



★ NETWORKING EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

European Workshop
“City and Diversity – Challenges for Citizenship Education”
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Session IV

Project Presentation: “Together About Ourselves”

by Ondřej Daniel

Multicultural Centre Prague, Czech Republic

There are two basic questions that build the main idea of the whole project:

“When was the last time you took photographs?” – “What did you depict in those pictures and why?”

Starting in February 2008, two groups of young kids from two different secondary schools based in Prague learnt how to handle black and white photography, its technique and composition as well as possibilities that this traditional medium brings along. The black and white photography was perceived as an important medium in the processes of mutual communication and self-expression.

There were two groups that participated in the project that lasted from February to June 2008. The first group consisted of pupils from the Secondary School Havlickovo Namesti located in Prague’s district Zizkov known for its significant size of Roma community living there. The second secondary school was based in Modrany, one of the biggest housing estates of Prague.

The workshops – as the vital part of our project – took place at the schools under the leadership of David Kummermann, Simon Chang and Karel Tuma, professional and experienced photographers. Every other week, the kids gathered and met up with the photographers. During their lessons they discussed their own photographs, problems that emerged in the process of taking the photographs and their further ideas where to aim the attention. In the meantime, the kids worked on their “homework” that consisted of such tasks like taking a self-portrait, trying to capture the typical situation in their homes and among friends groups.

“Our aim is not to lecture them on the plurality of cultures but through the authentic experience to rouse their attention and interest about such topics. The contribution of the workshops will be the cultivation of their photographic vision, deeper understanding of image itself as well as getting on with the kids from the partner group from the other school”, explain the photographers, leaders of the workshops.

In May, the two groups met and set off on a journey: together they took pictures between the walls of mental home in Bohnice, Prague.

“At first, we expected to see pictures that we’ve seen so many times already – pictures of a naive character and a simple message. But now, when we have a look at the pictures taken by the kids we worked with, we can see very clear and simple works of art, not embellished with unnecessary effects. The pictures – as we see them – are very sincere and true when it comes to their contents and meanings. The pictures are like life stories of 12-13 year old kids that depict some of the important moments of their lives that are still clouded with secrets for us”, conclude the photographers.

The resulting photographs coming from the workshops are going to be shown to broad public through the exhibition called “Together About Ourselves” that is going to take place in Prague from October 2008.