

In medias res

At Last, Kosovo is moving forward!

*“The care for the humans, happiness and its maintenance, is the first and the only objective of the good governance”
Th. Jefferson, 1743 -1826, Third USA President*

Kosovo is in a great historical crossroad at the moment. The work done today determines the future of the new generations. The foundation should be set today, in which the lives, wealth, welfare and happiness of our children will be built. In order to settle down a solid and sustainable basis, we need to have an efficient and effective governance, where there is a rule of law, where justice and equality are intact, where “...*nobody is above law and nobody is below law*”, as T. Roosevelt said, where the children rights are respected and each Kosovar child has the possibility to develop without any limits being set.

It is very clear that this task is not very easy. It is a challenge, which we have to face, if we plan to stay away from the edge of the abyss.

It is very hard to make such a change with a rational strategy in this global and postmodern time. We should find a balance between our aspiration and implementation in the present conditions and environment. We say this because we should understand that, no matter of our will to do something better, we will not be able to do it because it does not depend on us, there are other external factors. Our wish is to prevent violence, human being trafficking with a special emphasize on children, fighting xenophobia, extreme nationalism, ethnocentrism, racism and homicides. It all depends on how much these occurrences are fought in neighbor countries, and in the world in general.

Solving of such problems requires the fulfillment of two elementary conditions:

- Think globally – see from the bird perspective, and act locally, and
- Cooperate; create alliances, powerful learning and action consortiums, bridges and powerful social networks to prevent the general risk that we are fearing.

During the last months, we saw a promising movement emerge, which aimed a new, proactive and preventive approach. Kosovo is drafting a National Development Plan. In the same time a National Plan on Human Rights is being drafted. MASHT is intensively and with a very serious approach working on drafting the Pre-university Education Strategy for the period 2007–2017. A very successful Strategy conference was held in November.

The National Strategy on Children Rights Advancement was drafted these last days. A regional conference will be held on 1st and 2nd of December regarding this strategy. All these complementary documents show that Kosovo is moving forward.

Written by: Halim Hyseni

Description of the activities based on the programs

Child Rights Education

■ On October 30th, KEC's respectively "Child Rights Project" in cooperation with the non-public school "Third Millennium" organized a "Mask Ball" for the Halloween Night.

The party was organized in the school restaurant where the children had the chance to dance and play. They also elected the best mask, the scariest mask and the most beautiful costume of the night.

■ On November 20th 2006, in honor of Children Rights Convention Day, "Third Millennium" school organized a literature class. The children had the chance to show their many of their artistic talents in front of parents through illustrating essays, writing poetry and entertaining their auditors with a chorus and music playing. The essays subjects are:



"How can a human become a human?" and "The life of an impoverished child". Pictures drawn by the school illustrated the essays. The pictures were rewarded too.

■ As a part of the "Child Rights Project", a one day training was organized on November 24th in cooperation with Aba Ceeli. The participants were REO representatives, school principals, Civic Education and Child Rights teachers. The workshop also promoted the new books on Child Right: 1. Manual for School Committees on Children Rights"; 2. "We are flowers, we are birds", a book, which consist of poetries written by different schoolchildren of Kosovo. The poetries are written in several languages and 3. "We cannot vote but we have rights..." a book which helps Civic Education teachers on conducting their classes.



■ The preparation for the Regional Conference are almost complete. The conference will be held on 01st-02nd December 2006 and will gather around 120 participants.

Anticorruption in Education -

■ On October 14-15, KEC's respectively "Anticorruption in Education" program has certified 203 participants that attended the trainings organized from the project.

The participants were monitored in their teaching classes. On this occasion the project has certified 29 trainers.



- The book “Education against corruption” was also published as a part of the project. The book was delivered to the participants on the occasion of the certification. A book was published, gathering lessons plans on this subject made by teachers from Kosovo .

- The Anticorruption Week was implemented in 7 centers of Kosovo from 20-27 November. During this week different activities were organized such as: exhibitions of arts and literature, round tables, different discussions, participation in Radio shows, research of the public opinion and other activities. The children expressed their opinions against corruption through literature and art. At the end of the activities at least 10-20 students were rewarded for the quality of their work. A poster stating: “Education, the most efficient strategy on preventing the corruption” was prepared.

Writing and Reading for Critical Thinking – WRCT

- On 4-5 November and 25-26 November 2 seminars were organized as a part of the WRCT program for 25 groups to be trained in cooperation with MEST.

For the second time, the monitoring for participants was done in their classes.

- In the village of Irzniq in Deçan, the fifth and sixth training was completed as a part of the WRCT program. The last training will be held on 1st and 2nd of December.

- The primary school “Hasan Prishtina”, in Prishtina, has finished the second training of the 40 teachers, as a part of the WRCT project, on 18 and 19 of November. The training was self-financed. In the same time on 18 and 19 October the first training was done on WRCT, which was financed, by KEC.

SEE ECN

On 17-18 October 2006, a seminar on “Empowerment of the teachers and its practices in learning and teaching in Southeastern Europe” was organized in Sarajevo. KEC representatives also took part in the seminar. A research book was distributed during the training; KEC also participated to the research team. For more information please visit the website:

<http://www.see-educoop.net/portal/teseen.htm>

Step by Step

- On 1-3 November, the advanced training was concluded for the first classes. About 25 teachers took part in the training.
- The advanced training for the grade 3-6 was completed on 6-10 November. The training was attended by about 42 participants.
- On 10-12 and 18-19 November, the “Step by Step” project held a basic training. The training organized was very successful and had a great number of participants.
- On 17-19 and 25-26 November, the basic training for the first grade was conducted in Gjakova, 30 participants took place in the training. The teachers were very satisfied with the training and its role in improving the quality of education.
- The monitoring is completed for all the trainings held from September-November. The monitoring process showed that the teachers are using the knowledge gained from the training in their daily work.

New teaching and learning strategies

- Different planned activities took place during this month. 3 seminars were organized for 10 groups and will be financed by the World Bank. For the second time, the teachers were monitored while teaching.

Education Participation Improvement Project (EPIP)

On October 30 the “Education Participation Improvement Project” ended. The Project was financed by the World Bank and the Canadian Agency for International Development (CIDA). The KEC role was to give a technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. KFOS also was a co-financer of this component.

From the year 2003-2006, 500 primary schools have benefited from the project, the schools got a financial assistance of 5,000 – 15,000 EUR in form of grants for implementing projects that improve participation in education. The grants were distributed in 6 rounds, where some schools benefited twice. The projects were based on the different school needs such as: infrastructure improvement, equipment and teaching aid, transportation, and teacher training, etc. The schools also prepared, as a part of the EPIP project, 3-years developmental plans on assigning the school priorities.

The process has significantly increased the knowledge and skills on school planning and democratization of the decision making process in schools and municipalities.

Prepared by: Petrit Tahiri