



International Seminar on
Learning Regions and Cities promoting
Active Citizenship

At the invitation of

The City of Pécs
and
The Committee of the Regions



11 September 2006

BMÖ Assembly Hall
Papnövelde u. 5.

Pécs, Hungary

Introductions

I am delighted to welcome you all to the city of Pécs in Baranya County in Hungary for the seminar of the Commission for Education, Culture and Research of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union.

Pécs is the ideal place to host a seminar for the Members of the EDUC Commission as it has been, for over a millennia, at the heart of education and culture in the region. It is home to the oldest university in Hungary, established in 1367 and is home to many cultural events and festivals, as well as a future European Capital of Culture for 2010. Yet Pécs is also a centre of innovation and hosts exceptional modern day facilities, like the assembly hall of Pécs where the seminar itself will be taking place.

The seminar will discuss the policy issues surrounding education and its connection to active citizenship. It will also highlight best practice from the region and elsewhere in Europe. I hope that you will find it interesting and take home information that can be usefully used in your own regions and cities.

I look forward to seeing you in Pécs.

Balázs Németh

**Alternate Member of the Committee of the Regions
Member of Pécs City Council**

It is my pleasure, as President of the Commission for Culture, Education and Research of the Committee of the Regions to welcome you to the city of Pécs.

This conference, *Learning Regions and Cities Promoting Active Citizenship* is an excellent opportunity for the CoR and the City of Pécs to collaborate on these important policy areas.

The CoR has maintained that access to a knowledge society is a fundamental aspect of a citizens Europe. This concerns not only the integration of people into the labour market but also into social, cultural and civic life. Education in active citizenship can help impart basic values of private, social and civic life such as solidarity; tolerance and understanding of cultural diversity and thereby contribute towards combating racism and xenophobia. It can also help promote the ability of people to participate in the democratic decision-making process and participation in civil society. A common thread running through the CoR's Opinions has been a focus on using education and training actions as a key to promoting active citizenship. It is at local and regional level that people, in particular young people, express active citizenship in practice. Young people's active citizenship, their sense of European belonging, and their growing sense of solidarity and mutual understanding are essential for the social cohesion of the Union and for peace.

The seminar aims to address these issues and promote the exchange of best practice of educational initiatives and strategies for active citizenship at local and regional level. It aims also to promote cooperation between local and regional authorities to create Learning regions and cities.

I hope this conference will prove to be stimulating and effective in making a real contribution to the development of future education and active citizenship policies.

Jyrki Myllyvirta
Chairman of the EDUC Commission of the Committee of the Regions
Mayor of Mikkeli, Finland

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Sunday 10 September 2006

8 p.m. Reception and official dinner for Members

Pezsgőház Restaurant
Szent István Square, Pécs

Monday 11 September 2006

9.30-10 a.m. Registration of Delegates and coffee

Press Conference

10 a.m. Opening address

Dr Márta Kunszt,
Vice-Mayor of the City of Pécs
opening in the name of **Dr László Toller,** Mayor of the City of Pécs

Dr Ferenc Kékes
President of the General Assembly of Baranya County

Dr Imre László Komlósi
Vice-President of the University of Pécs

Mr Jyrki Myllyvirta
Mayor of Mikkeli, Finland
Chairman of the Commission for Education, Culture and Research of the
Committee of the Regions

10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. Session I: Education as key to promoting active citizenship

Introduction: **Mr Balázs Németh, Member of Pécs City Council**

Access to a knowledge society is a fundamental aspect of a citizens Europe. This concerns not only the integration of people into the labour market but also into social, cultural and civic life. Education in active citizenship can help impart basic values such as solidarity, tolerance and understanding of cultural diversity and thereby contribute towards combating racism and xenophobia. It can also help promote the ability of people to participate in the democratic decision-making process and participation in civil society.

This session will look at how the European Union can promote active citizenship in particular at local and regional level.

Chair: *Mr Jyrki Myllyvirta, Chairman of the EDUC Commission*

Youth and active citizenship – the involvement of young people

Ms Karin Lopatta-Loibl

Youth, Sport and relations with the Citizen

DG Education and Culture, European Commission

Active citizenship from a local and regional perspective

Mr Roberto Pella

Member of Biella Municipal Council

Member of the EDUC Commission and Rapporteur of the CoR's opinion on *Addressing the concerns of young people in Europe - implementing the European Youth Pact and promoting active citizenship*

The Policy approach of Central Eastern Europe

Mr János Sz. Tóth

President of the Hungarian Folk High School Society

12-12.30 p.m. Questions and Answers

12.30-2 p.m. Lunch

2 p.m.-4 p.m. Session II: Best practices to promote active citizenship through education and training at local and regional level

This session will look at how cities and regions cooperate in promoting active citizenship in their education and training programmes. The session will also look at how regions can use opportunities to set up networks in this area.

Chair: *Dr Imre László Komlósi, Vice-President of the University of Pécs*

Re-examining Education and Training for Governance and Active Citizenship in Europe

Mrs Teréz Kleisz

Faculty of Adult Education and Human Resources Development
University of Pécs

*Active citizenship - bringing young people closer to Europe.
Best practices in Germany*

Mrs Kerstin Kiessler

Member of the EDUC Commission of the Committee of the Regions

Best practice example on active citizenship from Ireland

Cllr Barney Steele

Member of the EDUC Commission of the Committee of the Regions

*The promotion of active citizenship in adult learning in the context of social
integration*

Ms Vasiliki Tsekoura

Representative of the European Association for Education of Adults (EAEA)

Patras, Greece

*"Nothing about us – without us". Active citizenship in European regions based on
mainstreaming youth in the Assembly of European Regions*

Mr. Svein Kr. Waale

Deputy Chairman of Vestfold County Council, Norway

Head of Youth Subcommittee of the Association of European Regions (AER)

3.30-4 p.m. Questions and Answers

4 p.m. Closing Remarks

Jyrki Myllyvirta

Chairman of the EDUC Commission of the Committee of the Regions

INTERPRETATION: FR/DE/EN/IT/HU

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