" award from the Organization Development Network in San Juan (Puerto Rico)
- 9-10 Board meeting in Mollina, Malaga (E)
- 14 Urska Novak visiting the ACC Office
- 15 European Parliament - What does it mean for me? 4-days seminar at Rite, 24 young Latvians at Rites Tautskola (LV)
- 16 Mjellma Mehmeti meeting in the government of the Rep. of Macedonia, the secretariat for European integration, Skopje (MK)
- 18-21 John Petersen introducing ACC at Ryslinge Højskole together with Daniel Zuchowski, Lucie Ciskova and Urska Novak, Ryslinge (DK)
- 20 John Petersen presenting the ACC at Aarhus Business School, Århus (DK)
- 22 Helen Frenzel representing the ACC at the Newropeans Think Tank Award Ceremony 2004, Paris (F).
- 24-31 Elisabeth Alber presenting the ACC at the seminar: "Making a difference - the participation of minority youth in public life", Sinaia (RO)
- 25-31 First Webseminar on future European Citizenship Education
- 28-31 Seminar for High School students in Rites Tautskola, by ACC Latvia, Rite (LV)
- 31 ACC Århus Committee meeting

## NOVEMBER

- 1 Szilvia Malik visiting the office, interviewing Mjellma Mehmeti
- 4 Urska Novak visiting the ACC Office
- 5-7 Elly Andersen and John Petersen representing the ACC at the EAEA General Assembly, Metz (F)
- 11 Article by Szilvia Malik in Nepszabadsag, Az európai gondolat oktatása - Véletlenül éppen Dániában (HU)
- 12 Aarhus Business School Students presenting proposals for future revising of the Rites Tautskola and the ACC websites, Århus (DK)
- 15-19 ACC taking part in the International Week of Cirius, Copenhagen (DK)
- 15-21 Second Webseminar on future European Citizenship Education
- 23 Helle Villekold Jørgensen and John Petersen taking part in fundraising meeting of DUF, Århus (DK)
- 28 John Petersen meeting with the auditor Lene Albrechtsen, Kliplev (DK)
- Nov Dasa Bolcina representing ACC in an Estonia event

## DECEMBER

- 4-6 Linda Jakobsone visiting the ACC office
- 6-12 Third Webseminar on future European Citizenship Education
- 13-14 Mjellma Mehmeti taking part in the CoE Launching of the European Year of Citizenship through Education, Sofia (BG)
- Journal of Education in Bulgaria. Article about ACC and the role of non formal education by Nataliya Nikolova

## ... LIKE RINGS IN THE WATER

Margot Wallström who took on the brand new communications portfolio from November 1st, told MEPs on Thursday September 30<sup>th</sup> that she wanted to create a European meeting place "where individuals and groups can exchange views, whether they are groups of teachers, trade unionists, young people or bus drivers -- in short a people's university".

This meeting place is to be in Terezín in the Czech Republic, the site of a former Nazi concentration camp. (EU Observer, October 1<sup>st</sup> 2004)

2004 has been the year that ACC has seen many of its members, its ideas, its determinations spread around in Europe. Members of the ACC being engaged by organizations, schools EU institutions to do what they either learned or experienced through ACC events.

ACC has developed a new tool to help these young enthusiasts and many more to come in the future by making accessible its resources in a very simple and user friendly form on its website. This year the ACC has been an inspiration to two academic papers one in the Czech Republic and another one in Denmark....

Lets take a closer look on what has been spreading out like rings in the water during 2004:

One of our first members, Kerttu Lohmus ([kl@eh.dk](mailto:kl@eh.dk)) has been employed at the Esbjerg Højskole ([www.eh.dk](http://www.eh.dk)), Denmark, to co-ordinate a follow-up project on the Youth2002. The participating group probably consisted of half Danes and half non-Danes.

A one week European exchange event with the title "Cohabitation and mutual understanding" took place recently in Bitola. According to the organiser from "Aurora", Zoran Ilievski (ACC member as well), the Youth2002 experience in Denmark has heavily contributed to the successful implementation of this project.

A committee appointed by the Danish Ministry of Education has had as a task to point at ways forward for the Danish Folk High Schools. From the concluding report: "Just as Folk High Schools once contributed to anchoring the Danish Democracy in a living civil society and to develop a national public sphere, it is natural that the Folk High Schools now contribute to the development of a European civil society and to a European public sphere. This does not imply a choice between a national and a European identity, but an intensification of the interplay between more identities. The Folk High School project *Youth 2002* is an example that points forward" (translation from Danish).

More info about the major project Youth 2002 at [www.acc.eu.org/SEEEMS/137.asp](http://www.acc.eu.org/SEEEMS/137.asp)  
And about ACC's partaking in it at [www.acc.eu.org/SEEEMS/540.asp](http://www.acc.eu.org/SEEEMS/540.asp)



The  
Association *Cultures in Dialogue* intends to carry out  
the project of same title in the summer of 2005. 180 young Europeans  
representing Europe's national, cultural and linguistic diversity, minorities and  
majorities, will be invited to the event carried out from July 17<sup>th</sup> to July 30<sup>th</sup> 2005 in the  
Danish-German border region.

Among the 9 institutions founding the *Cultures in Dialogue* is Højskolen Østersøen just as Jesper  
Nielsen (teacher same place) is coordinating the project. Cultures of Dialogue is formed with a  
view to the Youth 2002 bylaws just as the boarding school format is an important part of  
the project.

More at <http://www.people.hojoster.dk/SEEEMS/3028.asp>

### **New tools for sharing knowledge/multiplying**

The Multiplier at the members site is going through a  
revisioning. An ftp-server should guarantee access of  
everybody holding a members-code to a lot of files of the ACC  
- project-descriptions, presentations, budgets, publications,  
presentations, FECC-files, articles, etc.etc..

Moreover, parts of the ftp-server is accessible from the Presskit  
(presentations and some heavy photos) just as the FECC-related  
issues are accessible from the FECC-part of the website. Last  
but not least, the publications are publicly accessible from  
Publications and Productions-part of the website  
(<http://www.acc.eu.org/SEEEMS/1044.asp>).

This summer and  
autumn Mjellma Mehmeti has  
been helping the Båring Højskole  
(Fuenen, DK) with their  
international courses and the Earth  
Education Academy. We hope to  
enhance our International  
Education Consultancy work  
with more institutions  
as well.

### **Learning for European Co-Citizenship, by Lucie Čí•ková**

"The common journey suggested [...] is the establishment of European Community  
Colleges, schools where Europeans could come together to discuss European issues in a non-  
formal learning setting while simultaneously forming small samples of European public sphere." (p.  
99)

This is one of many points made by Lucie Čí•ková in her thesis 'Learning for European Co-  
Citizenship - Danish Contribution to the Educational Aspect of Post-National Identity Formation'. It  
analyzes the current debate about the concepts of citizenship and identity with a special regard to  
the process of European integration. It uses Jürgen Habermas' teachings to point out the necessity  
to redefine these concepts so they capture the reality of today's Europe. It examines the learning  
processes that enhance post-national identity formation in Europe and suggests that the Danish  
tradition of non-formal residential education of adults, the folkehøjskole, can be used for the  
purpose of learning for European co-citizenship. The initiative that supports the  
establishment of a European variant of the Danish schools, the Association for  
Community Colleges, is pointed out as a practical example of that use.

Possible to download from the ftp-server  
<ftp://seminar.acc.eu.org>

# FUTURE ACTIVITIES

*During 2004 the ACC International Programme Office has been closely working with several Committees that have been developing their ideas for new ACC projects. During this year unfortunately we have also been a little unlucky in fundraising for some of our a bit older project ideas, like for example the Demos Community College - European Youth, Demos and the Role of Community Colleges and the Cornwall Community College - A Common Linguistic Diversity Project: "Communicating through sport". Since these projects were described in the Annual 2003 we would only like to mention that they are still on our agendas and we strongly hope to be more lucky this year.*

## "Schools for Europe Community College III (SECC III) - Validation (valuing) non-formal and informal learning in community college activities"

The ACC will be carrying out a one-week community college for 20 young Europeans with the aim of discussing validation (valuing) of non-formal and informal learning in community college activities and explore validation methods in order to validate the real competences achieved in non-formal and informal learning. The purpose of such methods is to create greater visibility and give the possibility of comparison across cultures.

ACC will be implementing this project in order to create a forum in which young Europeans get the opportunity to state their opinions on

validation (valuing) and how to create a successful validation-system - a validation-system that does not challenge the benefits achieved in a non-examinational environment. Due to globalization, a need for a dialogue about validation has emerged. By creating "Schools for Europe Community College III" the ACC would like to take active part in this dialogue and encourage the citizens to take an initiative and be involved actively in the development of the civil society.

We expect the participants to create validation systems by developing a vocabulary, or a language that expresses the competences accomplished in non-formal and informal learning, and to create model-examples of EU CVs/Europass that take the participants' concrete experiences and non-formal learning history into consideration. As a result we expect a series of CVs, serving as examples for validation methods, formulated in a common language, which will facilitate comparison.

**Where:** The community college will probably take place at the Danish Folk High School, Kalø Sproghøjskole.

**Who:** The project will be carried out by the Aarhus Committee, which for the time being holds the ACC-members: Szilvia Malik, Thore Fogh Johansen, Perrine Martin, Urska Novak,



Mjellma Mehmeti (ACC board), John Petersen (ACC, Chairman) and Helle Villekold.

"Representations Community College"  
Active and Passive Representation in  
European Political Institutions

This Active Citizenship Project will bring together 40 young people from 10 countries in Europe to learn about - and understand - the system of the European political institutions and their actors.

Our aim is to bridge the gap between those who are represented, and those who represent. We thus want to construct a dialogue between the participants, politicians and political professionalists to bring Brussels and the various regions of the EU closer to each other and highlight their interdependencies.

Topics that will be covered are as follows: Is there a conflict between the dimension of being represented and to represent in the European institutions? Can my interests be represented at all on the European level? How do politicians, especially of the Members of the European political institutions and their staff, perceive the European Institutions? What are the intentions and impacts of lobby groups from civil society and business? What makes Brussels "tick"?

The outcome of the RCC will be to write the experiences from these debates and the conclusions from this event in a form of a Ethics Codex that should serve to the elected representatives of the European institutions. This project was written and will be implemented by the ACC Berlin Committee.

**When/Where:** RCC is planned to take place from August 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> 2005 in the European Youth Meeting Center Werbellinsee (Germany).

**Who:** The RCC will be organised by the ACC Berlin Committee

"Bridging Community Colleges II"

The Bridging Community Colleges II project is planned by recognizing the need for promoting non-formal education in common European context. It means gathering educational materials, methods and ideas used and synthesizing the experience gained through organising community college courses in different countries around Europe by various non-governmental groups. The main objective is to promote community colleges as an effective framework facilitating the creation of a sustainable European debate on issues of common concern thereby strengthening the European society, promoting active citizenship and creating the European public sphere.

The major objective of Bridging Community Colleges II is to share experience on how the community colleges (as one of the forms of non-formal education) as an effective methodological framework can facilitate the creation of a permanent public debate among the youth of Europe on issues of common concern, thereby strengthening civil society and promoting active citizenship on a European level, can be used in the framework for Youth programme.

As the BCC I offered a unique opportunity to connect good practice from previous community college courses, exchange ideas for future activities, use each other as resources and sounding boards, share learning and plan together the ACC identified the need to bring this experience further and to work on more specific topics in detail to create a common understanding and best practice in carrying out European community college courses.

**When/Where:** BCC II is planned to take place in Rite, Jekabpils district, Latvia from 22nd-28th June 2005

**Who:** This project will be organized by the ACC Latvia in close co-operation with the ACC International Programme Office.

# ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

## Transylvania Community College 2003 - the video

The video describes the 14 days Community College in Transylvania, when 55 young Europeans from all over met to make an amendment proposal to the European constitution-treaty. An important question in the context of the EU-enlargement-process: How should and how could less dominating population-groups ("minorities") be protected in the new treaty, was the leading question of this video.

Interviewed participants describe their preferences as what solutions regard: for example that rights should be given to individuals only (equal citizens), that some rights should be given to groups only (equal identities), that this is a matter of the common (Europe), that this is a matter of the states ("they know better")...

The age-old dilemma of balancing these points of view did not prevent a common document to result from the 14 days learning and living together (<http://www.acc.eu.org/SEEEMS/139.asp>) to be produced alongside the video. The video is then a documentary on how individual opinion and knowledge can transform into a common position and how the idea of learning and living together in a non-formal setting provides the atmosphere for compromises and for creating networks of permanent European debate-partners.

The Transylvania Community College 2003 documentary (31 minutes) was transmitted by the Europe by Satellite (EbS) channel. It was first broadcasted on Monday 28.06.2004, at 21.00, the next day (Tuesday) at 05.00, and one more time the following Saturday at 08.30. The EbS is like a fair for TV-channels all over Europe, so we expect the "Community College" format to get extra attention by being broadcasted from different channels all over Europe in the future.

With a little help from the video our -still- small scale European public sphere has the chance to become known and our methodology can become an inspiration for others. The Transylvania Community College 2003 as taped on the video is European Citizenship in Action!

The documentary can be downloaded from the ftp-server: <ftp://seminar.acc.eu.org> together with a brief summary.

## First European Community College (FECC)

The vision of creating a First European Community College still remains to be a long-term ambition of the ACC ([www.acc.eu.org/SEEEMS/1381.asp](http://www.acc.eu.org/SEEEMS/1381.asp))

A theme debated among members of the ACC was taken up on how the FECC should position itself as what valuing of learning concerns. The discussion was considered important at that particular time, since work in this direction was ongoing in EU. Specifically it was on how to "validate" non-formal and informal learning and to "...develop a set of common principles regarding validation of non-formal and informal learning with the aim of ensuring greater comparability between approaches in different countries and at different levels..."

The debate went on both directions: from the one that there should be no examination whatsoever on community college courses held in the First European Community College, to the other extreme that there should be a very well organized way of not only certifying but also verifying the knowledge attained through a CC course.

However, one non-contested conclusion is that there is a need to take a deeper debate, preferably to organise a Community College event ("Evaluation Strategy Framework - Schools for Europe III").

A report on points of views of members, and a conclusion on the debate is available at <http://www.acc.eu.org/SEEEMS/2336.asp>

## Newropeans Networks Grandprix 2004

ACC was nominated for the "Grands Prix Newropeans 2004" in the category "Citizenship / Youth-Education". See details at <http://www.newropeans.org/en/on-going/grands-prix/nominees.htm>.

ACC was nominated in the category youth/education together with the Young European Federalists, AEGEE and CafeBabel.

Initiated by the think-tank Europe 2020 and the Newropeans Networks in the framework of the closing event of the Newropeans Democracy Marathon 2003 this "Grands Prix" aim at rewarding persons, organizations or projects having significantly contributed to the democratization of the European Union, closing the gap between European citizens and the EU construction.

A Jury made of 500 representatives of the European civil society selected the winners through an online election between October 1<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> 2004; the results were announced on October 22<sup>nd</sup> (8 pm) online as well as during a private event at the Villa des Ternes (Paris). [www.newropeans.org/en/on-going/grands-prix/index.htm](http://www.newropeans.org/en/on-going/grands-prix/index.htm)

At the event ACC was presented by our member Helen Frenzel. Unfortunately, we were not the winners of the Prize. The prize for our category was granted to "CafeBabel". Congratulations!!!

## ACC General Assembly 2004

The General Assembly 2004 took place on August 7<sup>th</sup> in Slovenia, hosted by the ACC Good Will Committee in Pliskovica, Slovenia.

This was an elective GA and four members in the Board were elected. Linda Jakobson (Riga), Conchi Gallego (Madrid) and Jan-Christoph Napierski (Haan) were re-elected to the board. Emma Yeoman was re-elected as a substitute to the board, together with Erik Jentges.

Unfortunately, Board member Laszlo Dani (Budapest), one of the main inspiring persons





behind the very founding of the ACC, withdrew from the board work after 5 years. This made it possible for the GA to elect Erik Jentges as a substitute Board member.

During the GA there were two general debates initiated, one on fundraising and another one on involving members. As a result of the deliberations on these issues one of the members taking part on the GA, Tanja Wolf, made a power point presentation on the fundraising perspectives by taking into consideration the current construction of the ACC and its fundraising capacities.

A general debate took place on methods on how to involve the members. Several ideas and strategies emerged. In order to involve more members and to facilitate their networking and their activities, the usage of the European CV or the EUROPASS to create a password-secured members database on the ACC Website was discussed.

Several methods to network members to use their abilities and resources were thought through, such as yahoo-groups, forums, different websites and their potential in activating members on the local/regional level and to day-to-day activities.

Problems of a lack of a local level were acknowledged. As a result of the debate, it was agreed to try to establish task forces on certain topics, even linking them to Community College Events.

On the day of the General Assembly, the ACC consisted of around 400 members. Minutes of the GA as well as the revised Statutes are available in the members section: [www.acc.eu.org/SEEEEMS.asp?id=214](http://www.acc.eu.org/SEEEEMS.asp?id=214)

## New office staff, Helle Villekold Jørgensen, Perrine Martin and Mjellma Mehmeti

Starting from first of September ACC is hosting an intern, Helle Villekold Jørgensen. Helle is involved in coordination and communication work within the ACC as well as ongoing ACC activities and projects in general and the planning of new ones. Contact Helle in the office at: [helle@acc.eu.org](mailto:helle@acc.eu.org)

In the second part of 2004 the office has really been a busy place to be. Along side Helle and John, Perrine and Mjellma, members of the ACC, have given their contribution working voluntarily for the office just as did Hristina Raycheva in the beginning of 2004. Helle holds a full time position until March 2005 while Perrine is in the office some days every week. Mjellma Mehmeti is in the office some times, but mainly working in the field.



Helle Villekold Jørgensen has been working in the ACC office as a project-coordinator since September 2004. She holds a Master's Degree in International Studies and has a lot of international experience. For instance: She has been working on a UNESCO-project on media and good governance in Amman, Jordan as well as she has been carrying out internships in the Permanent Delegation of Denmark to UNESCO and in the Communication Sector of UNESCO in Paris, France. She is an active member of the Danish development organization "Ibis" where she is involved in the education campaign.



Perrine Martin has been a volunteer at ACC office since fall 2004. She has been studying business languages in Lyon (France) and Aarhus. She is currently involved in a MA degree in European studies both in Paris and in Aarhus. She is mostly interested in Eastern European countries and intends to specialize in cultural and political relations between the Baltic Sea states. She has been taking part in several seminars organised by the ACC and Højskolen Østersøen.

# ACC Board since the General Assembly 2004



Conchi Gallego, Madrid, deputy chair (elected 2004). Conchi Gallego studied Journalism in the Universidad Complutense (Madrid) and has worked in different fields specially related to the NGO sector. For more than 10 years she was involved in the Youth work and youth organisations at the local, regional and national level, carrying out the representation of these organisations and platforms at European level. Her main area of speciality has been training and Intercultural Education. Since the beginning of 2004 Conchi is the Director of the Participation Department in the Town Hall of Algete (small city situated in the north of Madrid) dealing with the development of the NGO sector in the town and specially working for the establishment of permanent consultation structures between the citizens and the local administration.



Dasa Bolcina, Trieste (elected 2003). Dasa Bolcina belongs to the Slovene minority in Italy. She has been studying communication and journalism in Slovenia and Croatia. In 2002 she did her European Voluntary Service in Denmark at one of the 13 folk high schools involved in the Youth2002. Involved in many different cross-border projects, especially in the field of education social inclusion and youth, she is currently working for the Slovene vocational training institute in Trieste, where she is responsible for Interreg educational projects.



Emma Yeoman (elected 2004, board 11/10-2004-GA 2005) completed her BA in Law and German at the universities of Sheffield and Regensburg this summer. She specialised in medical law, in particular in the maintenance of autonomy for elderly patients. Currently she is studying on a pre-medical course in King's Lynn, preparing for medical school in 2005. She has been involved in work for the ESG in Germany and is now an active member of the Altvilligster network of Evangelisches Studienwerk Villigst. Having been a prep-com member of ERCC II and thoroughly enjoyed it, she is now working on the ACC Berlin project for next summer.



Erik Jentges, Berlin, (elected 2004, substitute). Erik has been living, working and studying in the USA, Israel and France for one year each. He is currently studying social sciences at Humboldt-University at Berlin. Lately, he has focused on the development of European integration, with interests in identity, the public sphere and organised civil society on a European level. He has worked with the student group on cultural sensitization at the Department of Comparative Education at Humboldt-University, now named Indik e.V. (Institute for Didactics of Intercultural Actions), and has been a volunteer with the German Youth for Understanding (YFU), promoting one year student exchanges. He is now also engaged with the European Educational Exchanges - Youth for Understanding (EEE-YFU), supporting the German volunteer network. Erik is working on the ACC Berlin Committee, aiming at establishing the Representations Community College in summer 2005.



Eva Valvo (elected 2003) comes from an Italian-Danish family and lives in Italy. She is one of the founders of the ACC and is the leader of the Europe of Rights Community College project, which took place in Florence in August 2003 and September 2004. She belongs to the Waldensian Reformed religious minority in Italy, and is actively engaged in ecumenical and inter-religious work both on national and international level. She has represented the Federation of Protestant Youth in Italy at the Italian Youth Convention on the Future of Europe. She has taken a PhD degree in Latin Philology at the University of Pisa and is currently working in the media office of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy in Rome.



Jan-Christoph Napierski, treasurer, Haan (elected 2004). Jan-Christoph specialised in his studies on identifications of national and ethnic minorities in Europe as well as the political relations between the Nordic countries, Germany and Poland. He studied History, Political Sciences and Polish language at the universities of Duisburg (D), Surrey (UK) and Cracow (PL) and has taken an MA degree in European Studies at the University of Aarhus (DK). JC has been involved in the political work of the German minority in Denmark and the European Movement. He is an active member of the German "Aktion Gemeinsinn e.V." promoting active citizenship. After his studies, he was awarded a scholarship by the German government for an internship as Carlo-Schmid-Fellow at the Secretariat of the Commissioner of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, Copenhagen. He is the treasurer of the ACC.



John Petersen (elected 2003) is an executive leader of the ACC International Programme Office as well as founder and Chairman of the ACC. John is a central person for the ACC from its very beginning. John Petersen has a background as organiser of international events and teacher at a number of Danish Folk High Schools. Alongside occupations at the ACC International Programme Office, he initiated and coordinated the organisational life of the association and project Youth 2002. Countless European projects, events, publications and ideas within or outside ACC stems from the work of John Petersen.



Linda Jakobson has studied International Relations - Political Science at the University of Latvia as well as she has a Master degree in European Science from the University of Applied Sciences, Bremen, Germany. Currently she is completing her Master degree in Organizational Management at the School for International Training, Vermont, USA. For the last years she has been involved in coordinating the government communication on Latvia's membership in the European Union. Currently she works in the Communication Department of the State Chancellery, Latvia. For many years she has been active in various NGOs working on the European issues including among others European Movement and Young European Federalists in Latvia. Linda left the board on 11/10-2004 due to heavy work pressure.



Mjellma Mehmeti, secretary, Skopje (elected 2003). Mjellma Mehmeti holds a degree in Classical Latin and Old Greek from the University "Ss Cyril and Methodius" in Skopje, and is currently a student on her Master Degree Programme on European Studies at the Aarhus University. She is one of the founders of the ACC and the founder of the Association for Emancipation, Solidarity, and Equality of Women, a women's NGO that addresses conflict transformation and the promotion of inter-ethnic dialogue through different women's programmes in FYRMacedonia. As a member of the Bureau of the Council of Europe's Youth and Sport Directorate in Strasbourg, France, she helped promote human rights values, participation and equality among young Europeans. A tireless advocate for human and women's rights for over a decade, Mjellma was awarded Young European of the Year 2002.

John Petersen Aarhus C  
 Jesper Nielsen Aabenraa  
 Birger Jørgensen Aabenraa  
 Jürgen Klaassen Hannover  
 Elly Andersen Aabenraa  
 Peter Aknai Pecs  
 Radim Konecny Cesky Tesin  
 Roberto de Andres Iglesias Ourense  
 Botond Csoma Cluj-Napoca  
 Oliver Kiss Cluj-Napoca  
 Richard Talbot Truro, Kernow/  
 Cornwall  
 Nikolina Zrinscak Zagreb  
 Maria Bakari Rhodes  
 Janusz Gurbiel Cesky Tesin  
 Lis Nielsen Årsköbing  
 Silvia Cardi Ponsaco  
 Marzia Pistolesi Ponsaco  
 Julia Gordiyenko Kiev  
 Mate Tamaska Budapest  
 Emese Biro Targu Mures  
 Lara Buffoni Massa  
 Conchi Gallego Madrid  
 Rosa Gallego Madrid  
 Slava Mikhailov Dublin  
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 Linda Jakobsone Riga  
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Here is some empty  
space for new  
members.  
Sign up at the  
website!  
[www.acc.eu.org](http://www.acc.eu.org)



# OUTSTANDING GLOBAL WORK AWARD

## Ceremony 2004 - San Juan

The Association for Community Colleges (ACC) is the 2004 recipient of the Organisational Development Network's (ODN) Outstanding Global Work award. The Awards and Recognition Committee met in April "and agreed wholeheartedly to recognize ACC for its sustainability and its breadth and depth of global work". "We are pleased to have found such a deserving recipient for the award in this our 40th Anniversary celebration year!"

These were the pleasant words received by our contact to the Organisational Development Network (ODN), Nataliya Nikolova - ACC in Varna (BG) - in early June. The boarding school format as a method for creating a European public sphere - with its non-formal, formal and in particular informal learning elements has then been seen and now appreciated even outside Europe and in the world of global business.

We were pleased to get to know, that the award serves a vital need of the ODN community - recognizing and celebrating outstanding contributions and achievements in serving the field of organization development.

The award was presented during one of the plenaries of the 2004 ODN Annual Conference (3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> October 2004) at the Caribe Hilton, San Juan, Puerto Rico. John Petersen (ACC chairperson), attended both conference and sessions as representing the ACC.

In his nomination speech, Mr Bob Marshak (ODN Board of Trustees), mentioned in particular the trans-national character of the work and organisation of the ACC as well as pointed out the global potential of the civil society work done by the ACC in Europe.

John Petersen received the award on behalf of the 450 ACC members believing in combining formal, non-formal and informal learning methods within the residential European Community College format. "It is my impression that in US-America you understand that Europeans have to stand together - and not only on government level", said John Petersen, and continued expressing that "...there is a need to develop a European public sphere and we are some few common citizens working on it. Thank you for catching sight of us!"

Apart from the award ceremony, the OD Annual Conference was a major inspiration for the ACC, as it proved that INGO's like the ACC are far from standing alone in developing new forms of organisations that fit a post-national era. High-level speakers of the ODN network, including strategists of Microsoft, Intel and a number of OD Practitioners, authors and university staff - even if within the logic of the marketplace - proved the need to investigate further the possible bonds between the triangle of market-place-demands, motivations stemming from ideological goals, and the will expressed in the policy of governments.

Next year OD Network Annual Conference is going to take place in Minneapolis:

[www.odnetwork.org/conf2005/](http://www.odnetwork.org/conf2005/)