



# Citizens of Europe

## The network for European thought and action

Starting during our general assembly in March 2007 we have been discussing, which developments and achievements will be essential in order to truly establish Citizens of Europe as a strong, efficient and sustainable NGO.

This paper sums up the conclusions we reached so far. After asking all members and other people interested for their feedback, we plan to finalise it as a common guideline for the next two years until the Citizens Weekend in Budapest on 5 – 7 October 2007.

The paper includes the following sections:

- Mission
- Vision
- Main fields of action
- Structure
- Aim
- Activity related objectives
- Development objectives
- History
- Timeline

## Mission

We are a network of people from all over the continent, who perceive Europe not as an idealistic aim but a fact, an ongoing challenge.

While most discussions and activities still take place in national contexts, we work together in order to contribute to the development of the European civil society.

Our work follows three essential principles:

- **Responsibility.** As citizens we get involved in what is ours and aim at substantial contributions.
- **Respect.** There are no false positions, only diverse perspectives and perceptions.
- **Passion.** Exciting is the true comprehension of controversies rather than the repetition of consensual answers.

## Vision

Citizens of Europe will be a network truly European in its composition and output which contributes to the development of European Civil Society by activities in the fields of debate, training and culture. It will be creative, efficient and flexible and a source of continuous inspiration and personal enrichment to its members.

## Main Fields of Action

- **OpenFora** are events gathering people from all over Europe, which aim at creating a lively political debate by like-informed, not essentially like-minded people who are willing to engage themselves for the present and future fate of society.
- **Dialog'09** fosters the local debate on the purpose and the future of the European Union at various locations. By increasing the general interest in and knowledge about Europe, it aims at contributing to a Europe shaped by citizens.
- **MyEurope** is an annual film contest addressing active Europeans, artists and filmmakers, to reflect and create their views and opinions on a vision of Europe. The resulting are shown during a Europewide film festival at several places across the continent
- **Training for Europe** is a series of training seminars, which combine elements of conception, work on intercultural and team leading skills and critical reflection on the content of projects and activities.

## **Structure**

Citizens of Europe aims at realising projects of high quality in an efficient way. The *board* is responsible for all administrative and legal necessities. All activities are coordinated by the *council*, which consists of active members who take a high degree of responsibility for the association as a whole, as well as for particular projects. Specific *project teams* can consist of both members and non-members.

## **Aim**

Citizens of Europe will shape its image by realising pre-eminent activities and developing a solid organisational base by the year 2009.

## **Activity related objectives**

- Realisation of *OpenFora* beyond the current "Citizenship" circle
- Keeping attention for the *European Citizens' Initiative*, e.g. by realising an OpenForum related to it
- Full integration of *Dialog'09*
- Strengthening of the *MyEurope* film contest year by year
- Further development and diversification of the *Training for Europe* concept
- Development of *Polylog* as a tool for promoting specific topics and Citizens of Europe as such
- Cooperation with "*point-e*" in order to add a substantial online dimension to our activities.

## **Development objectives**

- Enlargement and vitalisation of our network, improvement of working and coordination procedures (meetings, archives, tools)
- Organised personal presence of representatives at events covering our fields of activities
- Establishment of regular and intensive work contacts to other organisations with similar aims
- Establishment of a board of advisors
- Improvement of our Website
- Improvement of our 'Corporate Identity' and our PR material
- Improvement of our financial management (fundraising, bookkeeping and reporting)

## History

Citizens of Europe was founded in May 2002 in Munich by a group of like-minded people. On the one hand, they wanted to contribute to the debate on the future of Europe. On the other, they were interested in developing a platform for personal trans-European contacts beyond their own study time. In 2003, a group of very active participants to the European Convention of Young Citizens hosted by the German government in Berlin joined the network.

In a first phase, the network focused on local activities at different locations while cooperating with other organisations in realising bigger projects. Examples are a simulation of EU decision making which we realised with our Hungarian partner U-rope and seminars in co-operation with the Bayerische Ostgesellschaft (Bavarian Society for East European Affairs). Later on, more and more own activities were realised, often linking together partner organisations in different parts of Europe. In 2004, we started our media project Polylog, in 2005 we put the focus on transatlantic relations, in 2006 we realised the short film competition MyEurope for the first time and started our project Training for Europe. During the current year, we developed our new format OpenFora.

## Timeline

9 May 2002	A group of friends, who want to contribute to the debate on the future of Europe and create platform for personal pan-European contacts, found Citizens of Europe
6 – 10 April 2003	<i>Europakonvent</i> (European Convention of Young Citizens) is hosted by the German government in Berlin – some very active participants join Citizens of Europe afterwards
September 2003	General assembly in Berlin
November 2004	<i>European Tuesdays</i> , monthly discussions on topics of European concern, start in Berlin and Munich
20 – 23 May 2004	<i>Europakonvent II</i> . Is organised by Citizens of Europe and hosted by the German Federal Press- and Information Office
June 2004	Start of the project <i>Polylog</i> together with the Polish magazine <i>Perspektywy</i>
27 – 31 October 2004	<i>The Union of 25 – Debating and experiencing the enlarged European Union</i> ; a simulation of EU-decision making realised in Budapest together with the organisation U-Rope
19 – 21 November 2004	<i>The new border in the East – Consequences of EU-Enlargement</i> ; a seminar in Berg-Leoni (München) in cooperation with the Bavarian Society for East European Affairs

4 – 6 February 2005	1 <sup>st</sup> <i>Citizens' Weekend</i> in Berlin
Summer 2005	Establishment of <i>E(U)SA 2020</i> – A project on future transatlantic relations
11 – 13 November 2005	<i>Kaliningrad: German past, Russian present, European future?</i> A seminar in Berg-Leoni (Munich) in cooperation with the Bavarian Society for East European Affairs
25 – 27 November 2005	2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Citizens' Weekend</i> in Praha
December 2005	Citizens of Europe is accepted as a hosting organisation for the European Voluntary Service
24 – 28 May 2006	Presentation of the outcome of our first short film competition <i>MyEurope</i> during the Shooting Europe festival in Karlsruhe, Germany
June 2006	Citizens of Europe becomes key partner organisation of the Campaign for the European Citizens' Initiative - ECI
September 2006	Publication of a booklet with selected results of <i>Polylog</i>
29 Oct – 5 Nov 2006	Training for Europe (t4e) in Berlin, first seminar on project management
24 – 26 Nov. 2007	3 <sup>rd</sup> <i>Citizens' Weekend</i> in Gubin
11 – 18 March 2007	Training for Active Civil Society (t4acs) in Baku
25 March 2007	Citizens of Europe presents its activities during the celebration 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rome treaty in Berlin, Collection of signatures for the European Citizens' Initiative
27 May – 2 June 2007	Training for Europe (t4e) in Belgrade
5 – 7 October 2007	4 <sup>th</sup> <i>Citizens' Weekend</i> in Budapest
Autumn 2007	Screening of <i>MyEurope</i> films at different locations all over Europe
2 – 4 November 2007	<i>OpenForum Vilnius</i> : Promoting citizenship by Education?
25 – 27 January 2008	<i>OpenForum Berlin</i> : Expanding citizenship in an age of migration
4 – 6 April 2008	<i>OpenForum Wrzesnia</i> : Defending citizenship against extremism and populism