

## **Bridging Community College**

### Subject of the meeting:

The organizers, as members of the Association for Community Colleges, took part in the planning and implementation of several successful youth events, among them the TCC 2001, Youth 2002 (included in the team of the 13 EVS volunteers) and TCC 2003, the Proposal on Minority Protection. All the positive feedback on this work yielded the necessity of developing the idea further, which stood as a basis for all these remarkable achievements.

The conclusions all point in one direction: the need for promoting non-formal education in a common Europe. The ***Bridging Community Colleges*** project is essentially planned under this headline. In practical terms it would mean gathering and unifying all these projects' educational materials, and synthesize the experimental know-how driven from all the working processes. It would as well gather collaborating partners to draw conclusions about possible ways of commonly developing further projects, benefiting from their personal involvement and dedication to the topic, and aiming at achieving increased efficiency in implementation.

The VA/NGO representatives from all over Europe must be able to implement the ideas and results of the seminars into their specific regional, national- and cultural contexts. Nonetheless they should also be able and willing to actively participate in workshops, socializing games, simulation and role-plays, possessing the required negotiating skills to reach an agreement in discussions and debates. The task of drawing a new strategy for partnership and collaboration would be a common responsibility.

The major objective of *Bridging Community Colleges* is to promote community colleges -one of the basic forms of non-formal education- as an effective methodological framework facilitating 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 continental level.

### Where and when will the meeting be held:

Sopron, Hungary, Nemeth Laszlo Academy, Branch Organization of the Association for World Education (with consultative status in the UN)  
03. November 2003 – 09 November 2003

The major aim of the *Bridging Community Colleges* project is essentially planned under the need for promoting non-formal education in a common Europe headline.

Its innovative character can be captured in the very fact that the result of the *Bridging Community Colleges* would not only represent a synthesis of the already existing experience, and it would not only operate with already overused concepts in the field, but it would as well represent a peculiar youth contribution to what is actually happening in terms of reforming the common European political

structure. The showcase of young Europeans formulating in common their ideas about a shared future would hopefully constitute an example worth to follow for young people who so far have not been active in the political and other community-related processes.

In a more general context, the objective of the project is in accordance with the general aims of the ACC to stimulate a common European debate on questions and political problems shared by Europeans. This evaluative synthesis is going to be a showcase of the general strategy of the ACC, creating more community colleges for an Open Europe.

By organizing the project we hope to promote the idea of letting citizens take initiative by themselves. The aim of the *Bridging Community Colleges* is in short to be a part of developing civil society of the region. The mindset, attitude or behavioral pattern transmitted by the idea, its conscious and detailed planning, the personalities of those responsible for leading its implementation and the willingness of partners to be active part of this achievement will all contribute to the above-mentioned result.

The informal context of the boarding school format will help the partners' personal development simply by experiencing what does intercultural learning in reality mean.

They will have the opportunity of creating close professional contacts, tight relationships with outstanding personalities, whom they never met before, being sometimes representatives of a would-be enemy. For instance, persons belonging to nations traditionally having obsolete relationship have the chance to see the human being in each other.

Further we hope to involve participants in the work done by the ACC, hopefully through membership and through enlarging the circle of Young Europeans working for an enlightened, non-chauvinist and common debate among European citizens.

In our vision the follow-up of the Bridging Community Colleges will include the following two main aspects: the first relates to the information disseminating on and promotion of such concepts, as non-formal education, lifelong learning and their realization in the particular methodological context of the community colleges format. The second dimension incorporates the rendering permanent the so-far occasional contact to partners.

Belonging to this second category, we plan to tighten relations with the following partners:

- a. Organizations and groups active in Europe
- b. Association for World Education – we would like to closely collaborate in the future with this organization, which has a consultative status in the United Nations. Our offer to them would be information on youth tendencies and direct feedback, as an expectation we see them providing us information and training, lecturing resources.
- c. Association for Community Colleges –disseminating on projects implemented so far

As for measuring the outcomes of the *Bridging Community Colleges*, we expect to have results both in terms of number of new project, improved quality of already existing ones, and alternative ways of measurement, such as developing know-how in this special field.

### **Draft Program: BCC**

#### **Sunday**

Arrivals during the day

18.00 Dinner

19.00 Formal welcome and introduction to the agenda of the working meeting by the organizers

20.00 Presentation of the project planning's present stage

#### **Monday**

8.30 Breakfast

9.00 Lecture: Conflict Management

12.00 Lunch

14.00 Drafting future prospective

16.00 Strategic planning

18.00 Dinner

20.00 Writing (and translating) press releases about the project

#### **Tuesday**

8.30 Breakfast

9.00 Lecture: Policy Papers

12.00 Lunch

14.00 Drawing common conclusions

16.00 Writing of a report about the decisions taken during the meeting

18.00 Dinner

18.30 Evaluation of all ideas and proposals, discussion about their implementation

#### **Wednesday**

8.30 Breakfast

9.00 Workshop

12.00 Lunch

14.00 Lecture: Community Colleges in a Common Europe

16.00 Working group

18.00 Dinner

18.30 Writing of a report about the decisions taken during the meeting

#### **Thursday**

8.30 Breakfast

9.00 Working group

12.00 Lunch

14.00 Developing the follow-up (website planning, concrete projects)

16.00 Working group

18.00 Dinner

18.30 Writing of a report about the decisions taken during the meeting

**Friday**

8.30 Breakfast

9.00 Evaluation of all ideas and proposals, discussion about their implementation

12.00 Lunch

14.00 Continuing the report about the decisions taken during the meeting

18.00 Dinner

18.30 Sending press releases about the project

**Saturday (Open Youth Day)**

Active and passive information disseminating, promoting the brochure and providing concrete advocacy –Sopron, Hungary

**Sunday**

Breakfast

**Departure day**