

Press release
Association for Community Colleges
ACC Berlin Committee
August 14th, 2005

Representations Community College 2005 in Hannover

A group of 40 young people from all over Europe are about to gather at the “Zentrum für Erwachsenenbildung Stephansstift”. From August 14th - 26th they will debate the issue of “political representation” as seen in an EU-context.

The aim of the Representations Community College (RCC) is to let Europeans debate how to bridge the gap between those being represented and those who are representing in the European political institutions.

Simulation games, presentations, contributions by external lecturers as well as the participants themselves make up the mixture of formal, non-formal and informal learning methods which will be used.

The young participants are asked to create a production before they leave - an ethics codex to be used by European parliamentarians. It will be forwarded to politicians, opinion-makers and media all over Europe in order to create further awareness of European political matters and the composite democracy that is the EU today.

It is not just the result the organizers want to promote by organizing the RCC, but also the process. It is no coincidence that the issues are going to be debated among Europeans instead of among nationals. “We believe the small-scale European public sphere we are establishing by letting Europeans learn and live together here at Stephansstift could and should become a model for learning in a future EU,” explains organizer Erik Jentges. “It is our ambition that some time in the future every European will have the chance to try what these young people are now trying: learning and living together for some time with people from all over Europe.”

Previously the ACC has released the “Act on European Community Colleges” and concrete proposals for supporting measures within the EU. These proposals are now reflected in the EU-Commission’s vice-president Margot Wallström’s so-called Plan D, released after the Dutch and French referenda.

“Even if we have been proving our ideas by putting them into practice for many years now, and even if the ideas have been taken up by the EU-Commission, we believe there is still a need to create more concrete examples of how to make the EU work, more learning communities, many more events and small scale European public spheres within which European citizens have the chance to form common points of view. Many small streams make the river,” says organizer Anna Littke.

Contact: Erik Jentges, +49 (0) 177-8632442

The ACC Berlin Committee organizing the Representations Community College consists of Emma Yeoman (UK), Erik Jentges (DE), Anna Littke (DE), Marzia Pistolesi (I), Allan Siao Ming Witherick (UK), John Petersen (DK)

The Association for Community Colleges (ACC) is a European non-governmental, non-partisan and non-profit organisation founded by European citizens. Currently (2005) it has almost 500 members from Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, F.Y.R. Macedonia, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and USA.

The ACC is working for the development of a European (transnational) public sphere. The main idea of the ACC is that a unique way of promoting this objective would be through establishing community colleges on a common European level and all over Europe.