

Min. Ulla Tørnæs
Ministry of Education
Frederiksholms Kanal
1220 Copenhagen K

Aabenraa March 17th 2003

Dear Ulla Tørnæs

It is a pleasure to be able to forward to you one exemplar of the spring issue of the *Journal of World Education*.

It is our aim with this issue of the *Journal of World Education*

- to give the young co-organisers, participants and volunteers of the Youth2002 Folk High School courses the chance to evaluate their experiences with the format of European residential schools and to present them to a wider audience,
- to synoptically present our works within European youth- and educational policy and to make these works better known
- and to start a debate about the idea of founding a European Community College (Europæisk Folkehøjskole) on Danish ground.

We have two other reasons for writing this letter:

1) We have prepared a draft first version of a set of statutes for such a school printed in the "Journal". This should be seen as a first step in the direction of founding a Concrete European Community College in Denmark.

Even if the Danish rules on Folk High Schools prevents us from organizing courses targeting Europeans on an equal basis (50%-rule as a precondition for subsidizing courses), we do consider Denmark, with its tradition for subsidiarity / decentralization as what contents regards, the best place of founding such a school. We would like to ask for your support in order to continue the preparatory work aiming at founding such a school.

We would like to stress, that we do consider the 50%-rule very liberal.

2) A possibility of obtaining a dispensation from the mentioned 50%-rule has developed within recent years - beginning at Højskolen Østersøen. After the fortunate conditions given with the Danish EU-presidency, 12 Folk High Schools being partners of the Youth2002 obtained the dispensation simultaneously.

It is to foresee that Folk High Schools in an even larger number are going to apply for dispensations in the years to come.

We would like to inform you, that we have proposed to the Danish Association for Folk High Schools (FFD) to work together with the Folk High Schools on establishing an *“Invisible European Folk High School”*. The *“Invisible Folk High School”* should work in a limited period of time (e.g. 2004-2006) on co-organizing European Folk High School Courses of the model known from the Youth2002 (originating at Højskolen Østersøen). The *“Invisible Folk High School”* should co-organize European courses initiated at the existing schools interested in European affairs and should function within the rules for Folk High Schools -with the 50%-rule as the exception.

We see this reasoned by a wish to

- avoid a situation of uncontrolled growth in the number of applications to the ministry
- present to the EU a Danish common endeavor of developing the much requested means and methods of developing a European public realm / the individual skills of active European citizens
- develop a more persistent system of co-financing residential non-formal school courses with Denmark in lead inspiring the next generation of Youth-programmes

Our very best regards,

John Petersen, chairman

Enclosure: Journal of World Education, vol.33, no.1, Spring 2003