

A History of the CiCe Academic Network – Part 4: The Network Consolidates¹

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Abstract

Children's Identity and Citizenship in Europe – commonly abbreviated to CiCe – is one of the longest established Academic Networks in European higher education supported by the European Commission's Education and Culture Directorate. This paper traces the third phase of CiCe, from 2005 to 2008, covering the conferences in Riga, Montpellier and Istanbul, the initiation of the research student conferences, and the formation and development of the CiCe Association. This paper uses unique archival evidence to trace this stage of the Network.

Keywords

CiCe Network, History, European Academic Networks

CiCe 3 covered the period from September 2005 to August 2008, and was another phase of substantial transition. It was marked by the creation of the parallel CiCe Association, which complemented the European Commission supported Thematic Network; by the continuing expansion of the Network's activities, particularly in the areas of support for research structures, publications and the development of regional activities and by the changing ways in which the Network and Association came to be led and managed. This paper will cover all three of these initiatives and maintain the general record of activities that were undertaken.

The opening stages of CiCe phase 3

The Commission's construction of the Thematic Networks was that, although the Networks might be de facto continuing bodies that lasted over many years, each three-year finding period formally recognised a new and original set of activities,

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organised as a distinct phase. The Network programme had, by 2005, been running for eight years, and there were about 30 Networks in existence, of which about 15 had been running for seven or eight years. All the Networks were consortia of Higher Education institutions, usually organised with a particular disciplinary focus: CiCe was unusual in being distinctly cross-disciplinary, though with a bias towards University departments that educated future professionals who would be working with young people in the areas of identity and citizenship. The Network saw itself as having a particularly integrating function in terms of developing future citizens of Europe, and various Commission officials in the Education and Culture Department tacitly and sometimes explicitly recognised this and supported this role.

So CiCe 3 had been planned as a structure that was innovative and different from CiCe1 and CiCe2. The organisation was presented as having six interwoven complementary strands. The first linking strand was the Network organisation activities themselves – the Executive Committee’s coordination of the series of linked themed annual conferences, with intervening seminars, that brought together and integrated the other five strands.

Strand two was the support for the European Higher Education Area (the ‘Bologna Process’), and in particular the Tuning programme. Tuning was intended to develop common learning competencies for disciplines, which would inform the Higher Education Institutions across Europe as they devised their own programmes: the ambition was that all HEIs would have common or complementary competencies in their undergraduate and postgraduate courses in a particular discipline, so that movement around the continent would be easier as students moved from undergraduate to Masters, and then perhaps doctoral programmes. CiCe3 established three working groups, one for each level that tried to baseline citizenship education. Linked to this – though a distinctly differently funded and organised programme - was the CiCe distance learning MA, described in the previous chapter that was now working with its first cohort of students.

Strand three was *Citizenship and Society*, where we intended to initiate and develop links with a variety of civil society organisations, to build bridges to develop common approaches to citizenship education outside the formal educational structures.

Strand four was the important research strand. Although we were not funded to support research directly, we were concerned that we should help direct and support research in the areas that we thought important and significant. Our research strand was to organise and run conferences for research students, where we could intensively tutor a small group of doctoral students in the period just before our main annual conference (which the students could then join). Linked to this, our research group produced a series of booklets on specific research themes that we thought would be useful for research students who could not attend the conferences (and for their supervisors). In parallel, the CiCe

Association was to develop both a small grants scheme for collaborative research activity, and an annual award for research publication.

The fifth strand was to recognise and support the regional dimension within Europe, particularly through supporting our national coordinators develop regional links and hold regional conferences: we planned to hold five regional conferences (in the Nordic states, the Visegrad states, Iberia, the Mediterranean and the 'North Sea region' in the later part of the triennium.

Strand six was to develop a Global perspective within the network, which we saw as two-fold: working with students in our institutions who came from a non-European background and reaching out to work with non-European global partners. This latter sub-strand we hoped to develop through the new Global Mundus programme that the Commission had just launched, and over 2006 we developed an ambitious programme for a parallel Network for CiCe that had twelve global partners, drawn from each continent: unfortunately, this did not secure funding in a highly competitive field.

These strands formed the agenda for the three years of CiCe 3, but we were first faced with some important changes and decisions about the management and administration of the CiCe Network and Association. These were made particularly acute by the sudden and unexpected death of our Coordinating Administrator, Cass Mitchell-Riddle, described at the end of the previous chapter. Cass had been with us from the very inception of the network, and it seemed difficult to envisage how her work could be continued. Very fortunately, the CiCe headquarters in London Metropolitan University was located in the University's Institute of Policy Studies in Education (IPSE), which was also directed by Ross, and had a small team of able and experienced project administrators. One of these, Lindsay Melling, was asked to step up to organise the very imminent and important first Seminar, to be held in late October in Bratislava. This was designed to plan the detail of the implementation of CiCe 3, and in particular the work of the various working groups over the first year. Lindsay – with some diffidence – agreed to see if the trial would work, and managed the meeting with skill and aplomb, and her flair and competence was widely recognised by the seminar participants: she was persuaded to take on the role permanently, but, unlike Cass, would only work part-time with CiCe, and be supported by a small part-time team of administrators in the IPSE office, Teresa Carbajo Garcia working on bookings and finance, and Andrew Craven on membership. The CiCe MA programme, which was run by Peter Cunningham from London Metropolitan, was supported administratively by another member of the IPSE team, Nathan Fretwell. The advantages of bringing in a part-time team were several – in particular, it meant that we had more people available when the CiCe workload was heavy, and could use fewer at other times of the year, when they could be engaged in their other project administration activities. Also, Teresa offered an important and welcome multi-lingual dimension to our activity. Despite our early intentions, we had become very English-centred in our work (as had most of the Networks (see

Richard Etienne and Virginie Janin, 2016 on CiCe's language policy)), and Teresa's Spanish and French went some small way to ameliorating this.

The second management factor that was to affect CiCe3 was the decision of Alistair Ross to stand down as President and Coordinator at the end of the phase in September 2008. He was planning to retire from full-time work in 2009-10, and wanted to use the three-year period of CiCe 3 to plan a transition that was minimally disruptive for the organisation. His decision was communicated to the Executive Committee at the Bratislava meeting, with a proposal that the role of President and Coordinator be separated from the autumn on 2008. The President would in future be the elected President of the CiCe Association, but the Coordinator role (with the responsibility to the Commission for the effective running of the Network contract) would remain at London metropolitan. It was suggested that Peter Cunningham would be interested, if the Network were content, to take on the role, attending meetings of the Executive for the next three years to ensure a smooth transition. The Executive agreed this, and the announcement of the changes was made at the following Conference at Riga, in May 2006.

This, then, was the basic network structure over the 2005-8 period:

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| Seminar 1: | | Bratislava, October 2005 |
| Conference 8: | Citizens of Europe and the World [strand 6], | Riga, June 2006 |
| Seminar 2: | | Athens, October 2006 |
| Conference 9: | Citizenship Education and Society [strand 3], | Montpellier, June 2007 |
| Seminar 3: | | Malta, October 2007 |
| Conference 10: | Researching Citizenship and Identity [strand 4], | Istanbul, May |

The CiCe Association

One of our first tasks was to formally organise and legally constitute the proposed Association. The Ljubljana Conference had enthusiastically supported the formation of an Association, and mandated the Executive Committee to bring firm proposals to form the Association at the next Conference, due in May 2006. The Executive first explored the various possibilities of incorporation, looking particularly at either a Brussels/Belgian based operation or as a London based incorporation. After looking at the legal hurdles and implications, it was agreed that the simplest system seemed to be to form a UK-based Association, which would be incorporated as a not-for-profit Limited Company, 'limited by guarantee' by trustees (so there would be no share capital, dividends or profits) and at the same time as a legally established Charity, with trustees (so there could be no tax liability). Over the period November 2005 to April 2006 a constitution and

memorandum of administration were drawn up, to be put to the members at the Riga Conference, a list of charitable aims agreed, and a plan made to ask the existing Executive Committee to take on the role of Executive of the Association, acting as Directors of the Company and Trustees of the Charity, for authority to establish a bank account, for a scale for membership subscriptions, and to formally launch the Association. All this was sent out to all the Network members in advance of the meeting, asking those who were not attending to respond to the proposals, for or against, before the meeting took place.

Membership was to be both institutional and individual, with two separate sliding scales of subscriptions: institutions in states with a relatively low GDP were asked to pay much less than those with a much higher GDP (ranging from €40 to €600). This attempt at a fair system proved to be unduly complex, and the sliding scales – though still in existence – are much less finely graded than they were at the inception. Individual subscriptions were also on a sliding scale (€30 to €100), based on a self-declaration of annual income. Institutional membership brought with it membership for all the employees of the institution, which unfortunately meant that the Association missed out on a greater number of potential individual members.

The Association's Executive was organised so that there was a basic executive of five (President, immediate past President, President-elect, Treasurer and Secretary), of which the first three posts were directly elected by the members in a two-year cycle, and the Treasurer and Secretary were nominated by the Executive for the Annual Assembly's approval on a four-year cycle. These two nominations were expected to consider the geographical distribution of the members of the Executive, and the whole cycle was designed to ensure as smooth a transition as possible over the years. If the Network was funded by the Commission, then the Executive would grow to take on the larger membership possible and necessary; if the funding failed, there was a core Executive group in place to carry on.

All these plans were put to a large and enthusiastic meeting at Riga on May 27th, 2006, and carried unanimously, to great enthusiasm. The Network Executive held its usual late summer meeting in Gdansk in late June that year; and part way through held the first meeting of the Association Executive. This looked at the processes necessary to register the Company and the Charity. It was decided that we would formally start the Association on the 1st October that year, as it would take nearly three months to register the company and charity. There was much complicated work to do to establish the legal identities of each of the Executive members, both to meet UK company law, and to satisfy the bank: money laundering activities had meant that bodies such as ours have to demonstrate very scrupulously investigated backgrounds to meet the regulators' requirements.

The Association's first elections, for a new President elect, took place in the first part of 2007. Christine Roland-Levy was the only candidate, and was President-

elect from June 2007 to June 2008, when she became President for two years. We held a second presidential election the following year, so that the successful candidate, Julia Spinthourakis, could be President-elect to Christine's Presidential term, with Alistair Ross being past-President for 2008-2010.

The Expansion of the CiCe Network

As in earlier phases, much of the work of the Network was conducted by small working parties. These were usually composed of three or four people with particular expertise, selected also because the combination of the group might bring together different academic experiences and modes of working from different parts of Europe. The Executive developed increasingly sophisticated mechanisms to recruit working party members: tasks were specified in detail with the criteria thought necessary to undertake them; specific experience was demanded, and clear definitions of what was to be produced were published. Competition for places was strong, and the Executive spent many hours identifying the groups, and each had an Executive member assigned to support them.

CiCe also continued to participate in the group meetings of the Humanities and Social Science Networks. These had been initiated by the History Thematic Network, CLIO, whose coordinator Kathy Isaacs secured funding from the Commission for two one-off events over the period. Each Network contributed half a dozen key members to attend these two-day events of symposia, workshops and lectures, which resulted in a series of booklets. The first event was in July 2006 Pisa, in the old University buildings; the second in the Academy of Sciences building in Brussels in 2008.

But the three major innovatory activities of the Network in this period were the development of support for research, the expansion of our publication programme, and the growth of regional structures.

Research support

The Executive member responsible for this was Marta Fülöp, from Budapest. She was supported by a working group of experienced research supervisors – Luigi Cajani (Rome), Ian Davies (York), Elisabeth Nasman (Uppsala) and Alejandro Navarro (Madrid). Together they created an innovative three-day training programme for research students undertaking PhD studies. About a dozen students were recruited each year: each had to submit a proposal for a short paper, and show how this related to their study. Those selected – it was sometimes quite competitive – had their papers examined by the conference team members and their peers during the sessions. There were also workshops on specific research approaches and techniques, lectures from experts, debates and informal discussion. The working party selected a best student paper, and an

award was made to the writer at the main CiCe conference, which was scheduled to start immediately after the student conference. Most students stayed on for the main conference. Arrangements were made to provide a limited number of bursaries towards travel costs, and to secure inexpensive accommodation for the students.

The working group organised part of the conference around a specific theme – for example, research ethics – and in addition to the sessions on this, they produced booklets on the theme each year, which were circulated to the whole Network membership.

In parallel to this, a Research Digest was produced every six months. This was a checklist of recent research publications, descriptions of new initiatives and research programmes, and calls for applications for research grants and programmes.

The CiCe Association also began to develop a research activity programme towards the end of the period, when the Association had been operational for a couple of years and some funds had accumulated. A scheme of small annual research grants was launched in 2008: each year, invitations were sought from small groups of CiCe members who had to be based in at least two different countries. Only €1500 was available for each grant, so this was partly start-up money, partly symbolic, but it did generate interest (and applications), and showed that although the Association was relatively small, it could still promote important and significant activities for its members. The first award, in 2008, went to a French/Greek consortia of five CiCe members from four different institutions: Maria Pagoni (Lille), Despina Karakatsanis (University of the Peloponnese), Richard Etienne (Montpellier) and George Stamelos and Julie Spinthourakis (Patras). Their study, 'Curricular, pedagogic and didactic questions about participative citizenship in secondary education: a comparison of France and Greece' reported in 2009.

Publications strategy

CiCe had already established an extensive programme of publications in Phase 2, and much of this was continued and extended over Phase 3. Thus the *Newsletter* continued to be published every two months, and by number 65 (in July 2007) was able to start to include news items 'From 10 years Ago, which initially reprinted items about the early stages of planning the Network. Another regular publication was the *Annual Conference* publication. The last printed version of this appeared in 2005 (Ljubljana), and ran to over 600 pages: this was increasingly cumbersome and expensive to produce, so from the 2006 Riga conference onwards the Conference Proceedings were published in disc format, but with a booklet of synopses, to make access easier, which was bound in a bookshelf style publication to match the earlier print volumes. We also began to put all the conference papers on-line.

The series of books published by Trentham Press was brought to a conclusion over this phase, with the publication of the final three volumes. *Growing Up in Europe Today: developing identities among adolescents* was edited by Marta Fülöp and Alistair Ross, published in 2005; *History Teaching, Identities, Citizenship* (2007) was a collection of significant papers edited by Luigi Cajani, and the final volume, *A European Education* (2008), was a single-authored volume by Alistair Ross.

The major publication initiative of the period was the launch of the Association's own Journal, *Citizenship Teaching and Learning*. The strategy was to link with the CitizED network, a UK-based global network of Citizenship Teacher Educators, with whom we had a joint member in Ian Davies at the University of York. He was already editing their magazine, and suggested that we join forces to publish an academic journal, called *Citizenship Teaching and Learning*, published under the aegis (and logos) of both organisations, with an editorial board drawn from both groups.

The first few issues were produced in house by CiCe, and distributed to the Association members and the CitizED group. But Ian Davies was from the outset seeking a commercial journal publisher to take on the venture, and found Intellect Publishers, a Bristol (UK) based independent academic publisher that published over a hundred journals in the fields of creative practice and popular culture, together with scholarly books. Their aim, 'to provide a vital space for widening critical debate in new and emerging subjects', seemed to closely match our needs.

The Regional Networks

Beata Kryzywosz-Rynkiewicz was the Executive Committee member charged with supporting the National Coordinators, and over the three year period she got them to group together to hold a series of regional CiCe conferences. We hoped that by having rather more local events, more people might be able to attend than could make the annual main conference. We found no comprehensive regional organisation seemed to work, so decided to simply divide the continent up into five groups, this being the number of conferences we thought possible to support.

We thus held an 'Iberian' conference in Lisbon, that included some people from southern France and Italy; a Nordic conference in Malmo (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland); a 'Mediterranean' conference in Patras (that also brought in some other Italians, as well as Turkish, Cypriot and Bulgarian members); a Visegrad conference for central Europe (Slovenia and Romania, some Germans, as well as the four Visegrad nations) in Presov; and finally a 'North Sea' conference, that attracted the Irish, the UK, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Northern France.

Changes in Thematic Network arrangements

As CiCe3 moved towards a conclusion, the planning for new CiCe4 occupied much of our time. There were to be a number of significant changes. From the European Commission's viewpoint, Thematic Networks were replaced with two new Network Groups – Administrative Networks, for particular university administrative functions, and Academic Networks, that corresponded to the disciplines: so we became one of the latter. More significantly, Peter Cunningham was now ready to take over the Coordinator functions of the Network, and had become well acquainted with the workings of the Commission: his new role had been announced to the Network members at the Montpellier conference in 2007. He took over the Coordinator role from September 2008, though Alistair Ross saw out the final reporting arrangements for CiCe3 over that autumn. He was joined in the leadership of the Network and Association by the new CiCe President, Christine Roland-Levy.

She was joined by a newly elected Executive Committee, which was announced to the membership at the May 2008 conference in Istanbul, which was the effective winding up of CiCe3. Christine was joined by President-elect Julia Spinthourakis, Research and Publications Officer Marta Fülöp, and committee members Nanny Hartsmar, Riitta Korhonen and Beata Kryzywosz-Rynkiewicz. The two new roles of Treasurer and Secretary were proposed to be filled by Ann-Marie van den dries and Susana Goncalves, respectively, and this was agreed by the Annual General Meeting in 2008.

The Istanbul conference was thus a significant one in the history of the organisation, marking a real transition in our management. The conference was also had a particular historical significance, in that it opened on the exact 555th anniversary of the fall of Constantinople and the establishment of Istanbul. The stage was set for CiCe4, which was due to start work, in the traditional manner, with a Seminar meeting in October, to be held in Oradea, Romania.

The full proposal for CiCe4 had been planned at the Montpellier conference a year earlier, with activities designed to closely map the Commission's new objectives for the Life Long Learning Erasmus programme, including supporting the development of the European Higher Education Area and the priorities of what was known as the *Knowledge Triangle of education, research and innovation*. The full proposal was our biggest ever: a 209-page document for a Network programme that brought together 93 institutions from 30 countries. This was submitted at the end of February 2008, and – unusually – approved by the Commission as early as July of that year. The stage was set.

References

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