

Welcome to edition number 2 of **CeeZine**, the quarterly newsletter for members of the Advisory Group to the **BRIDGE Civic Education Development Project (CEDP)**. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep you all informed about current planning, developments, issues and ideas.

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1. Writers' Meeting

CEDP writers had a warm welcome into Melbourne for the writers' meeting in January – from both the project team, and the weather! The Australian summer was truly heating up as writers came in from the Solomon Islands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Canada, Sweden and even Canberra, to meet each other and get right into the task of writing the pilot module. With temperatures approaching 40 outside, there were equally hot ideas being thought up inside.

The writers – Penny Bradford from New Zealand/Vanuatu, Beatrice Barnett from Australia, Ian Smith from Canada, Jean Llorin from the Philippines, Tina Harihiru from the Solomon Islands, and Peter Northcote and Helena Catt from New Zealand – tackled questions and concerns about the proposed curriculum with intelligence and passion, and came out of the meeting with a strong structure and guidelines for the writing task, and the module itself. The project team of Yvonne, Melanie and Cate, with the fantastic input of editor Therese Laanela, was very happy with what came out of the meeting.

Key outcomes were the design of the module structure (how it should be delivered), as well as the content structure (what will be delivered) and a wealth of creative ideas for activities. At the end of the meeting writers were able to look at the structure they had created, and decide who would address which parts of it in the writing task to come.

The group also addressed other issues:

- ✦ The proposed **audience** for the CEDP: the curriculum was defined as 'professional development' for people who worked, volunteered, were involved or were just interested in areas of governance and democracy. Possible target groups were civil society organisations, community groups and politicians.
- ✦ **Facilitators** for the CEDP: the curriculum will be written for facilitators with the understanding that they come to the CEDP with appropriate training experience. This was decided to give the curriculum accessibility in that potential facilitators would not necessarily have to go through a



formal accreditation process to deliver the material, but also quality assurance, in that facilitators would need to prove they had the skills to deliver adult learning methodology.

The team was only missing a few key people who unfortunately weren't able to make it – writer Marjorie Walla from Kenya, currently working for IFES Malawi, Noel Matthews from Ireland/Cambodia who is the curriculum expert, and Nicolas Garrigue from France who will be addressing the evaluation of the project. However, they will all still play a valuable part in the writing process.

2. 'Democracy in Our Place' - what the pilot module looks like

One of the key outcomes of the writers' meeting was the development of a draft content structure and working terminology of the pilot module. From this, a prototype curriculum structure has been developed by the project team for use in the trial, and will be reassessed during and after.

The prototype structure consists of:

Module ⇨ Content Area ⇨ Topic/Subtopic ⇨ Activity

Module:

The module for delivery in the trial workshop will be called 'Democracy in Our Place' and is intended to be a foundation module for the CEDP, focusing on democratic principles.

Content Areas:

The module is split into six 'Content Areas'. The first and last relate to implementation issues of contextualisation and evaluation, while the other four are focused on the workshop content itself. All six Content Areas would have to be addressed in any workshop, but of course the context of the workshop would dictate how each one would be approached.

- ✦ **Content Area 1: Context and Invitation.** This Content Area is addressed from the first stages of implementation, right up to activities on the first days of the workshop itself. It ensures that any workshop delivered from the module is appropriate to the audience, its needs and its expectations.
- ✦ **Content Area 2: What is democracy?** This Content Area addresses the principles, values and concepts of democracy, and is in essence the theoretical part of the module.
- ✦ **Content Area 3: Democracy – the lessons learned.** This Content Area looks at how the principles, values and concepts of democracy have worked (or not worked) in practical terms, addressing what lessons have been learned from how democracy has been applied in local, national and global examples.
- ✦ **Content Area 4: What does democracy look like?** This Content Area looks at how democracy *could* be put into practice, the elements and systems for application.
- ✦ **Content Area 5: Living democracy – I will, we can.** This Content Area is about applying democracy to the personal or organisational context of the participants themselves. It involves action planning and applies the concepts explored earlier to personal circumstance.
- ✦ **Content Area 6: Post Workshop Assessment and Review.** This Content Area is not in itself part of the workshop delivery (although there would be elements of monitoring during the workshop involved) but is about returning to the expectations, reviewing and evaluating.

Topics and Subtopics

Each Content Area is split further into Topics (and in some cases Subtopics), which each cover a key concept in this foundation module. Each Topic has a Topic Goal, which is a description of the concepts and ideas to be explored within the Topic. An example from Content Area 2 is:

Topic 2.2: History and Philosophy of Democracy



Topic Goal: *To explore different concepts and ideas that have described democracy in the past and that describe democracy in the present.*

Activities

Each Topic is addressed by a number of Activities. The Activities each focus on different aspects of the broader Topic. Customisers are provided with descriptions of both the conceptual objective of the Activity and what the facilitators and participants will actually do in the Activity to achieve this objective.

The variety of Activities available for each Topic should allow a customiser to select and contextualise so that the Topic is addressed in a way that is most useful for the audience. This might mean that some Topics are just briefly covered in a condensed Activity, and others might be looked at more in-depth through several Activities.

Writers are writing the activities for each of the first five Content Areas, with the aim of having a pool of generic activities that can be drawn from and contextualised for specific audiences.

3. Meeting stakeholders in Vanuatu

In February 2009, Yvonne Goudie visited Port Vila, Vanuatu, on a scoping/relationship-building mission for the CEDP.

The purpose of the visit was:

- ⊕ to meet with key stakeholders of adult sector civic education
- ⊕ to assess the provision of existing civic education/governance projects (conducted mostly by NGOs),
- ⊕ to determine where the CEDP trial workshop would be best targeted, and
- ⊕ to liaise with potential partners/implementers.

Yvonne went with an open mind about who may be interested in the project, what sort of informal working/cooperative arrangements we would have with any collaborating organisations, and whether a pilot workshop is indeed appropriate for the Vanuatu context this year.

Organisations she met with included Transparency International, UNIFEM, Vanuatu Cultural Centre, Vanuatu Council of Churches, Wan Smol Bag, Foundations of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI), Vanuatu Electoral Office, Vanuatu National Council of Women (VNCW), Pacific Institute of Public Policy (PIPP), Youth Challenge Vanuatu and various independent contacts.

Discussions were very positive, and all individuals were receptive to the idea of the CEDP being piloted in Vanuatu – and all offered to cooperate in the trial.

4. Upcoming events: Planning meeting

Now that stakeholder relationships have been strengthened, and there is a clear mandate for running the trial workshop, a planning meeting is scheduled for mid-March to really get down to contextualising the material that has been written for the Vanuatu audience.

Yvonne and Melanie will travel to Port Vila this month to consult with local stakeholders on the delivery of the trial workshop and to establish a customisation and facilitation team using local capacity. Customisation of the pilot module for the Vanuatu context will commence in earnest. Also attending this planning meeting will be the evaluation consultant, Nicolas Garrigue, and the curriculum editors, Noel Matthews and Therese Laanela.



5. Upcoming events: Trial workshop

Once a customised workshop is developed in March, the next step will be to plan the workshop delivery. At the moment the trial workshop is scheduled for mid-May, and following Yvonne's consultation at the scoping/relationship-building mission, we are considering running two consecutive workshops. We have suggested the concept of delivering two slightly different versions of the workshop, for two different audiences, so that our trial can assess the appropriateness of the material for both audiences, and so that the various beneficiaries in Vanuatu derive the greatest benefit from this trial, which, due to its 'trial/pilot' nature, is not part of a broader capacity building program.

One workshop would be targeted at a grassroots level on issues relating to women and democracy and governance. This could be held in a provincial area depending on the exact target audience that is selected. A second 'showcase' workshop is recommended which targeted individuals who have a decision-making or other influential role in their community, or who are working at an organisational level (e.g. for a CSO) in issues relating to women and democracy and governance. This workshop would be held in Port Vila and would serve as an informational and strategic relationship-building workshop.

The CEDP team propose to implement the trial Democracy workshop/s with the on-the-ground assistance of an organisation which has a stake in civic education of this nature in Vanuatu. It has been suggested that UNIFEM act as the main organisation for these purposes, because the organisation expressed an interest in collaborating in this project and they are well placed to perform this role. We envisage that UNIFEM Vanuatu would assist the CEDP team by selecting appropriate participants and facilitators and liaising with the CEDP team in regard to the on-the-ground logistical arrangements for the March meeting and the May trial workshop.

After the March Planning meeting we will be in a better position to identify the feasibility of conducting these two workshops, and will have identified the target audience (and location) for the May trial.

6. First draft of curriculum materials in!

Our brilliant writing team has exceeded all expectations in delivering some high quality lesson plans covering all the Content Areas and Topics of the curriculum. A great range of learning styles, methods and content has been contributed and we are impressed at the rich variety that we have from just this first phase of writing. We will be taking these draft lesson plans to the Planning Meeting in Port Vila this month to be drawn from in preparation for the Trial Workshop.

You can see samples of the lesson plans at the BRIDGE website. Go to the following link and take a look at the great work done so far.

http://bridge-project.org/index.php?option=com_vfm&Itemid=620&dir=CEDP+-+WEB+SAMPLES

