

Report of Activities

2009

The European Wergeland Centre (EWC)



THE EUROPEAN
WERGELAND
CENTRE



Index

1. Introduction: EWC mission and target groups
2. EWC Strategy plan 2009-2012
3. Cooperation with the Council of Europe

EWC activities in 2009:

4. Capacity Building
 - 4.1. EWC- CoE Pestalozzi Programme seminars
 - 4.2. Projects
5. Research and Development
6. Network and Cooperation
 - 6.1. EWC Inauguration Conference
 - 6.2. Participation in other events
 - 6.3. Planning of upcoming events
7. Documentation Centre
 - 7.1. Electronic Library
 - 7.2. EWC – Database: Share&Connect
8. Accounts 2009



1- Introduction

The European Wergeland Centre (EWC) is a **resource centre on education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship**, established in cooperation between Norway and the Council of Europe (CoE) in 2008.

The EWC is designed to build bridges between policy, research and practice, and between cultures, individuals and organizations in the fields of education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship. It provides support for practitioners, multipliers, researchers, administrators and decision-makers among others. Through its capacity building agenda, its research and development activities, and its tailored-made interactive tools facilitating dialogue and exchange, the EWC aims at creating a community of practice based on the shared values of the CoE and Norway as regards education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship.

2- EWC Strategy plan 2009-2012

Education is of crucial importance in developing sustainable societies for future generations. European societies must be governed by democratic institutions and the rule of law and they must be respectful of human rights and cultural diversity. However, institutions and laws alone will not create this culture based on values. The attitudes and skills needed to put these principles into practice should be taught and learned, practiced and maintained throughout life. Education professionals play a vital role in the process of change. All learners must develop the competences required in sustainable democratic societies, and all teachers in different educational settings need to contribute and need to be trained (*¹). The EWC shall facilitate these processes, and seek to build bridges between policy and practice in accordance with its mission.

The EWC Strategy Plan 2009-2012 is built around one main action line:

Education for intercultural understanding, Human Rights and Democratic Citizenship: building bridges between policy and practice

There is an acknowledged unbalance between states' commitments and rules adopted in international fora and the reality on the ground in terms of promotion of intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship. As expressed by the Former Secretary General of the CoE at the EWC Inauguration:

¹ Council of Europe's Education Programme 2010-2014

“...This is why the European Wergeland Centre is such an important institution. Its unique mandate, with very specific target groups and a clear mission, will make the Centre a valued contribution to fill the gap between policy and practice, by working towards and with the grass root level. I hope the Centre will become a hub, recognized throughout Europe, for exchange of information and experience, and a place to try out new ideas. ...” (2).

Consequently, The EWC aims at building bridges:

- between policy and practice

For more than 60 years, the Council of Europe of Europe has developed recommendations, policy and legal instruments which the member states have adopted. The EWC aims at helping implement these policies into everyday life of educational professionals.

- between research and practice

The mutual dependency of research and practice underpin all EWC activities. Therefore, the EWC’s activities will combine a theoretical reflection on the methods and concepts which inform educational practice with empirical feedback from practitioners on methodological and conceptual frameworks, in an integrated approach.

3- Cooperation with the Council of Europe

The EWC Strategy plan 2009-2012 is based on the Agreement between Norway and the CoE; the EWC Statutes; the principles of the CoE’s Education Programme 2010-2014; the CoE White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue “Living together as equals in dignity” and other relevant CoE documents. The CoE programmes and recommendations are the framework within the EWC develops its work. From its start, the EWC has been closely linked to CoE activities (for instance with its close cooperation with the Pestalozzi Programme among others), trying to add value to activities already taking place or complementing them with new activities, sharing the same values.

EWC activities in 2009:

4- Capacity Building

The overall strategic objective of the EWC concerning Capacity Building is to develop and implement capacity building activities in the field of education for Democratic Citizenship (EDC), Human Rights Education (HRE) and Intercultural Education (ICE), aiming at improving the capacity of education professionals in accordance with the EWC approach.

In 2009, considerable efforts were made to:

² Rt Hon *Terry Davis*, Secretary General, Council of Europe, 29 May 2009 (video message)

- a) Conceptualize the “EWC” approach of capacity building using a blended learning approach, as the “base” for all future EWC capacity building activities;
- b) Design a pilot project of capacity building activities within the EDC, HRE and ICE fields, submitted to external donors for funding.
- c) Support the CoE *Pestalozzi Programme* through: joint activities (two Pestalozzi-EWC seminars) and the participation in the CORE and THEO projects.

4.1. EWC- CoE Pestalozzi Programme seminars in 2009

The first EWC-Pestalozzi Seminar in Oslo was held on 21-25 September 2009. The theme was "Training history teachers to deal with the Image of the Other in history lessons", and the participants consisted of 20 teachers from 13 different countries. During the seminar participants analyzed and deconstructed text book excerpts, history book images and pictures. They discussed stereotypes, biases and prejudices represented in the different contributions, and re-wrote some of the texts. As extracurricular activities, the EWC organized a guided walking tour in the centre of Oslo, and a visit to the Nobel Peace Centre and to Centre for Holocaust and Religious Minorities. One of the outcomes of this seminar was the production of teaching materials on the subject that will be presented on the EWC and Pestalozzi websites at the beginning of 2010.



The second seminar was held in Oslo 16-20 November 2009, with 27 school heads and other education professionals from 17 different countries. The theme was “Democratic Governance of Schools”. The participants worked on identifying and discussing different stakeholders in schools today, responding to specific cases, analyzing and comparing their own situation with other participants, as well as exchanging examples of current practice, and discussing what and how things can be changed and improved at their own school. The seminar included a visit to Ila School (primary and lower secondary) in Oslo and to the Nobel Peace Centre. During the school visit, the school head, together with the deputy head, teachers and pupils, presented their way of practicing democratic school governance.

The themes of the seminars are highly relevant to the EWC mandate, and according to the participants’ feedback, they benefited greatly from the discussions and group work, and from meeting peers.

4.2. Projects:

The EWC Summer School in Poland in 2010

As a concrete follow up of a proposal presented during the EWC Inauguration event, in close cooperation with the Ministry of National Education in Poland and the Polish Centre for Education Development, the EWC starting planning in 2009 the EWC Summer School. The main theme will be "Democracy at School" and it will take place just outside Warsaw (Poland) on 10-17 July 2010. The target group is composed of head teachers, teachers and parents from up to 13 countries, including Poland, the Eastern Partnership countries, Russia, Germany and the Nordic countries.

CORE Project (the CORE competences of the Pestalozzi programme): The aim of this project is to identify and describe the common core competences of different thematic priority areas such as EDC, Intercultural education, history teaching, education for diversity and media literacy development. The aim is also to describe the core competences related to the methodology of teaching and training. EWC participated in the project in 2009. The result of this work will be presented to the Ministerial conference of in Slovenia, June 2010.

THEO project (Theoretical Underpinnings of the CoE Pestalozzi Programme): Contributors from several member states, including also an expert from the EWC, met several times during 2009, the purpose of the project is to write a book explaining the concept of and ideas behind the CoE Pestalozzi Programme, also including examples, to be used as an introduction to the training. The book will be presented to the Ministerial conference of in Slovenia, June 2010.

5- Research and Development

The overall strategic objective of the EWC regarding research and development is to establish a kind of clearinghouse for R&D work based on the EWC approach. In others words the EWC is a Resource Centre and therefore it will follow a broader R&D path to:

- a) Facilitate networking opportunities, following CoE initiative;
- b) Facilitate access to state of the art research (titles, authors), projects and researchers (professionals);
- c) Link research and teacher training seminars: what is on the forefront of the research within the field and link it to practitioners.
- d) Develop evaluation tools (contemplating both quantitative and qualitative aspects) in order to assess EDC/HRE/IC projects and act as external evaluator;

The "State of the Art" Project

To highlight recent and ongoing research activities related to education on intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship scholars publish their views on research outcomes and scholarly debates on the EWC website. One expert presents his or her views each month, starting at the end of 2009.

Inventory of qualitative evaluation methods

An inventory of the wide range of existing methods of evaluating/monitoring/assessing value-oriented working and learning processes is ongoing, as well as the identification of elements useful for the EWCs evaluation purposes. The work on a concept of an own “tool kit” related to the EWC modules has started (together with Capacity Building) at the end of 2009.

External Evaluation of the CoE EDC/HRE Programme (2006/2009):

Based on the information provided through a survey by the CoE EDC national coordinators, the EWC produced an external evaluation report, presented to the EDC Coordinators conference in Prague in November 2009.

6- Cooperation and Networking

Developing and strengthening cooperation ties with the bodies of the Council of Europe and its the member states within the EWC field is one of the overall strategic objectives of the Centre. During 2009, a number of initiatives were taken:

- a) Present the EWC and get acquainted with other actors in the field exploring possibilities of partnerships;
- b) Participate in events and projects of other organisations and networks, introducing the EWC;
- c) Organize events such as conferences and seminars aiming at fostering collaboration.

6.1. EWC Inauguration Conference:



Pictures from the Inauguration: right: HRH Crown Princess Mette-Marit, Minister Bård Vegard Solhjell, Chair S. Lorentzen and Ana Perona. Left: Thorbjørn Jagland (President, Stortinget)

Over 140 representatives from 35 countries met in Oslo on 28-29 May 2009 to celebrate the establishment of the European Wergeland Centre, taking part in the Opening Conference and the official dinner held by the Ministry of Education. The theme of the Conference was closely linked to the mandate of the Wergeland Centre: “Building bridges: education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship, from policy to practice”. Speakers included the CoE Commissioner for Human Rights Thomas Hammarberg, the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Jonas Gahr Støre, the CoE Director General of

Education, Culture and Heritage Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, President of the Norwegian Parliament Thorbjørn Jagland, the Director of the Norwegian Institute of Foreign Affairs Jan Egeland and the Polish Deputy Minister of National Education Krzysztof Stanowski. Based on the presentations, discussions and feedback received, a conference report was produced and sent to all participants. Ministers, Ambassadors, High Officials and experts in the field were present at the event. A good number of recommendations were made at the conference, all collected in the report.



EWC Inauguration event, 28-29 May 2009



Clockwise:
 Akershus Courtyard participants arriving at the reception,
 Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre,
 State Secretary Lisbet Rugvedt
 CoE Director General Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni,

6.2. Participations in other events:

During this period, priority was given to a number of presentations of the EWC in selected fora (specially related to the annual CoE events), and a number of contacts were established as well, with positive feedback:

- Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research (CDESR)- France
- Steering Committee for Education (CDED)- France
- CoE delegation in Brussels, and Mission of Norway to the EU- Belgium
- Representatives from EFTA- Belgium
- Alliance of Civilizations conference, Turkey
- Conference on intercultural dialogue and teaching and learning history- Cyprus

- Presentation at the Holocaust and Minorities Centre, Norway
- Fredskorpset (The Peace Corps, volunteer service)- Norway
- The Conference of the CoE “Universities as Actors of Intercultural Dialogue in Wider Society”, Russia
- The Fourth Inter-Institutional Meeting on Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education- CoE, France
- University College of Oslo, Norway
- Face to Faith programme, UK
- Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, Norway
- Workshop on the Impact of Internationalization of Higher Education and the role of Distance Learning, Germany
- CoE 2009 Exchange on the Religious dimension of intercultural dialogue, France
- Lisboa Forum- CoE North South Centre, Portugal.
- International Associations of Universities annual conference on “The role of Universities in fostering Intercultural Dialogue”, Lebanon.
- CoE Symposium related to “The Image of the Other” project, Greece
- CoE Teaching Socio-Cultural Diversity Conference- Norway
- European Training Foundation (ETF) meeting on “Policies and Practices for the Preparation of Teachers for Inclusive Education in Contexts of Social and Cultural Diversity”, Italy
- Delegation of politicians, representatives of NGOs, teachers and journalists from Montenegro

In order to present EWC activity updates, several meetings with the Norwegian authorities (Ministry of Education and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials) as well as with Council of Europe officials (especially from DG IV) were held throughout the year. EWC staff held formal and informal meetings with other Governmental representatives, intergovernmental organisations and NGOs.

6.3. Planning of upcoming events:

During 2009, EWC started working on the organisation of the following events, to be held in 2010:

- 10-12 March: *Intercultural Cities*, Oslo (Norway), in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the City of Oslo
- 10-14 May: *Preparing future teachers for Intercultural Understanding*, Lillehammer (Norway), in cooperation with the Council of Europe- Pestalozzi Programme
- 16-17 June: “*The Image of the Other*” final conference, Drammen (Norway), in cooperation with the Council of Europe
- 21-22 October: *Human Rights Universality*, Oslo (Norway), in cooperation with INGOs/the Council of Europe
- Seminars on “Religious Diversity in Intercultural Education – Policies and Practices”: Oslo (Norway), Hamburg (Germany) and Linz (Austria)

7 Documentation Centre

The overall strategic objective of the EWC concerning dissemination of information is to develop a high quality documentation centre addressing the needs of education professionals, especially with regards to knowledge on CoE policies, recommendations and available materials. Priorities in 2009 included the development of a well-structured and dynamic website, a user-friendly electronic library and planning of a comprehensive expert database.

7.1. Electronic Library

In order to make available the books, documents and teaching materials produced by the Council of Europe as well as the EU and other international organisations, the EWC has developed an Electronic Library, accessible to education professionals. The main aim is to provide access to information which is logically organized, including relevant links and tools to navigate through it. The EWC Library was launched in the middle of 2009: it is a comprehensive online repository on education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship containing educational materials, online resources, good practices, research projects and results, teaching tools, literature, online journals within the field, etc. Designed to address the needs of teachers, the architecture of the Library is very user-friendly with several filter options; and it does not require a high level of expertise in the field to be able to use it. This is an ongoing process that requires continuous update. The EWC provides all information and resources free of charge.

7.2- EWC – Database: Share&Connect



From 2009 onwards, EWC staff worked intensively on the development of the EWC expert database - Share & Connect. The expert database is meant to facilitate online networking among experts in the field of education for democratic citizenship, human rights and intercultural understanding. By joining the database researchers, PhD students, teacher trainers and others find expertise, cooperation possibilities and opportunities to connect with peers. Users can share their experiences from their field of expertise by uploading their own profile. The EWC Database will be open to all and available from the EWC website www.theewc.org. The launch is planned for spring 2010.

From June onwards a monthly, electronic newsletter has been distributed, and Information brochures (print and online version) were developed and disseminated to highlight planned activities in 2009-2010.

8 2009 Accounts:

Income Statement	NOK
	2009
Operating Income	
Contribution	7 438 804
Other income	40 830
Total Income	7 479 633
Operating Expenses:	
Goods	-828
Compensation and social costs	-2 964 743
Other operating costs	-4 495 079
Total Operating Expenses	-7 460 650
Operating result of the year	18 983
Other financial income	12 632
Financial expenses	-1 238
Total Finance	11394
Profit for the year	30 377