

November 29th, 1999

The minutes of the third board-meeting have been added to the website:

<http://www.johnp.dk/ETS/Minutes3.htm>

The minutes are the result of the first face-to-face board meeting, which was in Macedonia, 19th-21st of November.

As you will realize from the minutes, a huge job has been done by the board already.

The board of the ACC took as well part in the conference: "Choice for the future" in Ohrid, Macedonia. The conference was arranged by the "Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women". Mjellma Mehmeti presented the idea of arranging international community college courses on women's rights issues in Macedonia. The board-members carried through workshops on the topics: "Conflict transformation and Peacebuilding", "Media and minorities" and "Adult education in the current historical context". In general the ACC had the opportunity to present its ideas and aims for the participants of the conference. The ideas and aims were received very positive and we hope to have more Macedonian active members within short time.

From some of you we had the message, that it is still not perfectly clear, what the ACC stands for. With this short explanation elaborated by the board, we hope to help solving this problem:

The ACC (Association for Community Colleges) in short:

What is ACC?

ACC is a non-governmental and non-profit European organization founded by mainly young people from Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, FYROMacedonia, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, FRYugoslavia, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine and The United Kingdom.

What is the vision of the ACC?

ACC works for the development of an enlightened European debate on questions and political problems shared by the Europeans. The main idea of the ACC is that an outstanding way of promoting this objective is the running of community colleges on a common European level. So the vision is: lets cover Europe with community colleges.

What are Community Colleges?

ACC defines Community Colleges as schools

- starting from an idea and an object defined by a non-governmental group of people (this could be interpreted as a principle of subsidiarity),
- having as their ideal long lasting (preferably minimum one month) boarding-school courses,
- organizing courses on topics of common (European) interest in accordance with the idea of the group behind the school,
- "governed by culture" in the sense that life at the school is characterized by local traditions and culture

- having adults as their target group; adults having the will to learn and who for that reason are paying part of the courses themselves
- without disturbing exams, degrees etc.

What does the ACC do?

The ACC is:

- promoting the idea of establishing a common European law supporting community colleges
- organizing community college courses
- lobbying authorities to promote the idea of having common European community colleges.
- debating common European issues.

History of the ACC

The founders of the ACC have one specific common background. We all took part in an international course at a Folk High School in Denmark. This special type of school and the common character of the debate issue -in casu European minority issues- formed the inspiration to the term Community Colleges and to the idea of making similar courses in a much larger scale on different but common issues. After a lot of debate, the ACC was founded on August 11th, 1999. The statutory meeting took place on the Internet. The statutes of the association were adopted and the board of the ACC constituted itself. It consists now of the following persons, who were present at the meeting:

- John Petersen (Århus), chairperson
- László Dani (Cluj/Kolozsvár), deputy chairperson
- Conchi Gallego (Madrid), secretary
- Jesper Nielsen (Aabenraa), treasurer
- Mjellma Mehmeti (Skopje), board member
- Linda Jakobsone (Riga), board member
- Siebren de Boer (Groningen), board member
- Eva Valvo (Pisa), substitute
- Josefine Listerby (Mariehamn), substitute

Who is financing the ACC?

The ACC is supported by the Youth for Europe -programme of the European Union. ACC is expected to be supported by the Fonden for International Forståelse (Denmark) the Ole Kirks Fond (Denmark), the East to East -programme (Latvia), European Youth Foundation and Tips- og Lottomidlerne (Denmark). Besides this, a lot of voluntary work has been and will be done in the ACC.

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