

**Conference Announcement**  
**Citizenship Education Facing Nationalism and Populism in Europe**  
**Strategies – Competencies – Practice**  
**Sofia, Bulgaria, 6-8 November, 2008**

A conference organized by the Federal Agency for Civic Education, the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future”, the Goethe Institute Bulgaria and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture in cooperation with the Centre for Liberal Strategies (Bulgaria) and the Centre for Citizenship Education (Poland) and the Allianz Kulturstiftung.

**Purpose and Aims**

New nationalist and populist movements have arrived in Europe. A protest phenomenon just a few years ago, individual parties have now established themselves in the multi-party system. What began as a fringe campaign has become a challenge for politics and political systems in many EU nations. Transformation in Eastern Europe and expansion of the EU since 2004 have contributed to the acceleration and spread of nationalist and populist discourse. In this situation, some people view ‘culture’, ‘identity’ and ‘national history’ as their only remaining resources, and identify them with feelings of pride, humiliation and self-assertion. Citizenship education has to search for new ways to address the conflicts associated with these specific and complex variants of nationalism and populism.

One of the conference’s starting points is therefore to examine these new expressions of nationalism and populism and seek explanations for what causes them. A second will focus on placing these swings in a European framework. Nationalist and populist currents, along with the identity and history policies they promote, pose a pan-European problem. The consequences for citizenship education, as well as the answers and concepts it provides, therefore have to be discussed anew and redefined in a multilateral fashion. Practitioners and experts from all over Europe are invited to exchange interpretations and experiences of nationalism and populism at this European forum, and the chance formulate European answers to the challenges they pose.

Conference language: English

The participation fee (100,-- €) covers:

- accommodation at Hilton Hotel Sofia from 6-8 November, 2008
- Conference folder and documents
- lunches and dinners as announced in the programme
- participation in “Seeking Traces”, a guided sight-seeing tour through Sofia. On the tour, conference guests will visit specific historically and politically relevant venues and sites.

**You can now pre-register** for the conference by submitting your name, address, country, organisation and/or field of interest to the conference management team:

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After pre-registration, you will receive the conference folder and a programme, including the form for final registration.

The event will build on the reflections and ideas from the NECE conference in Lisbon 2007, on “Rethinking citizenship education in migration societies” ([www.bpb.de/veranstaltungen/VUOW2G](http://www.bpb.de/veranstaltungen/VUOW2G))

The programme for the Sofia conference 2008 will be published at

[www.bpb.de/nece](http://www.bpb.de/nece) and

[www.lab-concepts.de](http://www.lab-concepts.de)

by end of April 2008.