

# First European Community College

*A Powerplant of Tomorrow*



ACC

## What is ACC?



The Association for Community Colleges (ACC) is a European non-governmental non-profit organisation founded mainly by young Europeans.

ACC currently has around 500 individual members from 35 European states. We work for the development of a **European public sphere**.

The main idea of ACC is that a unique way of promoting this objective would be through establishing residential **community colleges** on a common European level.

ACC organises events and courses for mixed groups of Europeans, let participants **learn and live together** for a longer period of time, in order to demonstrate how to develop a common trans-national political identity.

ACC liaises authorities to promote the idea of creating and running common European community colleges.

ACC is active all over Europe, in 2004-5 focusing on Community College Courses in Trieste/Pliskovica (I/SLO), Jekabpils (LV), Århus (DK), Reggello (I), Rhodes (GR), Cornwall (UK), and Berlin (GE)

John Petersen  
Chairperson, ACC

Conchi Gallego  
Vice Chairperson, ACC

## Our Innovative Project: FECC

The First European Community College (FECC) is an initiative that follows up naturally on the activities and initiatives of the Association for Community Colleges.

During recent years, ACC has proved the viability of the concept and the popularity among European youngsters of gathering in the projects that fall within the definition of European Community Colleges.

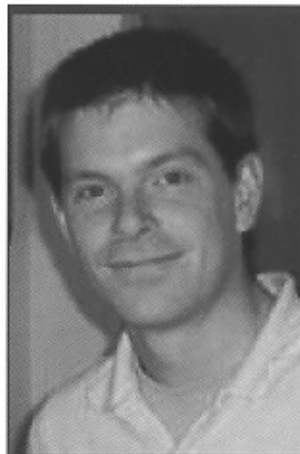
The idea of founding and developing of a First European Community Colleges is inspired by the Nordic concept of Folk High Schools, the format of Grundtvigian residential colleges.

We offer for the European community a European Citizenship Education.

### FECC objectives:

- To give all Europeans a forum for learning and living together.
- To create a sense of shared responsibility for Europe and the world, while maintaining diversity.
- To take concrete action on the background of recommendations from the Nice-protocols, the EU whitepapers on youth policy and European governance, the EU-Enlargement process, and the ambitions to create a European participatory democracy.
- To create active European citizenship experiences.
- To develop skills and competences for the European job market.
- To develop competences for living in a multicultural Europe.
- To be a forum for the (future) network of Europeans with common values based on European histories, cultures and politics.
- To develop schools "governed by culture" in so far as daily life at the individual school is influenced by local traditions and culture.

## We have the power but need the plant ...



*Organising individual community college courses has given many of the organisers valuable know-how about such activities.*

*This guarantees the success of a future European Community College.*

*Having a permanent space with bricks and walls framing our work will give us a better chance of optimising our educational activities - instead of dealing with funding and logistics most of the time.*

Erik Jentges, ACC board member, responsible for Representations Community College, Berlin

To be a European is to borrow one's way!

There is reason to thank all those who have lent or rented their schools or premises to ACC's European events and community college courses.

It is so much more impressive as many of the places we have rented have other reasons for existing than dealing with European issues.

Generally speaking, the purpose of existing institutions, legal systems and measures of subvention are made to serve the ideas and political realms they were invented within. To be a European today is to borrow one's way through these structures.

It is still a challenge to be a European in Europe!

It is our plan to ease that challenge a bit by founding a First European Community College.

However, our events and courses need a home - a home for face-to-face meetings and debates among the citizens in a Europe that is becoming still more globalised.

## Current ACC Courses

The past years the Association for Community Colleges has carried out residential school courses at many locations throughout Europe. The teams behind the courses are the building bricks of our First European Community College.

The themes of the courses have varied and comprise:

- The EU-Enlargement
- European national minorities
- The EU-Constitution-Treaty
- Mobility on the labour market
- Education and Training
- Rural Development
- European Periodicals and Media
- Human Rights
- Alternative Learning Methods
- And many more are coming up....

Despite the variety the unifying concepts are always the same:

- European issues on the course agenda
- Debate among Europeans instead of among countrymen
- Meetings follow the residential format of European Community Colleges
- Courses result in a concrete outcome (e.g. TV productions, print/web publications, etc.) contributing to the European public sphere.

*A more permanent and physical course frame would mean a chance for many more people to participate.*

*The duration of the courses is also important; the longer they are, the closer and more intense the experience you get.*

*A First European Community College will clarify both what the courses offer and what the outcome will be for you.*

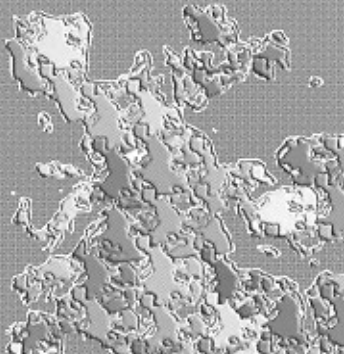


Arevik Arakelian, course participant, Schiedam

	Theme	A	B
		<b>Europe - Unity?</b>	<b>Europe - Diversity?</b>
I	What is...?	<p>Past, Present, Future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History</li> <li>• Culture</li> <li>• Geopolitics</li> <li>• Aesthetics</li> <li>• European values</li> <li>• European identity</li> </ul> <p>European institutions/actors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public sphere (media)</li> <li>• Political sphere (parliaments &amp; councils)</li> <li>• Private sphere (companies)</li> </ul>	<p>The Units Within the Unit : (and/ or other subjects)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their states</li> <li>• Their cultures</li> <li>• Their people</li> <li>• Themes for debate</li> </ul> <p>Lectures and workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a variety of methods</li> <li>• guest teachers from all over Europe</li> </ul> <p>E.g. Latvia, Transylvania, Paris, Andalusia, Toscana etc.</p>
II	What does...?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Europe and the world</li> <li>• Policies of               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The EU</li> <li>2. the CoE</li> <li>3. OSCE</li> <li>4. NATO</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>(Trade, minorities, human rights, culture and youth, agriculture, consumers, food etc.)</p>	Ditto.
III	What should...?	<p>Case studies Methods: games and simulations</p>	<p>Case studies Methods: games and simulations</p>

It is extremely important for the school that the residential format is not only a means, but also part of the general objective; it is not only important *what* is learned, but also *with whom*.

## Course Outline

C	D - Spring	E - Autumn
<p><b>The Active Citizen:</b></p> <p><b>Skills, Tools &amp; Competences:</b></p> <p>Communicate and play Navigate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Where to go</li> <li>2. How to approach politics (webs and ways)</li> </ol> <p>Organising:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Founding an organisation (vision, mission, process)</li> <li>2. Project Management: (description, budget, accounts, fundraising, group dynamics, tools)</li> <li>3. Events and happenings.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Local perspectives, here Nordic:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grundtvig</li> <li>• Kierkegaard</li> <li>• Løgstrup</li> <li>• Personal Authority</li> <li>• Frankness</li> <li>• The "thick democracy" and "co-citizenship"</li> </ul> <p>Inspiration from Grundtvig, Kierkegaard and Løgstrup for the development of personal authority and frankness of the active European citizen.</p>	<p><b>Community Multiplier</b></p> <p>Develop a B-course for the next participants, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A project somewhere in Europe</li> <li>• An exhibition</li> <li>• Or what the participants may come up with.</li> </ul> 
<p>Presentations by participants</p>		

The course outline presented above does not describe the important "lessons learned outside lessons";  
Learning also means *learning the art of living together*.



## European Community Colleges - Toward Real Democracy



It is said that democracy is when everybody has the right to vote. It is also said that in the EU of today— if not in Europe as such— we have democracy in deficit.

We believe knowing one's rights won't do the trick alone. It takes action to implement democracy.

We encourage anyone with the right to vote to take the opportunity to explore the actual implications of our rights and responsibilities as European citizens.

We believe it is crucial for Europeans to define what Europe should be.

Democracy *only* makes sense

- if we act on its verbal promises
- if we make an effort to understand what Europe is about
- If we create a forum for lay Europeans to meet, discuss and learn



## The Year is 2020...

*European Community Colleges (ECCs) are scattered all across Europe. They are there because Europeans have agreed upon the necessity of local forums in which Europeans can meet and discuss what Europe is.*

*ECCs recruit participants from every corner of Europe. In unison, these groups represent European unity in diversity; voices, cultures, identities and opinions join forces.*

*These Europeans believe that really comprehending Europe means living with the other Europeans for a while, and the ECCs grounded in the residential school format provide a perfect setting for formal and informal networking, discussion and learning.*

*At some stage in their lives all Europeans join an ECC course and most have contacts all over Europe. They developed this network at long-term ECC-courses.*

*It all began with the First European Community College (FECC).*



## Our Supporters

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## Join Our Network - your moral support counts too



Approximately 500 Europeans lead by

- Conchi Gallego (Madrid)
- Daša Bolcina (Trieste)
- Emma Yeoman (Sheffield)
- Erik Jentges (Berlin)
- Eva Valvo (Pisa)
- Jan-Christoph Napierski (Haan)
- John Petersen (Århus)
- Mjellma Mehmeti (Skopje)

As ambassadors of the First European Community College, we invite you to become a part of the network of the First European Community College.

We need your moral support and your good advice.

Contact us at [eurocitizen@acc.eu.org](mailto:eurocitizen@acc.eu.org)

*From a normative point of view legitimacy can only be achieved in a deliberative, public process between free and equal citizens. This is so because what is common will have to be decided in public and not prior to it.*

(E.O. Eriksen)

