

Århus December 2006/February 2007

Dear member,

This letter is to inform *you* about changes within the ACC and how you as a member can become more active.

The concept and the idea of ACC, to create a European public sphere by way of a European residential school format, have made their way to the top level of European politics. Our goal of presenting the idea of European Community Colleges on a European level has been achieved.

At the General Assembly 2006 it was decided to aim at decentralising the ACC to enable local committees to carry out projects while taking over both economic and legal responsibility for them.

This also led to considerations of the aims of the ACC as a European organisation. The ACC is still there to further the vision of European Community Colleges by independent *local* committees. It is important for ACC to stay European and not move into *national* chapters, which would confirm the monopoly that the *national* spheres have on this area at present.

At the same time our *focus* is shifting to lobbying for the development of a European public sphere and to help you as a member to promote the ACC concept of creating fora for European debate yourself.

Now we look to *you* to carry these ideas forward. Now is the time to make your ideas reality.

As an ACC-member you are part of organised European civil society and of the slight beginning of a European public sphere. You may be surprised, since some politicians and academics argue that neither a European civil society, nor a European public sphere exists. You are living proof to the contrary, even though you might not be aware of it. Now take this idea further, explore your talents, keep your finger on the pulse and help in the formation of a European public sphere.

As Europe seemingly continues the integration process and politicians of the EU countries are about to give the EU-countries a constitution-treaty, we have to raise some questions that involve you. It involves you, because you are living in Europe and therefore what goes on in the EU is sooner or later going to affect your way of living, if it has not already done so. We assume *you* consider yourself a European, among the many other identities you hold, which means - you are the person holding some of the answers to the question: What Europe do you want to live in?

Our ideas have already proven to be very successful, but they need constant lobbying. Lobbying involves formal procedures, like setting up letters and petitions, and they need not only be addressed to EU-politicians and the Council of Europe, but also to national governments who have a big say in European affairs. This means, we encourage you to get together with members in your surrounding - find out who's next to you, set up letters, translate and identify the right people in your governments to address. Even just to chat over coffee may motivate and give rise to inspiration of how to achieve our goal of a truly European public sphere.

A small *corps of translators* already exists within ACC. If local committees produce articles or messages for the European or national public spheres it would be wise to enlarge the corps of translators and to

make articles and messages accessible to more committees and languages. Please let us know if you want to take on this role.

We want to encourage you to become active wherever it makes sense to present our ideas. Do you want to be considered in the ACC *corps of messengers*, to go to conferences and activities to represent and lobby the ideas of the ACC?

There are a couple of opportunities already: In March 2007, the Treaty of Rome will have its 50th anniversary, the Commission, the Council of Europe and other civil society organisations are preparing activities on different issues - many of them may be of interest to you - as somebody who wants to have a voice about the Europe you live in.

Your input, your thoughts, and your willingness to engage in dialogue with other co-citizens from Europe are an essential part. ACC was founded on this idea, meeting face-to-face to live and learn together.

We do as well have an Association for World Education (AWE) seminar coming up. There will be the chance to meet adult educators from all over the world.

So, what do you want to do?

- I want to LOBBY
 - o Represent the ACC and our aims at conferences
 - o Gain European experience
 - o Make use of our memberships of EUCIS-LLL, EAEA and AWE to represent us at conferences, access databases and take advantage of new opportunities

- I want to RUN A PROJECT
 - o Outline of steps from idea to reality on ACC website - The Multiplier
 - o Guidance on deadlines, applications and finance from the ACC office
 - o All resources on funding, previous projects, letters are to be uploaded sooner at The Multiplier (photos are already up in revised versions with photographers credited)
 - o Bank of ACC members to help run projects, as participants or as a tool to reach a wider European audience.
 - o Give your CV some extra value: handle a budget of 20,000-100,000 euros, liaise with 40 Europeans, learn to educate
 - o Concrete results on your topic to be used in lobby work/ non-formal education

- I want to be in FOCUS GROUPS
 - o If there is a focus group for developing a European magazine
 - o If there is a focus group for developing a European web-community

Attached to this letter you will find a questionnaire on the ACC-postcard. Can we ask you to take two minutes to fill it in and post it? Alternatively, you can fill it in at the web-address: <http://www.acc.eu.org/SEEEMS/4397.asp>

In bringing the ACC into the next phase of its development, we rely on your feedback.

Enclosures: (A) Organisational fact sheet, (B) Committees fact sheet, (C) Points raised fact sheet, (D) Platforms fact sheet, ACC presentation, ACCENT 04

Yours sincerely,
On behalf of the board,
John Petersen, Emma Yeoman & Erik Jentges