

## In medias res

### Communication with teenagers

*“The future belongs to those that believe in the beauty of their dreams”  
Eleanor Roosevelt*

Truly, life is just like a dream. Its beauty is future and children.

Children's lives are focused on the family and on the environment they live in. Child development depends on the care and attention they get from the family members. Children develop physically and emotionally by looking at the actions of the other people around and by being part of the house. While growing up he/she begins to understand the language, therefore creates its own opinions and feelings.

By growing up children build networks with people of different ages. So they learn to communicate with different people. They express the need for such relationships because this is how they develop emotionally and intellectually.

Teenagers are the most sensitive group of the society. A great concern for them is also the need for privacy and independence.

Very often adults make mistakes by looking at the children of this age as very young and not able to understand what's up with them, between them and to communicate their opinions and feelings.

Many adults suppose that teenagers are not conscious of the concerns of other people, and are not affected by the risks and bad experiences, therefore they don't go through things. Many teenagers are left out without being given explanations regarding the existence of the darkness and violence!!!

While children grow up, we expect them to get skills, communicate, solve problems and complete their school obligations. However, for some teenagers, such development is stopped. If teenagers don't have the help and support they can be left behind and achieve less than others. They can lack social and educational experiences. They can have learning difficulties and don't make friends easily. So, for all teenagers, the presence of at least one family member that secures permanent custody and guardianship of the child is essential. This is very important for the teenagers that have communication difficulties with people that they can socialize and leave.

Adults should change their behavior when talking to teenagers in order to help them relax and shall not communicate with them by using authoritative and rigid behavior. Adults should use a special voice tone which is soft, quiet and melodic and shows that adults are close to the children and help them feel safe.

So with more love, support, care and understanding we make children happier.

*Written by: Ardita Kabashi-Hima*

## Descriptions of the activities based on the programs

### **Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking**

■ As a part of the RWCT program, the sixth seminar was held in “Xhevdet Doda”, Prishtina, on 14-15 April. Teachers were very active during the training and have clearly expressed the importance of the program in their classes. Lastly participants were notified that their monitoring will be done during the month of May.

### **EAC**

#### **(Education against corruption)**

■ On 7-9 April 2007 the Education against corruption training was conducted in Prizren. The training was attended by 33 teachers of different levels. It is very important to emphasize that this is the larger group of teachers trained as a part of this project. Teachers’ monitoring in classes in implementing the idea against corruption in order to evaluate their performance was done successfully during the month of April and will continue in May. Teacher certification in Prizren will be done on 17 May 2007.

■ On 14, 21-22 April 2007, the EAC training was held in Gjilan. 45 teachers from different schools of the Gjilan region participated. The monitoring of teachers is in process and they will be certified on 17 of May.

### **Education, establishment and monitoring of the structures that fight corruption**

■ On 4-5 April 2007 a training on “Education, establishment and

monitoring of the structures that fight corruption” was conducted. The training was attended by representative of the municipal assembly of Mitrovica, ED representatives, NGO’s and businesses and media. Participants were very satisfied with the presentations of the training. The certification of the participants was done on the 10 April 2007.

■ The training in Suhareka was conducted on 18-19 April 2007. The selection of the participants was facilitated by CEO of the municipality of Suhareka and the Director for the education office in Suhareka. The training was very cooperative and primary and secondary school directors from the municipality of Suhareka took part. The participant certification was done on the May 3, 2007.

### **Transparency, ethics and anti-corruption measures in education**

■ KEC in cooperation with Education Support Program (ESP) in Budapest organized a seminar in Ohrid on 25-27 of April 2007 named: “Transparency, ethics and anti-corruption measures in education”. The training was attended by MEST, MEF, UP and NGO representatives that work on prevention and fighting of the corruption. The seminar was facilitated by UNESCO representatives in Paris Mr. Jacques Hallak, Mrs. Muriel Poisson, and Mrs. Elmina Kazimzade, sociologist from Azerbaijan. The project was financed by ESP in Budapest. Participants were very active and teachers evaluated the seminar in Kosovo as one of the 5 best seminars organized in other countries. The seminar was followed by 28 participants who were certified for participation.



## Child Rights Education

■ Non public “Third Millennium School” consecrated the month of April as the month of “Rights and children responsibilities”. Therefore, the program “Child Rights Education” was introduced to the third grade students in order to raise awareness in them to rights and responsibilities in the environment they live in.

■ Three reports were prepared as a part of the “Prejudices and Stereotypes in school textbooks”

The three reports are on:

1. Report on studying the gender prejudices and stereotypes of the primary and secondary students
2. Report on teacher’s attitude towards gender sensitivity in textbooks
3. The analysis of the textbooks from the gender sensitivity aspects in the primary and secondary education.

All these reports were sent to the donor and now we are expecting them to be published by the donors. As a part of the project, a Regional Conference will be organized in Montenegro which will be held on 12-13 May 2007 where different works will be presented in cooperation with Regional organizations.

## “Multicultural and multiethnic education“

■ As a part of the “Multicultural and Multiethnic Education” the training of trainers has started in Gjakova where the first module was conducted on 19-20 April, and by the end of May 2 more modules will be developed, respectively 7 training days and their certification. The training manual is going to be ready soon and will be given to the trainers.



## Step by Step

■ From 17 April as a part of the Step by Step project the training on “Increase of the quality in early childhood education” was organized. Participants of the training were program monitors who monitor SBS methodology based on ISSA standards on preschool and primary education. 20 participants attended the training; trainers were Tatjana Vonta from Slovenia and Sanja Haxhar from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The training has two other parts that will be implemented during May and September.

## Civil society for increased participation in education

■ Kosova Education Center (KEC) in cooperation with Union of Education,

Science, and Culture ( SBASHK) and Kosovar Society for Children Rights (KAHCR), International Step by Step Organization (ISSA) have started the implementation of the project "Civil society for increased participation in education" financed by European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR).

This project aims at building networks between local NGO's in the field of education in order to improve the effectiveness of the activities on child rights and social justice. The objective of the network is focused on increasing the participation in education. This will be done by empowering the capacities of the local NGO's, KEC, SBASH and KAHCR to get involved in strengthening the cooperation with parents, schools, local and central authorities. Different activities are planned to contribute to this aim by including study visits, specific training for management and policy drafting, developing and organizing training programs for members of the partner organizations and others.

- The first activity was conducted on 10 April financed by European Agency for Reconstruction "Civil Society for Increased Participation in Education". The first activity of the project was a study visit in Hungary. The visit lasted 5 days and 17 participants took part from three partner organizations: KEC, SBASHK and KAHCR. The host was the other partner organization from Hungary ISSA.

The first day of the visit was used for introduction of the 4 partner organizations, exchange of the experiences, visions and plans for the future. At the end of the first day a short presentation on Advocacy was given by a representative from the Civil Society Development Fund. During this visit 2 trainings were conducted on Change Management. The training was done by Partners Hungary Foundation with trainers Tibor Kertesz and Eva Deak. A meeting was held with representatives of

the Local Government & Public Service Reform.



The first meeting of the Steering Committee was organized with the presence of the 4 organizations. The representative of the MEST was absent since they did not take part in the visit. Different planned activities for the first six months of the project were discussed during the meeting. Participants were very satisfied with this study visit.



- On 4-6 May training will be conducted on Organization and Developmental Change. The training will be held by KEC with trainers Xhavit Rexhaj and Osman Buleshkaj.

## **Education on social justice**

- As a part of the Education on Social Justice the training was conducted in the

Prizren region. The training was attended by teachers of the primary and secondary school, Education office employees and NGO representatives. Promotion of the human diversity as a value, fighting the stereotypes and prejudices, understanding of the pressure and domination system are some of the objectives of this training.



This training program was designed by experts from US and Europe and was transmitted to participants by local trainers and was welcomed by everyone. The group consisted of different ethnic groups in the Prizren region. Two trainings will be organized in Ferizaj and Peja during the month of May.

## **XI Meeting of the KEC Board of Directors**

The meeting of the Kosova Education Center Board of Directors was held on 19 April. The board has approved the Annual Work Report for the year 2006 and Work Plan for year 2007. The board members expressed their satisfaction with KEC activity during the year and gave direct suggestions for new activities in increasing the quality in the future. The chosen board director is Bajram Shatri, director of the Publishing House "School Textbook ". The board of

directors thanked the previous chair of the board Luan Shllaku that served for 7 years and also was looking forward to his contribution as a member of the governance in KEC.

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