

EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

EUR(2)-05-05 P3

Date: 16 June 2005
Time: 9.00 - 12.30
Venue: Committee Rooms 3 and 4, National Assembly for Wales
Title: Council for Education in World Citizenship

INTRODUCTION

Recent developments in Wales have provided young people with excellent opportunities to develop the skills of active citizenship. The introduction of a Framework for Personal and Social Education (PSE) in 2000, and its subsequent formalisation as a component of the school curriculum in 2003, have highlighted the importance of community participation and political literacy. ACCAC has promoted Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship as a cross-cutting theme in primary and secondary education. The Welsh Baccalaureate qualification requires students to focus on PSE and Wales's relation to Europe and the world as core subjects. Finally, the Welsh Assembly Government is likely to introduce legislation to make it compulsory for students to have a say in the running of their schools through school councils.

The Council for Education in World Citizenship-Cymru (CEWC-Cymru) is the schools arm of the Welsh Centre for International Affairs (WCIA). For 60 years we have worked with schools and colleges throughout Wales, providing activities for students and training for teachers in the field of citizenship education. In partnership with UNA Exchange, another of the WCIA's constituent bodies, we provide comprehensive support for global citizenship for young people in both formal and non-formal sectors.

CEWC-Cymru receives a core grant of c.£14,000 annually from the Education and Training Department (Schools Management Division) of the Welsh Assembly Government, to carry out its programme of work. In addition, the Assembly was a major financial contributor to the production of *Citizenship Today*, an on-line resource for Key Stages 1 to 4 that was produced in 2000/2001 to meet the new needs of PSE in the curriculum.

CEWC-CYMRU'S CORE PROGRAMME OF WORK

We provide the following activities in each school year:

- **Wales Schools Debating Championships.** This is the only national competition of its type in Wales. All secondary schools and colleges are invited to enter, with over 50 doing so each year. The competition divides Wales into 8 regions for preliminary rounds in October. Teams of two students are given motions for debate a month in advance of their round, and supplied with CEWC-Cymru's Debating Handbook. On the day, a panel of judges selects one team to go forward to the next stage of the competition. Recent Wales Schools motions include "This House believes that Saddam Hussein should receive the death penalty if found guilty", "This House supports quotas to increase the representation of women in politics" and "This House

believes that the costs of global tourism outweigh the benefits". Quarter- and semi-finals at Gregynog, Powys are followed by the Final at the Temple of Peace, Cardiff.

The winning team automatically forms part of Wales's team for the annual World Schools Debating Championships, with three additional debaters selected from earlier rounds of the Wales competition. CEWC-Cymru then helps train the Welsh team and ensures its participation in the World Championships. CEWC-Cymru is working with the WCIA and the Wales Debating Federation to stage the World Championships in July 2006; this is the second occasion on which the tournament has come to Wales (1995 being the first).

- **Model United Nations conferences.** We organise 8 of these – 7 bilingual and one (in partnership with Cymdeithas y Cymod) in Welsh only. The events simulate international discussions at the UN General Assembly or Security Council, with students representing countries, non-governmental organisations, the international press and the UN Secretariat. They are briefed about the issues to be discussed a month before the conference, and prepare statements of position and suggested action points. On the day, they divide their time between contributing to the debate in the main chamber (usually the council chamber of a civic building) and negotiating with other countries in a committee room. Recent topics for Model UN events have included terrorism, humanitarian intervention and access to water. Each year, over 500 students take part.
- A **Model National Assembly for Wales**, focusing on national rather than global issues. Students play the parts of Ministers, AMs and civil servants, working towards agreement on a number of issues. A plenary debate then takes place in the Chamber of the Assembly.
- The South Wales Forum of the **European Youth Parliament** also takes place at the Assembly. This is part of a Europe-wide youth movement, with one team selected to represent the region at a UK conference the following year. A North Wales Forum is to be reintroduced in 2006, after a gap of four years.
- Our **One World Conference** features interactive workshops and drama activities on the theme of ethnic and religious diversity. Each year, 50-70 young people from a specific age group (e.g. 9-11 or 13-15) take part.
- **Classroom workshops** on topics such as human rights, sustainable development and democracy are provided to our member schools. These are available for pupils of all ages, and for groups of any size. We also provide workshops on children's rights as part of **UNICEF UK's** Education Support Service.
- **In-service training** is provided to teachers in individual schools, or in groups of schools via local education authorities. A bespoke service is available for training on all aspects of local and global citizenship education.

RECENT PROJECT WORK

Democracy work

From 2003 to 2005 we have carried out two projects, funded by the Electoral Commission, on the democratic participation of young people in schools. The first, *Your Say*, helped school councils to be more effective, and encouraged them to link with the wider community by involving AMs in some of their activities. A CD-ROM, with information on setting up a school council and providing other democratic opportunities in school, was developed during the project and will be published this summer.

The second project, *Training for Democracy*, began by focusing specifically on staff training to set up school councils. Its remit has since widened to include training with both staff and students, in a range of educational environments from primary schools to secure units. We have produced a PowerPoint guidance package, helping teachers to set up and run school councils which meet their school's particular needs, with case studies on existing practice in Wales and links to the PSE Framework and ESTYN's requirements for school inspections. In addition, exploratory sessions have been carried out at Hillside Secure Unit (Neath), examining how young people there can take the first steps towards participation. CEWC-Cymru is also contributing to the Save the Children Participation Consortium, advising the Welsh Assembly Government on training strategies.

P4C for PSE

In 2004-05 we have investigated the use of the Philosophy for Children (P4C) method in primary schools, and considered how it can be used in conjunction with PSE. P4C encourages pupils to discuss philosophical issues openly in the classroom, and respectfully consider everyone's contributions to discussion. Consequently, it can help develop the attitudes and values outlined in the PSE Framework, such as being sensitive towards other people's feelings and being curious and inquisitive. Three Blaenau Gwent primary schools took part in the piloting of the project, which has led to the production of a bilingual teaching pack titled *Thinking Citizens: How to Make PSE Philosophical*. In-service training on the links between P4C, global citizenship and PSE is also being developed.

Equal Shares for All

This project has involved CEWC-Cymru as part of a network of groups across Wales and Europe, in an initiative to benefit disenfranchised young people. Our role has been providing input for students who are in special schools or secure units, developing their key skills for employment through citizenship work. The full *Equal Shares for All* project will run for two years from July 2005, if an application to the EU's Equal fund is successful.

Martin Pollard (Education Officer, CEWC-Cymru)
7 June 2005