

In medias res

Debate Invitation

“We can do no great things; only small things with great love”

Mother Theresa

Kosova Education Center, from its establishment is providing professional help in the field of education and children rights, because it is deeply convinced that we are what we are, from the education and knowledge we have. Practically, from thousands of trainings conducted during these six years period on different levels and subjects of the education, starting from pre-school education to university education, we are certain in the saying of the thinker and Illuminist Helvetius, who declared in his own time that: “*Education made us what we are*”.

The second matter that we have confirmed during our work is the role of today’s commitment on education of the children on child and human rights. During these years, we came to a conclusion that the saying: “*History is a competition between education and catastrophe*” is true. Throughout the implementation of the three year project “*Child Rights Education*”, we are convinced for the matters that we, KEC consider as pedagogical axioms:

First, the future of Kosova is nothing but a competition between child and human rights education and a catastrophe, and

Second, education is the most economical category and the most powerful instrument for Human Development and Human-Social capital.

These understandings have influenced Kosova Education Center to orientate in empowerment of the educators capacities (term educator: people working in the field of education), because we have to deal with another pedagogical axiom “*For the educator to educate he should be educated himself*”.

The third issue, confirmed in the conducted trainings, theoretical and empirical research, debates and discussions held in the education forums, is that the Freud and Zhak Delor quote that “*Child is the father of the human being*” has almost the features of the pedagogical axiom (a truth that needs not to be confirmed).

In this field we are working on a number of small things with great love. We have trained 49 individuals as Child and Human Rights trainers (amongst them: professors, doctors, lawyers, and teachers). We have also trained 1280 teachers as Child Rights Advisors. We have formed 500 school committees for protection of the children rights; we have conducted three child rights conditions researches, and published three child rights books. In the meantime, we are finalizing the drafting of the two complementary documents. We have finished a detailed report on Child Rights conditions, which will be published in Albanian and English language. We are also completing the draft of the Children Strategy of Kosova, which, will be based on the revision of the child rights condition. These documents will be published in the KEC web page. Subsequent to the publishing we will organize an extensive and active debate for these documents, were the participation and contribution of everyone will be more than necessary and welcome.

Halim Hyseni

Description of the activities based on the programs

Child Rights Education

■ The month of September was characterized with some project plan changes. The Regional Conference on Child Rights in Kosova was foreseen to be held on the beginning of the October, but due to some technical issues is postponed for the end of November. All the preparations are under way in order to ensure the successful accomplishment of the Conference.

■ With the start of the new academic year in primary schools of Kosova, the school committees are starting over their activities and preparations on Child Rights for this academic year. In some schools, Child Rights Advisors have started preparing the work plan for protection of the children rights.

■ In cooperation with Abba Ceeli, KEC respectively Child Rights project has jointly worked in publishing three books that will be promoted during the Regional Conference on the Child Rights Strategy for Kosova, which will be held on November.

■ As per of the request of management staff of the SOS Kinderdorf for a to-day training of the educators, KEC will voluntarily contribute to empower the pre-school teachers of this institution in protection and respecting of the child rights.

■ MEST, in cooperation with UNICEF are working on a campaign against violence, the Child Rights advisors trained by Kosova Education Center will also be involved in the campaign.

■ From the beginning of this academic year, Child Rights Education Project will work more with pupils from the "Third Millennium" school. The school committees will be formed, and also the annual activity plan will be prepared. The selection of the school committee members, duties, responsibilities and meeting agendas will be defined from the School Committee and Child Rights Education management staff.

Governance and Leadership in Education

■ On 16th and 17th of September the first training module "Working with adults" was organized for the previous participants of the project who are interested to become trainers. After the completion of the second module the participants can apply for becoming project trainers. Governance and Leadership project is aimed at the school directors and their levels of the education.

Education on Anti- corruption

■ During September, the trainings were conducted throughout the main regions of Kosova. So, the training in Gjilan was held on 15-17 of October, in Prishtina and Prizren on 22-24 of September, whereas in Peja, Mitrovica and Ferizaj the training was held on 29-30 of September and 1st of October. The teachers were trained on incorporating the idea of the fight against



corruption in their own subjects. Teachers that took part in the training mostly came from social sciences, because the lesson units of these subjects offer the space on discussing the negative attitudes in society, and also corruption and its fights. From the evaluation forms done anonymously at the end of the trainings, we can see that the average grade in every training differs from 4.7-4.9, which shows that teachers are satisfied with the training program content, trainers preparation and their training conditions. At the end of the training, the participants were informed that the trainers will monitor them in their classes until the end of October, in order to evaluate the teachers' skills on implementing their knowledge in practice. After the monitoring, the participants will get certified. The training in Gjakova region will be conducted on 6-8 of October 2006.

Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking – WRCT

■ On 9-10 and 23-24 of September the third seminar respectively the fourth seminar was held for 25 groups of teachers that are getting trained on WRCT methodology. The groups training started on January, but due to some technical difficulties they were postponed for later on. As a result of the extraordinary work by KEC and MEST for few months, the trainings continued to take place. At the end of the fourth seminar, participants were informed that the trainers will monitor their performance in the classes during September and October. This will be done in order to evaluate the teacher skills on using the WRCT methodology in their classes.

■ During September in primary school "Isa Boletini" in Isniq, the WRCT training was held for 30 teachers of this school.

This project is in cooperation with KEC and KFOR Office in Peja.

Step by Step

■ On 1, 2 and 3 of September 2006, the training was conducted for the fourth grade, where 45 teachers were present. At the end of the three-day training, participants got certified. The training was organized in cooperation with trainers from Albania. Also, this was the last training for this generation.

■ From 18th to 22nd of September the advanced training was organized for educators that work with children aged 3-6 years old. 25 participants took place in the training, which previously attended basic training for educators that work with children aged 3-6 years.



■ On 28 of September, Step by Step organized a meeting, the participants were: Director for the Pre-school Education, Mr. Fetah Bylykbashi - pre-school education official from MEST, kindergarten directors and pre-school teachers representatives. In this training 70 people were present, and there were discussed about: "*Curriculum harmonization with Step by Step program*".

Pre-university education strategy

■ After the approval of the Council of the Experts on Higher Education (CEHE) the draft strategy of the pre-university education 2007-2017 was released for public discussion. The public discussion will last until 20th of October; meanwhile the document can be downloaded on www.kec-ks.org

As a part of the development process of the Strategy, on 22 of September a workshop was conducted in order to prepare the draft of the Strategy action plan. In this workshop, the strategic priorities were set, deadlines and responsible staff for its implementation. It is expected that the draft will be completed by the end of the first October week.

“Third Millennium” School

■ The academic year 2006/07 in “Third Millennium” school started on 4th of September. For the first time the school is offering classes for third and seven



graders, by which the pupil number has increased. In order to create better working conditions, a new school is built, which offers more space for the activities foreseen as per the school development plan.

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