



The Pestalozzi Programme Council of Europe Training Programme for education professionals

Pestalozzi dissemination and cascading

Croatia and Belarus

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1

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At the end of the summer two events, in Croatia and in Belarus, were dedicated to the dissemination and further cascading of the work of the Pestalozzi Programme. The Pestalozzi Programme organises between 30 and 40 training activities per year in which some 1000 education professionals across Europe are involved and are trained with regard to different key concerns of the Council of Europe in education following an interactive, learning-by-doing, pedagogy which promotes and builds on collaborative learning.

This is only a first step. It is important that the work doesn't stop here and that the information and experience as well as the acquired expertise are used to inform and to train others. This is what cascading is all about.

Since 2010, the Pestalozzi Programme supports and co-organises such national dissemination and cascading events together with the National Liaison Officers (NLOs).

Croatia



Entitled “Promoting the Values and Principles of the Council of Europe in Education” a national training event took place in Opatija on 28-30 August 2012.

The training was part of the Croatian in-service training offer and accredited as such on the national level. It was organised by Ms Ozorlić Dominić (NLO) who also introduced the event and acted as a trainer herself in the later part of the event. After an introduction by the Director of the Education and Teacher Training Agency on the importance of education for democracy in times like these, the work of the Council of Europe in Education and the philosophy and practice of the Pestalozzi Programme was presented.

The following sessions spread out over the whole duration of the training took up major themes of the Pestalozzi Programme: diversity of world views, prevention of discrimination, prevention of violence, transversal attitudes, skills and knowledge for democracy as well as the pedagogical approach advocated by the Programme (see the publication “Teacher Education for Change”).

The sessions were all run by former participants in the modules for trainer training of the Programme over the past three years. Explanations of how the Programme works and how one can participate in the different training activities rounded off the picture.

It was interesting to observe how the key concerns of the Council of Europe in education are mirrored in a national context. The participating teachers felt that these themes are of crucial importance in their everyday practice. They also felt that the training sessions were of very practical and experiential nature so that they could easily use similar methods and procedures in their classrooms right away.

This event was a perfect example of the added value of national dissemination and cascading events:

- Cascading not only the information but also the training
- The use of former participants in the Programme as trainers



- Networking and exchanging on the national level around the values and principles of the Council of Europe in Education

An immediate follow-up of this event will be the creation of a “Croatian Corner” in the framework of the Pestalozzi social network so that the participants can continue exchanging and mutually supporting each other as well as being linked into the wider Pestalozzi online Community of Practice.



Belarus

On 7 September 2012 a Pestalozzi National Dissemination Event took also place in Minsk, Belarus. This event was planned a long time in advance in cooperation with the NLOs for Belarus Ms Ludmila Tarusova and Ms Iryna Lapizkaya of the Academy of Post diploma Education and the Permanent Representation of Belarus to the Council of Europe.

The main aim of the event was to inform education professionals from Belarus about the opportunities for training and networking in the framework of the Council of Europe training programme and to motivate them to take up these opportunities. The participants were mainly pre-service and in-service teacher trainers and teachers.

After a brief introduction by both national Liaison Officers, the programme consisted of the following parts

- Presentation of the Council of Europe, its work in education and the underlying philosophy of the Pestalozzi Programme
 - o Group and plenary discussion on the implications of this for education professionals in Belarus
- Presentation of the Pestalozzi Programme, its different activities (training, community of practice, documentation) and the modalities of participation
 - o Online exploration of the information and resources offered through the Pestalozzi web site and through its social networking platform
- Group work on the main challenges participants face in their professional context
- Plenary discussion on main challenges and closing of the event

It is interesting to note that the main challenges education professionals face look very similar to those of other education professionals across Europe such as

- Too much work - too little time: too much non-teaching work (paperwork, administrative work, requests, report writing, etc.)
- Low status of the profession: low salary, lack of professionalism, low prestige and recognition of the profession
- Emotional burnout