

# BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

## EU CONVINC Training workshop “Successful good practices on Democratic citizenship education and teaching EU common values”

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019, Rome

In recent years, terrorist attacks, violence and radicalisation, extremism and xenophobia have surged across Europe and are posing a threat to the safety of its citizens and also to the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, tolerance, equality, non-discrimination, respect for the rule of law, human rights and solidarity. Within this context, the role of education, and in particular, of teachers, school leaders, other education personnel, and education employers reveals to be crucial so as to promote democratic citizenship and social inclusion in diverse educational contexts and learning environments.

Indeed, the '[Declaration on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education](#)', adopted by the EU Education National Ministers in Paris, in March 2015 aims, among other things, to enhancing the acquisition of social, civic and intercultural competences, as well as understanding the phenomenon of multiculturalism in education and promoting intercultural dialogue through all forms of learning and combating discrimination on all grounds, in particular, as regards students at risk of marginalisation or social exclusion. In the light of the Paris Declaration, [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), the [UN Sustainable Development](#) Goal 4 to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning, and the recently proclaimed [European Pillar of Social Rights](#), **ETUCE (European Trade Union Committee for Education)**, **EFEE (European Federation of Education Employers)** and **ESHA (the European School Heads Association)** run the **EU CONVINC project (Common Values INclusive Education)** from 2018 to 2020 which is co-funded by the Directorate-General Education of the European Commission. The project is a direct answer to the current challenges, but also opportunities, of multiculturalism, diversity and social inclusion. CONVINC seeks to provide teachers, school leaders, and other education personnel, as well as the education institution community as a whole with tools and methods to better deal with citizenship related issues both in the classroom and in extra-curricular activities, as well as support them in the delivery of inclusive quality education to all.

**The training workshop on *Successful good practices on Democratic citizenship education and teaching EU common values* is organised in the framework of the CONVINC project and is aimed to:**

- Provide ETUCE, EFEE and ESHA member organisations with the opportunity to present, disseminate and scale-up good practises in other different contexts and educational settings as well as to discuss possible solutions to tackle challenges encountered by education stakeholders when teaching democratic citizenship education;

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- Give participants the opportunity to exchange and showcase good practices and help resolve challenges through learning about other countries' good practices, e.g. by match-making challenges in one country with good practises of another;
- Teacher training support and guidance on successful and innovative approaches and methods on citizenship and human rights education in general.

This workshop will address issues related to **multicultural education, intercultural dialogue, and the teaching of EU common values as the basis to understand and apply the principle of “rights and responsibilities” from a general citizenship education standpoint.** More precisely, the workshop is intended to touch upon in particular the following issues such as:

**Multicultural educational content and approaches:**

- What actions and initiatives are needed to prepared education personnel to be more confident in the provision of human rights education?
- How to provide education about cultural identity, religion and beliefs in a balanced and human rights framework?
- What actions and initiatives are needed to promote diversity and multiculturalism in view of fostering social inclusion in education?

**Inclusive school culture:**

- What are the effective approaches in promoting inclusive education and social inclusion in an educational setting?
- How to ensure an active participation of all members of the school community, in particular learners to foster their empowerment and their sense of belonging especially for those coming from the disadvantaged and minority background?
- How to build a strong school-leadership based on teamworking, regular feedback, mutual trust and open dialogue?

**Teachers, schools leaders and education institutions managing diversity:**

- What competences do teachers, school leaders and other education personnel need to work in culturally diverse classrooms?
- What are the most effective approaches to support and empower teachers, school leaders, and other education personnel to manage diversity in the classroom and playing a facilitating role in multicultural-related topic's conversations?
- How to encourage a more diverse school workforce to promote role models and positive experiences for people interested in starting a career in the teaching profession or in school leadership?

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## Speakers



**Danau, Dominique**  
Project Researcher

*Dominique Danau holds a degree in Sociology (University of Brussels (B), graduated with honours). After having worked for some years at the University in Brussels and more than 20 years for a European Foundation in Brussels and Maastricht (European Centre for Work and Society), she started her own company, SAGO Research, in 2005. Dominique Danau built up an extensive expertise in applied social research as well as in the development and implementation of monitoring and evaluation and organisational development trajectories, especially for (European) NGOs, NGO networks and alliances and European projects and programmes.*



**Rus, Calin**  
Council of Europe, Director of Intercultural Institute, Timisoara, Romania

*Director of the Intercultural Institute of Timisoara, Romania and expert of the Council of Europe on education for democratic citizenship, human rights education, intercultural education, Roma and intercultural relations. Pedagogical coordinator of the ROMED programme, trainer and pedagogical expert in other projects of the Council of Europe. Member of the group of authors of the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture. Coordinator of the piloting of the descriptors of competences for democratic culture. Key expert of the European Policy Advisors Network.*



**Lowry-O'Neill, Catherine**  
School for Lifelong Learning of 'Waterford Institute of Technology'

*Dr Catherine Lowry-O'Neill has been a lecturer in the School of Education and Lifelong Learning in Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland, for the past 13 years, where she teaches subjects including practical pedagogy, reflective practice and qualitative research approaches. Previous to this, Catherine lectured in French in WIT, as well as in the University of Leeds, England, in the University of Limerick, Ireland and in the University of Ulster, Coleraine in the north of Ireland. She is passionate about the power of education to change lives and open doors.*

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**Melchiorre, Angela**

*European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights & Democratisation (EIUC)*

*Dr. Angela Melchiorre is the Academic Coordinator of Online Programmes of the Global Campus of Human Rights, based at the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) in Venice, Italy. She has been working in human rights since 2000 and has a wealth of experience in distance and blended learning. In her previous roles, she was Programme Director of the European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation (EMA) in Venice and Lecturer in Human Rights at the University of London. Other teaching activities include master's courses at the University of Padova and guest lectures at the Universities of Deusto-Bilbao, Oslo, Sevilla, Vienna, York. Dr. Melchiorre has also experience in NGO work (ActionAid International), diplomacy (Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN in Geneva and New York; EU Delegation in Geneva) and independent consultancies (UNESCO, UNICEF, UN CEDAW Committee). Her areas of expertise are children's rights, the right to education, the UN human rights system and Human Rights in International Politics.*

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