



**Conference :**

**Democratic Education in a New Europe -  
Challenges for Parents and Families**

**+++++ CALL FOR PAPERS +++++**

**\*\*\*\* The deadline for submission is 10 September 2008 \*\*\*\***

at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (Berlin-  
Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften) in Berlin on 27–28 Oct. 2008

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**We invite you to participate in our Call for Papers.**

**Topics** Please send us contributions that address the following topics:

**1 Education for democracy in Europe – in the family and in society**

Democratic Education – a task for parents and families? - Is this a discussion in various European countries? What issues are discussed and what approaches are taken?

- Does an understanding of the contribution of parents to raise children as active citizens (democratic education) exist in European countries? Is child-raising on the basis of democratic values subject of a public debate?
- If so, what are the burning issues and questions? What types of approaches and concepts exist?
- What are the driving forces in society that carry the debate? Which institutions/organizations are involved? How are efforts promoted and financed on an institutional level?
- Which projects exist in day-care facilities and schools and how are parents involved?
- Within this context of democratic child-raising and education: Which tasks are performed by parents and families as opposed to public institutions? Whose task is it foremost to educate children for democracy?
- Are the values of democratic education inherent in existing concepts and approaches of "positive parenting" = "parentalité positive" = "partnerschaftliche Erziehung"? Or do we need to develop new approaches?

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## **2 Religious education and education for democracy: Are religious and democratic values compatible? – The example of Islam**

What are the kinds of everyday life situations in which conflicts between religious and democratic values exist? Or is this merely a question of perspective? Which approaches to solve conflicts prove successful for what types of scenarios?

- "Islam" vs. "Western democracy" – Is this purely black and white thinking?
- Are religious-fundamentalist convictions spreading across Europe? If so, what sort of effects does this have on the new generation of European citizens and their ideas of social living? And how can this be counteracted via education for democracy?
- Is a constant dialogue about the existing concept of democracy and democratic values a must for democratic partnership and participation, regardless of people's descent and religious affiliation?
- In which kind of day-to-day situations (day-care facility and school, urban development, participation in civil society) does the different cultural background of parents manifest itself in approaches to child-raising and education?
- Lessons learned – How to meet religious education with success for democratic education?

## **3 At eye level with the Child: New roles for parents and children in Europe**

Discussions and activities all over Europe concerning children's rights are gradually changing the practices of everyday education: Do children have citizenship status from their date of birth? Are existing parental models changing towards a relationship at eye level between children and parents (positive parenting)? Do current models of child-raising have to be adapted to a "Europe of Diversity"? Do we need a common model of European democratic education? What could be crucial issues in such a model?

- What do children need to become active citizens in a democratic Europe?
- What do parents need to fulfill their tasks in the family, in day-care facilities and schools, to raise their children on the basis of democratic values?
- Do legally codified rights of children strengthen democratic education?
- Children's rights and education eye to eye: How can families from different cultural contexts and ethnic communities be addressed in a positive manner and strengthened in their positive parenting skills?

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## mit Eltern für Eltern parents for parents

**Form** We are looking for contributions such as the following:

- Experiences concerning projects of successful parent and family work, or work with children and youths,
- Findings from scientific research or similar studies,
- Contemporary debates dealing with new programmes and projects or with pedagogical concepts of education,
- Political strategies by state agencies as well as NGOs concerning the realization of education for democracy in family, school and society.

We are calling for participation in panel discussions and workshops with opening or input statements, if need be also for participation in a debate.

**Dispatch** How can you become involved?

You are invited to send your contributions concerning one or more of the topics named above in rtf- or pdf-format not exceeding 3 pages and in font size 12 to [protsenko@ane.de](mailto:protsenko@ane.de). The contributions may be submitted preferably in English, but also in German or French. A selection committee will invite speakers and panel participants to the conference in Berlin based on the quality and relevance of their mailed contributions. We will pay travel and accomodation expenses for the invited speakers.

Submission deadline: 10 September 2008  
Confirmation of participation: 18 September 2008

### **NETWORK PARTNER**

The conference will launch an international network for a new type of democratic education. For the near future, the ANE hopes to work with partners on a shared memorandum to give the debate on democratic education in the new Europe a clear direction. If you or your partner organizations are interested in being part of this network, we would be delighted to discuss it with you.

We are of course always available to answer any further questions and to provide more information.

- Conference Secretary –  
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