

Project Documentation Rite 2000
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For the very first time in Latvia an international working camp of the ACC called Working Camp Rite took place from the 13th to the 20th of August, 2000.

The event was organized by the ACC (Association for Community Colleges) in close cooperation with RitesTautas Augstskola (Rite Folk High School).

The participants came from different countries of Europe, representing Bulgaria, The Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Macedonia, The Netherlands, Poland and Romania.

The project was supported by the EU Commission, East-East Program of the Soros Foundation and the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands in Latvia.

The program included practical activities consisting of renovation of the Rite Folk High School and learning about community colleges in different parts of Europe, exchange of information, decision making on the future developments and projects of the ACC.

The project is an informative campaign on the idea of making Community Colleges into a motor developing an enlightened European debate.

The main objective of the Working Camp Rite was to help Rites Tautas Augstskola to develop as a regional centre promoting the discussion on European issues, involving local inhabitants in this process and creating the views on these matters.

In order to achieve this aim various activities have been carried out during the week.

The participants had the opportunity to learn about the situation of non-formal adult education in Latvia, about Latvia's integration into European Union. Study visits were organised to the Association of Adult Education and the European Union Information

Centre.

Lectures were held among others by Mr Ivo Rollis from the European Integration bureau, Mrs. Zaneta Ozolina, the European Commission delegation in Latvia and by Mrs. Daina Zvaigzne, the Council of the Jekabpils district.

The idea of the community colleges, in which local people decide themselves what should be learned could be a main inspiration for the Latvian society. The program will certainly create awareness of the local population of Rite of the advantages of non-formal education.

To promote the idea of ACC the participants worked in different discussion groups:

One group worked on Press relases for local, national and global medias to spread the idea of the ACC in all countries where the ACC has members and to inform people who are interested in European topics.

Several participants worked on projects of Folk High School courses in their countries.

"The Roma population, the European minority"

by Marta Szilagyi (Hungary)

Under the aegis of the ACC, a community college course is to be organized in 2002 in Hungary about a topic of a common European concern, on how the NGOs - both in Eastern and Western Europe - can contribute to the integration of the Roma populations and on how they can help to handle and solve the problems that the accession of the first Central and Eastern European countries to the EU will bring about.

"Development/EU Community College Course"

by Jette Nielsen (Denmark)

The aim of the courses is to create an awareness of the EU/European policies towards the developing countries in general and towards the ACP countries in specific. The first course will take place at a Danish folk high school from July 7th - August 4th, 2002. It is our expectation that through the informal atmosphere at the school and the close personal contacts, which a stay at the school promotes, participants will obtain a unique understanding that goes beyond cultural, political, religious and linguistic barriers. The interpersonal relations created between young people from East and West, North and South are of utmost interest and importance of the event.

"Situation of young people of the Balcan countries"

by Stoyan Antov (Bulgaria)

To have a three week course in Bulgaria about the common Balkan issues in summer, 2002. The participants will be invited from the Balkan countries, as well as from the rest of Europe in order to create the understanding in the past and present developments in the Balkan countries.

Rite and ACC

The discussion group created a vision for the possible cooperation between the ACC and the Rite Folk High School. There are several preconditions for the continuation of this cooperation one of them being a stable and independent management of the Rite Folk High School. The vision of the ACC is that Rite Folk High School is a meeting point for local, national and European participants in the courses on the common European issues. The school could be one of the first examples of the European Community College creating a non-formal adult education possibilities for everybody who wants to learn more. One of the possible directions of the Rite Folk High School could be a IT-center for the Jekabpils district. In order to reach this aim the improvement of the facilities of the school is also necessary. As the school is going through the process of signing the contract about the future renting or buying the houses and land belonging to the Rite Folk High School with the local municipality the possible fundraising by the ACC were discussed. The future relationship between Rite Folk High School and ACC will be coordinated by Sandra Salmina (Vice Chairperson of the ACC Latvia), Siebren de Boer

and Linda Jakobsone (Board members of the ACC).

One discussion group dealt with the creating of a Rite Folk High School webpage. Many ideas were raised. The Webpage will contain detailed information about the school and pictures of the surroundings. It will be installed in two weeks time under www.acc.eu.org\Rites_Tautskola.

Many participants translated the statutes of the ACC and other related documents into their languages to bring them in the Internet and to promote the ideas of ACC as broad as possible. A danish, dutch, frisian, bulgarian, latvian, czech, polish and rumanian version will be soon available on the internet site of the ACC (www.acc.eu.org) additional to the ones which are already placed there. The webpage of the ACC will be upgraded with the new statutes in several languages as a result of the General Assembly, project descriptions worked out at the Campaigning Camp and a slide show.