

European Conference

The Impact of Cultural and Citizenship Education on Social Cohesion

3 - 5 December 2009, Vilnius, Lithuania

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Project Fact Sheet

Workshop 6

“What Does Hold Society Together: How Does Education in Human Rights and the Mediation of Values Influence Social Cohesion?”

	Section	Indications of content
1	Title of project	Equality Through Tolerance And Education
2	Location (City/Country)	Lithuania
3	Main topics (select 5 max)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural roots of multiple discrimination • Men and gender equality • Globalization, multiculturalism and ethnicity • Strategic goals of development cooperation
4	Practice-related keywords (5 max)	Human rights education, multiculturalism, sustainable development, environmental change, social-economic cohesion
5	Brief description of project (150 words)	The project's objective is to prepare innovative and interactive materials designed to provide tolerance education and discrimination prevention. This methodological tool for teachers (DVD and manual) contains theoretical material (concepts, approaches, frequently asked questions and answers, examples of dominating cultural discourse) and practical interactive exercises to develop complex understanding and openness for multicultural diversity. In addition, the project seeks to teach educators how to integrate attitudes that strengthen tolerance and democratic values into their work with students. For this purpose the seminars for teachers were organized to improve their knowledge on intercultural dialogue and present a methodological tool to help them integrate practical examples in the training process and reach a wide audience of youth. The methods were chosen to affect the audience through both emotional and rational understanding of cultural and social diversity in Lithuanian society and develop sensitivity to the problems of multiple discrimination and exclusion.
6	Objectives of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote democratic values; • Combat intolerance, hostility towards <i>otherness</i>; • Rise awareness about diversity without discrimination; • Strengthen trainers'/ teachers' capacities and knowledge on issues related to diversity, human rights, equality; • Provide the tools for teaching diversity to youth.
7	Impact of the project on education and social cohesion (250 words)	The prepared methodological tool (manual and DVD) under the title <i>We can change</i> provides knowledge in the fields of human rights and discrimination prevention and fills-in the gap in Lithuania on modern, interactive teaching means that allows educators to deepen their knowledge about tolerance and non-discrimination and integrate it into their work with students. The visually well-designed tool and suggested interactive teaching methods enhance the teachers' abilities to compete with dynamic and modern mass culture messages and attract the students' attention on the themes

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		<p>of cultural pluralism, diversity and tolerance.</p> <p>The manual and DVD were widely distributed in Lithuania reaching schools in remote districts, including ethnic minority schools.</p> <p>The manual and DVD was highly evaluated by the Ministry of Education. The training tool was suggested to be involved in the curriculum of professional teachers' training.</p>
8	Target groups	<p>Teachers are the crucial target group in a process of social transformation, because they work with children and youth and can influence the system of values, believe and even the behaviour of future generations. Once trained and prepared to discuss about issues of diversity without discrimination, teachers will be able to multiply and disseminate their knowledge very effectively and widely. Increased competence of the teachers will warrant steady and consistent work with youth and that will help to prevent harassment, bullying, discrimination. It will help to create a more secure, friendly and democratic society.</p>
9	Project methods/ Project format	<p>Development of a methodological tool and visual material: collection and presentation of theoretical concepts on human rights education, global climate change and human rights, socio-economic development and human rights; description of methods to facilitate integration of EU democratic values in the daily work and teaching process.</p> <p>Training seminars: "train of trainers" methods were employed to ensure the long-term and consistent dissemination of the project's results. Its results will reach not only the actual target group, the teachers, but also those students, who will not participate in the project directly.</p>
10	Project Time scale	2008-2009
11	Project Initiator	Center for Equality Advancement
12	Resources involved (financial, human, others)	<p>Project funding: European Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania and the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands.</p> <p>Project human recourses: experts of the Center for Equality Advancement</p>
13	Evaluation/Materials	<p>Materials:</p> <p>Manual <i>We can change</i></p> <p>DVD <i>We can change</i></p>
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