

## In medias res

### Teachers in function of development of human and social capital

*“In order for the teacher to educate, he should be educated himself”*

Teachers have been and still are the pillar of progress, emancipation, state creation and establishers of more humanly developed countries. On the other side, educational institutions, kindergartens, pre-school centers, primary and secondary school, faculties, colleges and all other institutions of a country should serve as a basis for human development. In country where rule of law functions, people feel happy and valuable, no matter of their appearance, intelligence, language they speak, their faith, gender or age and he country offers them an educational system which is in function of maximum development of human and social capital. *Development of human and social capital depends on the efficiency and effectiveness of the education system. On the other side, the main determinants for effectiveness and efficiency of the education system based on the all meta-analytic studies are teachers, professors, and educators. Therefore, it is not surprising that from the ancient times, teachers have been considered a pillar of the nation.*

Teaching as an organized human process is art and science. If teaching is not that, it will not impact human development. Human development means development of potentials, abilities and human skills that are job, economy and production related (education is not only considered but is the most propulsive economic category); while social capital consist of processes that are related to social network creation, ethic codes, norms and human values between the individual and society. In order to accomplish a complex teaching a teacher should have professional skills (subject, field knowledge) and teaching skills. Professional development of the teachers should contain 2 elements: a very good knowledge of the science he teaches, and the knowledge and successful implementation of the new teaching methodologies so that the psychological, science and didactic preparation of the lesson would make students respond during the lessons, or have **an intellectual resonances**, or **“AHA experiences”** (A. Laj). Only if these two aspects are present at the teacher he has an “inner strength” (stability, skills, faith, creativity and sustainability) that can lead to a maximum development of the human and social capital.

Kosova Education Center until now has been committed in the development of the new **teaching methodologies** for the teachers. Based on its development perspective, KEC will be focused on these components, because teachers of Kosova will perform their duties as teachers/ educators.

*Written by: Halim Hyseni*

## Description of the activities based on the programs

### Child Rights Education

■ Month of October was filled with activities in the field of child rights. The draft of the National Strategy is getting prepared and is almost completed, which will be presented in the Regional Conference held on December 1-2, 2006.

■ Primary schools of Kosova are working in their annual plans in order to prepare their activity action plans that will be implemented as a part of the Child Rights school committees.

In cooperation with Abba-Ceeli, K.E.C, respectively "Child rights education" project, on 25. 10.2006 have organized a visit of the primary schools of Municipality of Dragash in the Municipal Court building. The aim of the visit was to children introduction to the law and the juvenile code, measures and underage penalties in case of law violation. Regional Education Officials were also present from the Dragash and Prizren municipality.

■ Based on the school committee establishment plan, the project has formed a School Committee for the non-public school "Third Millennium". The committee consists of 19 students of this school, which will work on development of the child rights activities.

■ On the occasion of Bajram, the students of the non-public school "Third Millennium", in cooperation with "Child Rights Education" project, have organized a humanitarian action – preparing the food and basic hygiene packages. These packages were sent to the families that are under social assistance in Skenderaj, which live in a

collective building with very bad living conditions.



### Governance and Leadership in Education

■ On 28/29 of October, KEC organized the training of the trainers- part two. The training was attended by the third generation of the Administration and Management in Education project. The training lasted two days; the objective was preparing the participants with knowledge and techniques in the field of adult education, specifically in preparing training modules.

The third phase that also consists of the last part of the training of the trainers, where the monitoring of the participants will be done in their working places. The monitoring will be done for the participants that are part of the Administration and Management in school, whereas the other part of the participants will do a presentation in front of the assigned commission from KEC.

The participants that fulfill the assigned criteria's will get certified, and will become trainers on the School Administration and Management.

## **ACCESS Micro scholarship Project**

The US Office in Prishtina in partnership with Kosova Education Center, as of October started implementation of the ACCESS Micro scholarship project in Kosova, a project that teaches English language to pupils.

About 60 secondary school students are part of the project from three regions of Kosova: Prishtina, Prizren and Fushe Kosova.

The lessons will be organized twice a week by native speakers, where except English lessons, the students have the possibility to gain knowledge, socialize and exchange experiences with students of different nationalities that live in Kosova.

The project offers cultural and recreational activities, and organized visit to different parts of Kosovo. Students that complete the two-year project of the English language classes will improve their language skills by the end of high school education.

They will also gain new skills and knowledge on educational system and American culture. The project ACCESS Micro scholarship will last two years.

## **Education against corruption - EAK**

■ On 6-8 of October the trainings on education against corruption were held in Gjakova and Prishtina. These trainings completed the training cycles for 7 main centers of Kosova, which have started on the month of September. The Education Against Corruption is cooperation between KEC and Balkan Trust for Democracy (BDT) with an objective to

train the teachers on including the idea of the fight against corruption in their teaching curriculum. Until now, as part of the EAC project about 200 teachers are trained and 29 were certified as trainers. Teachers that took part in the trainings were mostly from social sciences, because these subjects have the possibility of including the fight against corruption idea in the teaching lessons.

■ After the training completion, teachers were monitored in their classes to evaluate their knowledge gained during the training. Organizing the monitoring session was a challenge because the teachers had to be monitored during the classes where the possibility of using the idea of the fight against corruption came naturally.

During the month of October, the "Education against Corruption" book was prepared which will be delivered on the occasion of the certification.

■ In 7 centers of Kosova schools and coordinators were selected for the war against corruption week. During the month of October and November the schools will hold a competition on the best work in literature, art and music with the subject "Future of Kosovo without corruption". The independent commissions will evaluate the children work and the most successful students will be awarded.

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

■ During the month of October, WRCT project trainers of 25 groups of teachers have completed the monitoring of the 750 teachers throughout Kosova.

The teacher monitoring was done for the first time in their classes in order to

evaluate the level of adapting the new strategies learnt, and their flexibility of implementing them in the class. Every monitoring was documented with monitoring sheet filled by the trainers during their school visits.

- The monitoring results were discussed during a half-day meeting held on 14 of October in 25 centers of Kosova. The trainers have declared that the teachers involved in the training were very committed on successful implementation of the new techniques and strategies in their classes. They value the teacher's work, but they also gave some suggestions for the difficulties evidenced during the monitoring. Mostly the advice was given on how to organize the class during the three parts by using different techniques. The half-day meeting was a good chance for exchanging the monitoring experiences between the teachers.

- On 21-22 of October the fifth seminar was held on "Learning in cooperation" for the 25 groups involved in the trainings. The training of these groups was a result of the successful cooperation between KEC and MEST. On 4 and 5 of November the 6th seminar was held on "Writing and Reading" in 35 centers of Kosova.

- During the month of October in primary school of Isniq, "Isa Boletini" the fourth seminar was held as a part of the WRCT project for the 30 teachers of this school. This training program is offered due to the cooperation between KEC and Italian KFOR in Peja.

- On 28-29 of October the first seminar was held as a part of WRCT project for 40 teachers of primary school "Hasan Prishtina" based in Prishtina. This training is an imitative of the teachers that will be trained with self-participation. KEC will support their initiative by giving always the books (8 manuals) for every participant for free.

KEC has also approved the high school request "Xhevdet Doda" in Prishtina for training 35 teachers of the school as a part of the WRCT project. The first seminar in Prishtina will start on 18-19 of November, and will end by the end of June next year.

## **Step by Step**

- On 2-5 of October 2006, the training on social rights was held on KEC premises. Two international trainers Peter Repisky from Slovakia and Nancy Jane Smith from USA facilitated the training. The training is the second part following the previous training. 15 participants took part in the training. The third part of this training program will be held on December.

- On 6,7, 8, 14, 15 October the basic pre-school training was held for 30 educators.

- On 20, 21, 22 of October the training for the first class was held where 28 teachers took part. Local trainers completed the training.

- On 27, 28, 29 of October and on 4 and 5 of November the basic training was organized for the first grade. 3 groups from different parts of Kosova (Gjakova, Mitrovica region and Podujeva).

The group from Gjakova held their training in Didactic Center in Gjakova whereas the other groups from Mitrovica and Podujeva held their training in KEC premises. 100 teachers attended the training.

## **Strategy of Pre-university Education**

- As a part of the public discussion of the Draft Strategy of the Pre-University Education 2007 -2017, 7 public discussions were held in different centers of Kosova. In these discussions, participants gave

comments and suggestions, which will be look at by the expert group.



■ On the 10-11 of October, the International Conference of the Pre-University Education will be held in Prishtina. Many international and local experts are expected to take part in the conference.

### **New teaching and learning strategies**

■ During the month of October, KEC in cooperation with Managing Unit of World Bank Office has begun with the training of 300 teachers in 10 places of Kosova: Rahovec, Gjakova, Gjilan, Kamenica, Prizren, Prishtina, Mitrovica, Peja, Suhareka and Ferizaj. This project is short version of the WRCT, which will last 10 days and will cover 6 manuals of the WRCT program. The first two seminars are held on 7-8 October and 14-15 October. The first monitoring of the participants was done in the second part of the month of October. The trainers organized a half-day meeting session to present the results of the monitoring. The third seminar will be held on 4-5 November of 2006.

### **Third Millennium School**

■ On 16 of October 2006, the project week was held for the academic year 2006/2007.

During this week fifth grade students (5-7 grades) were dividing in the groups with different subjects, respectively different topics. The pupils had the choice of selecting the project in which they wish to take part. Also, the project subjects were decided and interrelated with different subjects consisted in one project. The project ended on Friday, where different projects were presented.

*Prepared by: Petrit Tahiri*