

Friday 13th June

Room 6

14.00 to 15.20

WORKSHOP: Overcoming postcommunism: the hidden lessons of East Europe's past

Workshop facilitators: Margarita Jeliaskova, University of Twente, The Netherlands and Tatjana Zimenkova, Bielefeld University, Germany

During the workshop, we will offer some analytical and didactic tools to address the issues of post-communism and of transition to democracy in the light of the current problems that all European countries are facing. Due to the political transformations and democratization and globalization processes of the last decades, scholars and practitioners in the area of citizenship education are interested in educational approaches, policies and practices in post-socialist and post-authoritarian spaces. Some research results point to the possible relevance of post-socialist and post-authoritarian path dependencies for citizenship education, for curricula, teachers, and teacher educators. We will show that particular path dependencies still can be found in teacher education, which create specific challenges in teaching citizenship in transition countries. Equally important, post-socialist teachers and schools have developed attitudes and approaches to teaching citizenship, which prove to be relevant for "established" democracies as well. We will discuss this in conjunction with teachers' diverse underlying ideas on citizenship and citizenship education. Based on research, we will present and discuss criteria for the selection and adoption of 'good practices', followed by tips to adapt these practices to specific national contexts. We will use the online tool www.socrative.com to initiate a discussion on these issues. Teachers will be invited to log on with their own device (smartphone, tablet, laptop) and to respond to particular statements. The statements are taken from teaching materials in citizenship and civic education, in different post-communist countries and contexts as well as from teachers' interviews. The responses will be instantly visible online, thereby making a dynamic discussion on the topic possible. Online computer technology will assist us to demonstrate the suitability of the presented instrument for initiating and shaping a conversation on the importance and the relevance of post-socialist dependencies in teaching and learning civic education.

The workshop is intended for educators and researchers, both from post-transition countries and from established Western democracies with relevant experience in different national contexts. They are asked to bring in their own teaching material, which will be then discussed and analyzed in a comparative perspective and a Wi-Fi enable device – smartphone, tablet or laptop.