



European Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation



**CITIZENSHIP, DEMOCRACY, EDUCATION,
AND THE DEMANDS
OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**

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2009-2010

Abstract

This thesis deals with citizenship education in democratic societies. Many of the issues democratic societies have to deal with have made clear that the health and the stability of a modern democracy depend not only on the justness of its 'basic structure', but also on the qualities and attitudes of its citizens. This explains why discussions on citizenship education have recently become so relevant.

This thesis explores how citizenship has been conceptualized in the education policies of the Council of Europe, analysing how these have evolved from the 1950s and focusing in particular on the features of the model of Education for Democratic Citizenship that the Council is striving to implement from the 1990s. These concern the knowledge, skills and attitudes with which citizens should be equipped in order to participate in democratic life.

This model is then critically assessed against standards established by political and educational theory in the field of citizenship education, in order to propose elaborations and to deepen the model.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My special thanks to:

Prof. Attracta Ingram, my supervisor, and Dr. Iseult Honohan, my co-supervisor,
for their kindness, and their constructive, encouraging guidance;

Susan Murphy, my tutor,
for being a great reference point, helpful and available,
and for the lunches together;

The other Masterini:

Helen, for the great chats, the fun, the crazy car, and
the help you gave me every time I didn't know where to sleep!

Janis, for being with me the first weekend I finally left 'the island' and

Liene, great Kosovo-mate!

Thanks for making me imagine

how my second semester in Portugal would have been (amazing, apparently!)

Julien, for our nice -though repetitive- talks on random benches on Lido,

for being a fan of Lost and always playing my favourite song;

Sarah, for being so sunny and for loving Ireland!

To Cory, Takashi, and Dominika,
for welcoming me in UCD as you had always known me,
and being the wonderful persons you are!

Julien, my funny flatmate,
for the tuna
and for being the only one with enough courage
to voluntarily ask me to talk about my thesis!

Angela, Robert and Gillian,
for the constant support and for not questioning my weird sleeping habits...

To David,
for the flowers

To my parents,
Maybe not close, but always present.

ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------|--|
| CAHCIT | Ad Hoc Committee of Experts for the European Year of Citizenship Trough Education |
| CDCC | Council of Europe Council for Cultural Cooperation |
| CDED | Steering Committee for Education |
| CDESR | Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research |
| CoE CoM | Council of Europe Committee of Ministers |
| CoE | Council of Europe |
| EDC | Education for Democratic Citizenship |
| EU | European Union |
| HRE | Human Rights Education |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation |

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