

## **MISSION STATEMENT\***

### **Our Challenges**

The challenges to today's societies are complex and manifold –from global power shifts to pressure on liberal democracies as a result of real and perceived inequalities, from new uses and misuses of technology to climate change. This particularly holds for Europe and its neighbors South and East, with our diverse historic experiences, political systems and civic cultures. More than ever connectivity and interdependence are shaping our relations within and outside of Europe. For citizenship education, this situation poses high demands, but at the same time it offers a rich reservoir of experiences and a huge potential for exchange and synergy from the local to the transnational level.

### **Our Goals**

Therefore, partners from seven European countries have initiated NECE – Networking European Citizenship Education - as a knowledge hub and a platform for cooperation and exchange. Independent of political constellations and as non-partisan institutions, we are identifying political, societal and cultural trends to build common strategies for citizenship education.

### **Our activities**

This is put into life through the annual NECE conference which provides an open forum for debate and knowledge exchange for practitioners, scholars and the interested public. It forms a transnational community of stakeholders of formal, non-formal and informal citizenship education from Europe and other countries. The conference identifies educational practices that address contemporary issues in European societies and beyond. It helps to deliver innovative answers of citizenship education to contemporary challenges. Transnational workshops and focus groups work on specific topics between the conferences.

### **Our understanding of Citizenship Education**

We have an encompassing understanding of citizenship education which considers a wide variety of educational practices inside and outside of schools. It is an enduring and critical process of reflection and deliberation on the ideas, structures and practices of contemporary democracy. Citizenship Education should strive to politically socialize communities and individuals and encourage critical democratic ideas and practices.

### **Our claim**

NECE wants to become a long-term laboratory for transdisciplinary and transnational thinking through participatory culture. It is the place to be for people from diverse segments of societies, serving as a civic barometer and as a reference point for policy makers on the national and the European level.

\*(Adopted after discussion in the NECE Partners' Meeting, Glasgow, June 5, 2019)