



civitas international programs

OVERVIEW

The Center for Civic Education's Civitas International Programs respond to the challenges of democratization in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Collaboration with a worldwide network of individuals, civil society organizations, education institutions, and governmental agencies permits the Center to offer activities and programs to improve civic education through student-centered civic education curricula and teacher training.

One such curriculum is Project Citizen, a program for youth and adults that develops support for democratic values and principles, tolerance, and feelings of political efficacy. The program helps participants learn how to monitor and influence public policy. The Foundations of Democracy Series for students from kindergarten through twelfth grade focuses on four fundamental concepts: Authority, Privacy, Responsibility, and Justice. Project Citizen and Foundations of Democracy have been translated into dozens of languages and implemented in more than 65 countries.

Many countries in the Civitas network partner with U.S. institutions through the Civitas International Civic Education Exchange Program. These partnerships identify the civic education needs of each participating U.S. state and international site and develop programs to address those needs.

International and U.S. civic educators shared ideas and best practices at the 11th World Congress on Civic Education in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in May 2007. In July 2007, more than 300 students, teachers, and Civitas program directors from 31 countries or territories participated in the first International Project Citizen Showcase held in Washington, D.C.

GOALS OF THE CIVITAS INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Assist international educators in creating, adapting, implementing, and institutionalizing effective civic education programs in their countries
- Acquaint international educators with exemplary curricular materials and teacher training programs in civic education developed in the United States and other participating nations
- > Create and implement civic education programs for students in the United States that will help them better understand the history and experiences of emerging and established democracies
- Facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences in civic education among educational, governmental, and private-sector leaders in the United States and other countries
- > Encourage independent research and evaluation to determine the effects of civic education on the knowledge, skills, and character traits essential for the preservation and improvement of constitutional democracy

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The Center for Civic Education is fortunate to collaborate with a number of institutions whose expertise and experience contribute to the success of Center activities. Among these institutions are the

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC EDUCATION NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL STUDIES AND STATE AFFILIATES NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES







civitas international network

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