BRYONY HOSKINS (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON, UNITED KINGDOM):
WHAT DOES DEMOCRACY NEED FROM ITS CITIZENS? INITIATING A DEBATE ON THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR MEASURING CIVIC COMPETENCE.

In the context of the development of a new study by the IEA on citizenship, this paper will develop a conceptual framework for measuring civic competence. The paper will seek to initiate a debate on the qualities of civic competence that are relevant today by raising the question concerning the needs of democracy from its citizens. The paper will reflect on the different processes that could be used to answer this question including a research and a participatory approach. A proposal is put forward for the participatory approach and could offer ideas on new forms of participation and use of social media.

The research approach is then explored in more detail. The question of the need of democracy from its’ citizens is addressed using the three major models of citizenship; liberal, civic republican and critical/cosmopolitan citizenship. The qualities of civic competence that each model implies are outlined and discussed and then a comparison is then made between the existing measures within the IEA ICCS instrument. Gaps are then identified.

The conclusion is then discussed in the context of the necessity to compromise between renewal and relevance of the conceptual framework and the need to maintain measures in order to be able to follow trends across time.