

# COMPETENCES FOR A DEMOCRATIC CULTURE

In 2014, a group of Council of Europe experts, implementing a decision of the 2013 Standing Conference of Ministers of Education of the Member States, looked for ways in which Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE) as presented in the Council of Europe's educational tools, could constitute a new educational model to be used by all Member States, regardless of their educational systems.

In 2016, after exploring various tools and relevant literature, in 2016, the team created a model divided into four categories, calling it "the Butterfly". The working hypothesis was that if students were offered knowledge and experience in the 20 Competences of Democratic Culture, which form the components of in the Butterfly, they would have the potential to become active, participatory democratic citizens, promoting democratic culture. That same year, the Butterfly educational model was unanimously accepted by the Standing Conference of Ministers of Education.

The Competences for Democratic Culture (CDC) are divided into Values, Attitudes, Skills as well as Knowledge and Critical Understanding. Values include competences necessary to the common understanding of democracy in its full dimensions. Knowledge and Critical Understanding contains the information and elements necessary for understanding oneself and communicating with the world. Skills include the abilities necessary to understand in depth, activate and critically use the knowledge acquired, applying it in our everyday lives. Finally, Attitudes describe the competences that help us to move from individualistic thinking to the formation of active democratic political personalities. Each of these Competences is followed by behavioral indicators. The 135 core and 447 general indicators describe the expected outcomes of using this model in education.

Competences are not all used together. In any educational initiative, it is good for the Teachers' Association to create a process of research and assessment of the specific educational needs at all levels of the school's community (society, school, lesson, class, student population, etc.) and then select the competences to work on for a shorter or longer period of time. By adding selected behavioral indicators for each competency, teachers can construct a "working butterfly" that meets the needs, wishes, and capabilities of the particular school, with up to two competences in each category.

(Detailed presentation of the Competences for Democratic Culture Model in the "Competences Reference Framework for Democratic Culture", Volume 1 on Competences and Volume 2 on Indicators, 2008, Council of Europe Publication, ISBN 978-92-871-8573-0).



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## Model of competences for democratic culture

