

Justice - EU citizenship  
Contribution to consultation 2013 Citizen  
Report  
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Copenhagen,  
05-09-2012

**Danish Adult Education Association input regarding the public Consultation on the 2013 EU Citizenship Report "EU citizens - Your rights, your future"**

Reference: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/citizen/opinion/120509\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/citizen/opinion/120509_en.htm)

**For 'general remarks' 24 in Questionnaire: What does citizenship mean to you?**

For the Danish Adult Education Association (DAEA) citizenship goes beyond the individual rights of individual citizens. *Non-formal learning activities* are a key issue. The characteristic of non-formal learning activities is the integration of the learners' voice as the basis of the learning, ie. dialogues, contributions and asking questions as part of the learning process.

**Lifelong learning**

Active citizenship and learning about active citizenship are crucial to the success of the European idea, and lifelong learning is an indispensable tool for the success of the European Citizens initiatives. Adult non-formal learning is of particular importance.

**Adult education and learning**

As an umbrella organization covering a wide range of countrywide organizations of non-formal adult education providers and associations working with adult learning (33), which are emphasizing empowerment of the individual and grass roots' participation as a driving force in civil society, we are experiencing the importance of adult education and learning as a strong tool for discussion and promotion of the European idea and identity.

**Basic skills education and bridge building activities as step stones**

Basic skills education and bridge building activities onto initial or continuing education and learning for youngsters and adults of all ages with no or short educational background are step stones towards a future Europe of well functioning and responsible citizens prepared to continue learning and ensuring a sustainable, competitive and peaceful European society.

**Democratic tradition**

Driven by a democratic tradition and many years of experience with citizenship education and non-formal adult education activities, we strongly recommend underlining the learning and education aspect in the planning of future strategies for European Citizenship and when taking activities forward for the European Year of Citizens 2013. The European Grundtvig

Programme may be an important co-player with its many project activities about non-formal adult education and citizenship having taken place since 2000 and several still going on.

Non-formal adult learning provides people with the necessary competences that enable individuals to be active citizens and live in a meaningful, enriched and wholesome way. Therefore, we strongly recommend its inclusion in future citizenship strategies.

Kind regards



Per Paludan Hansen  
Chairman of DAEA

*DAEA, the Danish Adult Education Association, is an umbrella organization covering over 30 countrywide Danish organizations of non-formal adult education providers and associations working with adult learning.*

