



2018

ACTIVITY REPORT

THE EUROPEAN WERGELAND CENTRE
Educating for Democracy and Human Rights

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2018 marked the 10-year anniversary of The European Wergeland Centre as an international resource centre on education for democratic citizenship, human rights and intercultural understanding. We have used these 10 years to find our way to become reliable, efficient, innovative and competent actor in the field of educating for democracy and human rights.

“The European Wergeland Centre has many successes already”, said Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg at the 10th anniversary in Oslo. Success stories are needed in a time where much attention is given to those that shout loud and impatiently about everything that is wrong in Europe today. Yes, there are challenges and even threats to democratic societies. This is well documented. However, sometimes one might benefit from giving more attention to what actually works, such as the small miracles happening every day in schools and other education institutions and settings across Europe.

These are the real success stories. They are stories of innovation, perseverance, achievement, expertise, compassion and determination to make a positive contribution to society. These are stories of teachers

creating safe and inclusive classrooms, of school leaders encouraging democratic school governance and culture, of teacher trainers inspiring future teachers, of pupils training their peers, of young educators using their free time to fight hate speech and promote human rights.

The primary mission of the EWC is to facilitate, support, encourage and empower these practitioners. We do this through strong partnerships, well-proven approaches and models in education for democratic citizenship and human rights. In 2018, we met thousands from across Europe through training of multipliers, institutional capacity building and cooperation and networking. We contributed to policy development in several countries and made new teaching and learning resources available in several languages.

This narrative report gives a glimpse of EWC activities and achievements in 2018. For the real success stories however, ask the thousands of teachers, school leaders and educators who quietly go about their business every day – to educate future democratic citizens who can live peacefully together in diverse societies.



Ana Perona-Fjelstad
Executive Director



18 staffmembers
from
7 countries



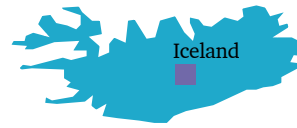
12 projects in
26 countries



60 Partner
institutions in
23 countries



7237 followers
on social media
and newsletter







Iceland



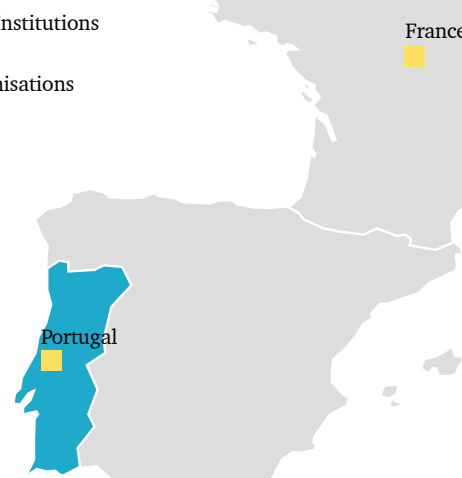
EWC
projects

PARTNERS

-  Education Authorities
-  Higher Education Institutions
-  Civil Society Organisations
-  Museums



Great Britain



France

Portugal



**All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institution or population in the text shall be understood in full compliance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice of the status of Kosovo.*

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

“ Education for democratic citizenship means education, training, awareness raising, information, practices and activities which aim, by equipping learners with knowledge, skills and understanding and developing their attitudes and behaviour, to empower them to exercise and defend their democratic rights and responsibilities in society, to value diversity and to play an active part in democratic life, with a view to the promotion and protection of democracy and the rule of law.

CoE Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education

“ Human rights education means education, training, awareness raising, information, practices and activities which aim, by equipping learners with knowledge, skills and understanding and developing their attitudes and behaviour, to empower them to contribute to the building and defence of a universal culture of human rights in society, with a view to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

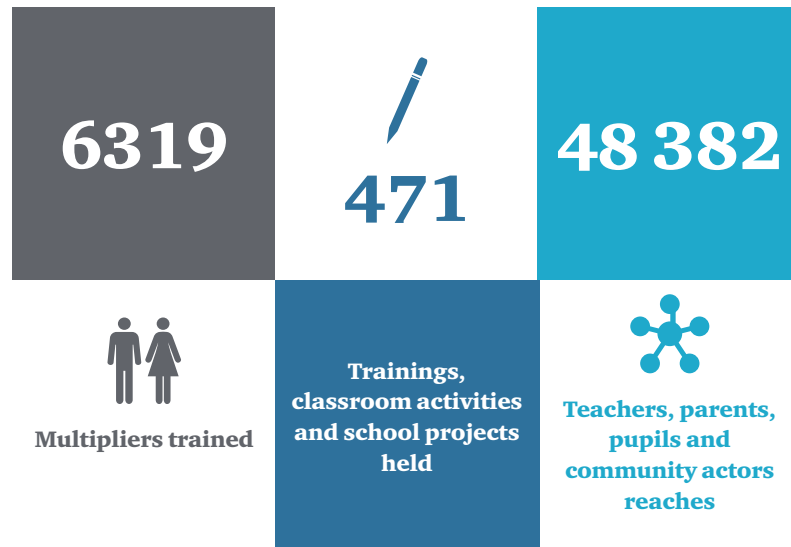
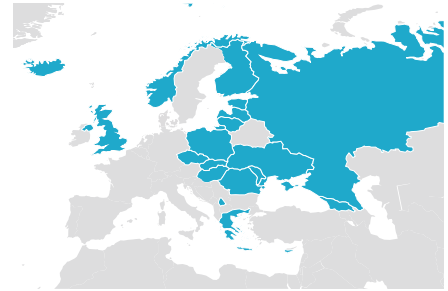
CoE Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education

EWC aims to strengthen the capacity of individuals, educational institutions and support educational systems to build and sustain a culture of democracy and human rights. We do this through five action areas:

- Training of multipliers
- Institutional capacity building
- Development of teaching and learning resources
- Policy contribution
- Cooperation and networking

Training of Multipliers

Multipliers are people in a position to teach and train others. They are trainers, teachers, school leaders, educators, students, parents and others engaged in formal and non-formal education settings. In EWC activities, training of multipliers can take the form of training-of-trainers, training of young people as peer educators, and training of school leaders, teachers or educators in a position to act as multipliers in their institution, transferring knowledge and skills learnt to others. Through the training of multipliers, EWC aims to empower learners to act to promote democracy and human rights – in the classroom, in schools, in local communities and in national policies.



FEATURED PROJECTS

Practising Citizenship in The Russian Federation

This 3-year project on civic education in the Russian Federation is based on CoE policies and materials on education for democratic citizenship and human rights. The main aim is to build capacity among educational professionals and other stakeholders, and to promote and apply democratic competences in educational institutions and local communities.

A pool of coordinators has been trained to act as multipliers across the Russian Federation. Local and regional activities are initiated with participants from higher education institutions, schools, civil society organizations and other community actors, resulting in a wide range of activities based on the core principles and values of education for democratic citizenship and human rights. Various initiatives in 2018

included traditional EDC/HRE trainings for educators and students, as well as many other approaches to civic education, such as a radio broadcast on studying controversial issues in school, a board game on human rights values and an art club, where students could learn about human rights and civic responsibility through theatre, sports and design.

118 educators from 32 regions took part in three EWC trainings taking place outside the Russian Federation. These multipliers in turn implemented 35 local and regional projects, as well as 14 local trainings, reaching about 10 700 beneficiaries. Education professionals from 24 Russian universities were involved in the project over the course of the year.

“*The offered approach to EDC/HRE is highly important for our region, since we have no civic education programmes.*

Participant of the Networking Conference, Tbilisi 2018

“*High motivation, understanding, respect for the values and the main principles of EDC/HRE, as well as the desire to cooperate and to implement changes on the local level are common features of the participants.*

Head trainer

Funded by: [Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)

22. July and Democratic Citizenship

By honoring the memory and democratic engagement of the 69 people who died at Utøya in the terrorist attack in Norway on 22 July 2011, Utøya serves as a very real starting point for democratic dialogue. It offers a unique opportunity for young people to reflect on what democracy means for them, what are the challenges and threats to it, and how they as active citizens can promote democracy in their everyday lives.

In partnership with the remembrance and learning centres at Utøya and in Oslo, EWC offers a comprehensive educational programme for Norwegian pupils and teachers. The main feature is “Learning Democracy at Utøya”, where students and teachers from lower secondary schools learn about 22 July 2011 while also discussing topics such as democratic citizenship and prevention of hate speech, anti-democratic forces and extremism. The aim is to strengthen their democratic competences,

and their attitudes and confidence to stand up for democratic values. After the training, the pupils do peer-to-peer training with other pupils in their schools.

354 students and teachers from 38 schools from all over Norway took part in “Learning Democracy at Utøya”, and through 54 peer-learning activities, such as presentations, pictures, videos and participatory trainings, almost 9000 students, teachers and parents were reached.

Funded by: EWC, Utøya, the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernization, the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research



From workshop at Utøya with students from lower secondary schools in Norway



Teaching Controversial Issues in the Nordic and Baltic Countries



Following the Nordic Pilot Project on "Teaching Controversial Issues" which EWC carried out in 2017, supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers, EWC initiated a similar project in 2018 involving Nordic and Baltic countries. By discussing and sharing tools, methods and experiences on how to create and promote inclusive and safe spaces for dialogue, the aim of the project is to strengthen the participants' competences and capacity to deal with controversy through education. The first part of the project, a training course at

Utøya, took place in September 2018 with 22 participants from Finland, Norway, Sweden, Latvia, and Lithuania. The second part takes place in 2018-19 as the participants, representing NGO's, schools, think tanks, universities, and teacher training centers, plan and carry out national trainings. The different activities will target a variety of professionals, to strengthen both in-house/institutional and individual capacity. The project will conclude with an evaluation forum in Lithuania in May 2019.

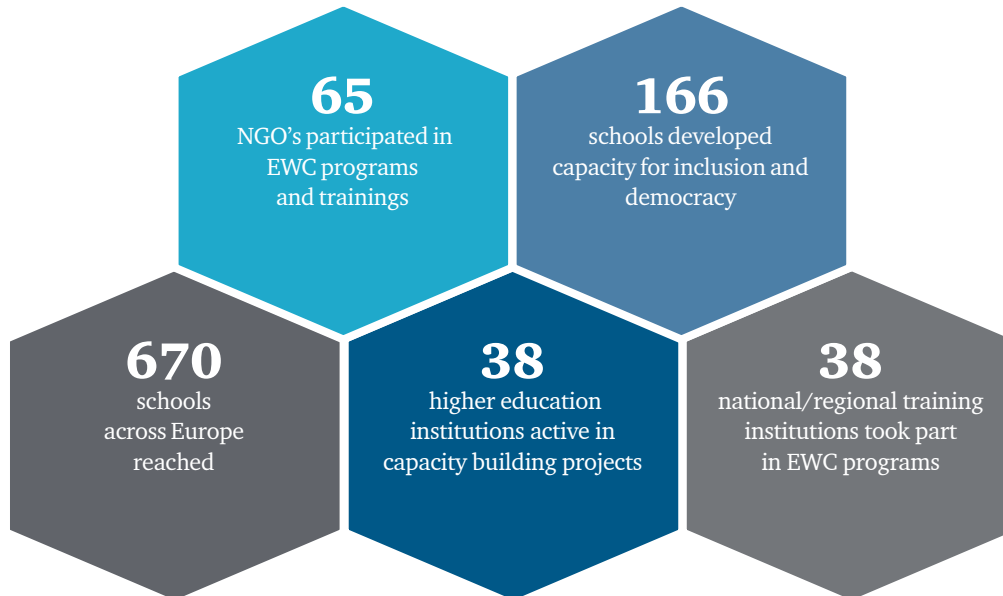
Funded by: NordPlus



Institutional capacity building

A key feature of EWC's mission is to build the capacity of education institutions to promote democracy and human rights through a whole-school approach. School life has many facets. At least three key areas need to be considered as part of a whole-school approach to develop a democratic culture at school and competences for democratic culture in learners: teaching and learning, school governance and culture, and co-operation with the community.

Democratic institutions are essential to provide a safe and democratic learning environment for learners. Here, young people might not only gain knowledge and trust in democratic principles and mechanisms, but also acquire the skills and self-confidence on their own capacity to influence on institutional and community affairs.





Students in cycle II learning about social rights through human rights education by playing the game “Dignity land”.

From Training of Trainers 2018



Schools for Democracy – Supporting Education Reform in Ukraine

EWC has offered the “Schools for Democracy” program since 2016, providing training and mentoring to schools in all regions of Ukraine, based on the whole-school approach to democratic school governance. The key areas of the program are school democratization, online development, support and piloting of new curriculum, as well as quality assurance and regional cooperation.

Each year, 80 schools are enrolled in the project, and approximately 800 more schools are involved through regional hubs placed at the Teacher Training Institutes across the country.

There is a strong need for teaching and learning resources on education for democratic citizenship and human rights, which are developed to fit the new competence-based curriculum. EWC develops new resources and tools for educators through setting up expert groups composed of a

wide range of Ukrainian professionals. In addition, EWC facilitates the translation and adaptation to Ukrainian of existing CoE materials, and disseminate resources throughout the country via online platforms, making them accessible and free for all 460 000 teachers, including in occupied areas.

Democratic citizenship is a cross-curricular topic in the new national curriculum, and one of the key competences identified in the New Ukrainian School reform. EWC supports the development of the new syllabus in several ways; by piloting it for secondary education in 50 schools across the country, by participating in the expert group on development of the curriculum and by providing training to experts in order to strengthen national expertise.

Better access to information, improved communication, more open relationships based on partnerships, better relations between schools and the local community, increased student participation in community related issues and parents more involved in the teaching and learning processes are all examples of results directly linked to the program.

Funded by: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Academies on Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights

EWC has organized regional and national Summer Academies since 2010. The Academies encourage and support the development of a culture of democracy and human rights in schools across Europe through trainings in democratic citizenship and human rights education for teachers, school leaders and other members of the community. They offer training, support and follow-up activities to educators and community actors acting as multipliers in their institutions and local communities. Each Academy has been developed by EWC in cooperation with the Ministries of Education and national teacher training

institutions. They are tailored-made to address specific priorities and needs of countries and regions.

Follow up activities organized by the participants from the 2018 Baltic Academy included various initiatives to create inclusive and democratic schools, ranging from cooperation with the local community and bodies of governance, to the learning environment in every classroom. All school stakeholders were involved, and implementation was done in partnerships with NGO's, teacher training institutions, local authorities and other schools.

Funded by: [contributions from all partners](#)

Romania: Qualifying Education Professionals and Institutions

The project is part of the EEA Grants programme “Education, Scholarships, Apprentices and Youth Entrepreneurship” in Romania. It aims to support the quality of teacher training through strengthening competences of teacher trainers, school inspectors and school counselors, and contribute to the development of a professional pool of trainers in teacher training in Romania, with a focus on democratic citizenship and human rights education.

The project consists of a training of trainers for Romanian experts from institutions responsible for in-service training of teachers. The first cycle was initiated in October 2018 where a total of 18 professionals in the field of education attended a 6-day workshop in Oslo. This has then been followed by the design of new training modules, programs and materials to teachers, school leaders and other education professionals offered in cooperation with their institutions. A final forum will be held in May 2019 to showcase and evaluate the results.

Funded by: [EEA and Norway Grants](#)

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Participants from the Baltic Summer academy 2018

Three Academies were organized in 2018: The Baltic Academy for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, The Greek Academy in Greece, and the Kosovo Academy in Kosovo*.

From workshop in Oslo, October 2018



Development of teaching and learning resources

As a resource centre on education for democratic citizenship, human rights and intercultural understanding, EWC benefits from a wide range of publications developed by the Council of Europe. Through translations, adaptations and various capacity building activities, EWC widely disseminates high quality teaching and learning resources to practitioners and other relevant stakeholders throughout

Europe. In addition, EWC develops teaching and learning resources in cooperation with partners and experts and keeps an updated library of relevant resources available for free download at the EWC website.

Another important action area for EWC is to develop new teaching and learning resources based on careful needs assessment, as well as the facilitation of

access to resources through translations and adaptations of CoE tools. Equally important is to contribute to the dissemination and use of these resources through appropriate online and offline communication channels.



Teaching resources on 22 July in Norwegian

In cooperation with the teacher education department at the Norwegian University of Technology and Science, EWC is commissioned by the Ministry of Education and Research to develop new teaching resources on how to teach about the terror attacks in Norway on 22 July 2011. The resources shall be available for teachers and teacher students.

A curriculum reform is currently underway in Norway, and the new national curriculum will be in place by the start of the school

year 2020-2021. For the first time, the topic of 22 July will explicitly be addressed. The new teaching resources will be a support for teachers on how to teach about the different aspects of 22 July, seen in view of the cross-curricular topic of democratic citizenship. The teaching resources will be available for free online.

The focus of the work done in 2018 was getting an overview of existing materials, as well as deciding on how to collect teachers' experiences and input, in order

to ensure high quality teaching and learning resources for the new curriculum. A reference group was also established with representatives from a wide range of stakeholders.

Teachers will try out the learning resources and give feedback throughout the process, and the resources will be available from the fall of 2020.

*From teacher seminar in
November 2018*



Teaching and learning resources in Ukrainian

Two major teaching resources are developed by EWC in Ukrainian: 1) school guide manual on democratic competences and democratic environment development through whole-school approach and 2) manual for teachers with 80 exercises on civic responsibility.

The school guide consists of 3 chapters: democratic environment and governance; development of democratic competences using a cross-curricular approach to education; and establishing partnerships with local community and authorities. Theoretical blocks of all chapters are followed by questions for discussion,

practical tips for schools willing to promote democratic culture, exercises to be used in the classroom, good practices and examples from the Schools for Democracy Alumni-schools, issues for reflection; and links to other useful resources. An interactive version of the manual (e-manual) is in progress.

The manual for teachers for development of civic and social competences consists of 80 exercises based on Council of Europe EDC/HRE manuals as an example for citizenship and human rights education integration in 12 different school subjects (History, Geography, Mathematics, Physics,

Chemistry, Biology, English, Ukrainian language, Ukrainian literature, Foreign literature, Physical training, Crafts). Since it was first disseminated to schools across the country in 2017, further developments have been made in 2018. Based on the manual, teachers from 10 schools participating in the pilot project “development and assessment of transversal civic competence in grades 5-9”, have been modifying and generating their own activities within various subjects. The aim is that these will be available free of charge to all teachers in Ukraine via an online tool box designed by the programme team and accessible on the programme website.



Manual on the development of democratic competences and environment and Manual on civic responsibility

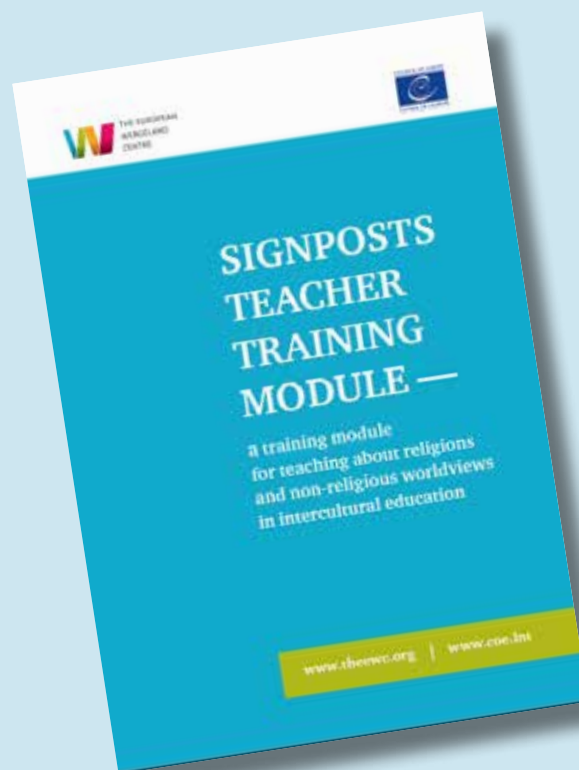
Signpost training module

EWC has been instrumental in developing the CoE publication Signposts – policy and practice for teaching about religions and non-religious worldviews in intercultural education. In 2018, EWC and CoE worked with a group of experts to develop a training module based on Signpost, aiming to turn the theory in the publication into a more practice-oriented tool for teachers.

The training module targets teachers that work on religious education and/or intercultural education. It aims to improve the intercultural competence of teachers, through introducing intercultural education as a whole-school approach, with particular attention to the religious dimension. It links the issue of religion and worldviews with competence for democratic culture, as

outlined in the CoE Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture. The training module also links with the CoE manuals on teaching controversial issues, using the example of religion.

In cooperation with the University of Warwick, the module has been piloted in 2018 in schools in York in the UK.



Cooperation and networking

EWC cooperates with CoE, Norway and education authorities in several countries. In 2018, EWC's cooperation with CoE has mainly focused on three areas: the preparation and launch of the new CoE campaign "Free to Speak, Safe to Learn – Democratic Schools for All", implementation of the CoE Reference Framework for Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC), and dissemination and translations of CoE teaching and learning resources.

EWC has supported the implementation of RFCDC by using the Framework as a reference and tool in a number of EWC projects, such as Practicing Citizenship

in the Russian Federation, Schools for Democracy in Ukraine and The Academies in Greece, Kosovo* and the Baltics. In Ukraine, the project "Democratic Competences in Pre-service Teacher Service" was set up aimed at improving the quality of teacher education in the country and empowering future teachers to develop students' democratic competences based on the RFCDC. Three leading pedagogic universities participated in the project, piloting a training module with hundreds of teacher students. As a result, a training module with examples of lessons on the development of democratic competences was developed and published online.

While cooperation with education authorities remain important in most countries where EWC is present, other education actors are increasingly important to explore broader implementation strategies and increase sustainability of program activities. In many places non-formal education arenas provide learning opportunities that formal education for various reasons cannot. In 2018, EWC has strengthened its cooperation and networking efforts to include higher education institutions such as universities and teacher training institutions and non-formal education actors such as NGOs, museums and commemoration- and learning centers.

Information vs Manipulation – How to stand up against Propaganda?

In Poland, EWC continued the long-standing partnership with the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, in particular in the EU funded project «Information vs Manipulation – How to stand up against Propaganda?» with partners, students and teachers from Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Starting with a 3-day workshop in December 2017, students and teachers from the three countries have met throughout 2018 to learn about specific political events, both historical and current. By looking at and discussing the language and symbols used in the information and/or propaganda surrounding these events, the project aimed to stimulate and develop

students' critical thinking and media literacy. The students went on to develop their own projects linked to events from their respective countries.

All student projects were presented during a gala event in Warsaw in May, with experts also providing feedback to the students.

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At the Museum of Roma Culture (Brno), exploring their exhibition and educational activities



Cooperation with the Museum of Roma Culture in the Czech republic

In June 2018, EWC welcomed a delegation from the Czech Republic, including representatives from the Museum of Roma Culture, the Government Council for Human Rights, and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Museum of Roma Culture is responsible for establishing a new Centre for Roma and Sinti Culture in Prague, with EWC as a partner in the development

of the Centre's educational programme. Based on EWC's experience from projects in the intersection of museums, memorial sites and education, EWC will work closely with the current Museum of Roma Culture in Brno to establish the new centre in Prague, expected to open in 2022.

EWC 10-year conference

Since its establishment in 2008 the European Wergeland Centre has become a valued and recognized international centre on education for democratic citizenship, human rights and intercultural understanding. The inauguration of the Centre was celebrated with a large international conference in Oslo. Ten years on, on 14-16th November 2018, nearly 200 guests from 43 countries gathered again in Oslo to celebrate the 10th anniversary of EWC and 10 years of educating for democracy and human rights in Europe.

«The Wergeland Centre already has many success stories», said Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg at the opening, a sentiment which was echoed by CoE

Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland the following day. The anniversary conference was an occasion to showcase some examples of these success stories, with practitioners from 18 countries presenting their practices and democratic changes in various areas of school life.

Throughout the conference a school exhibition featured prominently, showcasing good practices from schools across Europe. In the panel sessions, 18 schools presented their practices, followed by discussions and comments.

EWC has enjoyed a long and fruitful cooperation with the Council of Europe, and the anniversary conference was a

perfect occasion to officially launch the new Council of Europe campaign “FREE to SPEAK, SAFE to LEARN – Democratic Schools for All”. The campaign aims to highlight and develop further the commitment to democratic values and principles in the life and culture of schools across Europe.

For the EWC, it was a great pleasure to bring friends, colleagues, partners, supporters and participants together to celebrate 10 years of educating for democracy and human rights!





ABOUT THE EUROPEAN WERGELAND CENTRE

2018 was an exciting year for EWC; several long-term projects were continued while also introducing new initiatives, balancing the need for coherence and continuity with innovation and exploration. In total, EWC was involved in 12 projects, out of which 6 continues into 2019, 1 was concluded in 2018 and 5 were initiated in 2018.

19 staffmembers from 7 countries makes up the core of the centre, and with a collective expertise, motivation, positivity and drive we look forward to introducing several new initiatives and projects in 2019.



*1st row from left:
Valentina Papeikiene, Mariann Brynlund, Marta
Melnykevych-Chorna, Inga Marie Nymo Riseth
2nd row from left:
Jennie Holck-Clausen, Ana Perona-Fjelstad,
Karoline Slättum
3rd row from left:
Kjersti Toverud Klette, Khrystyna Chushak,
Caroline Gebara, Marina Dyshlovska
4th row from left:
Ingrid Aspelund, Elizaveta Bagrintseva
Back row from left:
Lars M. Gudmundson,
Andriy Donets
Not present: Olena Shynarovska,
Øystein Sassebo Bryhni,
Iryna Sabor*

Governing Board

EWC is governed by a board appointed by the Minister of Education of Norway. It is comprised of members nominated by The Ministry of Education in Norway and the Secretary General of the CoE.

Chair:

Haldis Margrete Holst (Norway)

Vice Chair:

Inga Bostad (Norway)

Board members:

Bushra Ishaq (Norway)

Knut Christian Clausen (Norway)

Jindřich Fryč (Czech Republic)

Snezana Samardžić-Marković (Serbia)

Paruyr Hovhannisyan (Armenia)



EWC office in Oslo, Norway

THE EUROPEAN WERGELAND CENTRE

Karl Johans gate 2
NO 0154 Oslo, Norway

Phone: +47 21 08 24 10
Mail: post@theewc.org



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