



Permanent Representation  
of the Republic of Poland  
to the Council of Europe  
in Strasbourg



Strasbourg, 11 February 2014

DGII/EDU/CIT (2013) 3

# Children at the Centre of Education

## Janusz Korczak Seminar Series Second edition

23 April 2014  
European Youth Centre, Strasbourg

### Draft Concept and Programme

*Learning and living  
democracy for all*



The Janusz Korczak Seminars Series aims to highlight the importance of pedagogical approaches for the development of competences for democracy and human rights. The seminars include presentations by prominent thinkers, practical examples on the latest trends and creative approaches, and a round table discussion on topical issues. They are conceived as a platform for on-going debate on democracy and pedagogy, with a view to inform and to inspire future action in this area.

### **Background**

The Janusz Korczak seminars are bi-annual events, organised in cooperation by the Council of Europe and the Polish Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe, with an aim to stimulate a debate on current challenges in the area of education for democracy, while honouring the legacy of Janusz Korczak - an outstanding Polish and European personality. The first seminar was organised on 28 November 2012, at the margins of the Conference on "Human Rights and Democracy in Action - Looking Ahead: The impact of the Council of Europe Charter on Citizenship and Human Rights Education". It was devoted to the theme of "Education for Democracy: Purpose, Practice and Perspectives", and allowed the participants to explore in-depth the subject of democracy and education, before going into more practical issues of the implementation of the Charter during the conference. Further information is available on-line at: [www.coe.int/edchre2012](http://www.coe.int/edchre2012). It is proposed to organise the 2nd edition on 23 April 2014 in Strasbourg on the theme of "Children at the Centre of Education" at the margins of the Conference on "The professional image and ethos of teachers" (24-25 April). The seminar will also be a good opportunity to further develop links between the networks of decision makers and professionals active in the fields of citizenship and human rights and the Council of Europe Pestalozzi Programme network.

### **Aims and objectives**

- Explore and experience pedagogical approaches and practices which put the development on the children at the centre and promote the development of competences for democracy and human rights;
- Share examples of good practice
- Reflect on priorities for future action

### **Proposed format**

- Key note speech
- Case studies (2-3)
- Round table on a topical issue

### **Expected outcomes**

The conclusions of the seminar will be a contribution to the implementation of the Council of Europe Charter on Citizenship and Human Rights Education, and in particular Article 13. Skills for promoting social cohesion, valuing diversity and handling differences and conflict (which mentions, inter alia, the skills required to combat all forms of discrimination and violence, especially bullying and harassment). The outcomes of the seminar will be included in the Conference report will be submitted to the Education Committee with a view to facilitate the decision making and planning of future activities.

## **Participants**

About 30 participants, including government representatives, education professionals, human rights institutions and civil society organisations (and in particular children's and youth organisations).

## **Date and place**

23 April 2014, Strasbourg

## **Background documents**

- Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)13 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on ensuring quality education
- Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7)
- Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012-2015)
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)13 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on gender mainstreaming in education

# Draft Programme

**09.00-09.30**                    **Registration**

**09.30 11.00**                    **Opening**

Chairs:

- Ms Urszula GACEK, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Poland to the Council of Europe (t.b.c.)
- Austria (t.b.c.)

## **Welcome Addresses**

- Ms Snežana SAMARDŽIĆ-MARKOVIĆ, Director General of Democracy (10 minutes) (t.b.c.)
- Ministry of National Education of Poland (10 minutes) (t.b.c.)

## **Keynote speech: Children at the centre of education (20 minutes)**

- PhD Krystyna STARCZEWSKA, philosopher and pedagogue, Poland

Discussion (20 minutes)

**11.00 – 11.30**                    **Coffee break**

**11.30 – 13.00**                    **Three parallel workshops as follows:**

- 1) Case study 1: **Cooperation or competition? - Learning approaches in the best interests of the child** (t.b.c.)
- 2) Case study 2: **Beyond the walls of the school – innovative approaches and the use of new technologies** (t.b.c.)
- 3) Case study 3: **Personal development through education – a luxury or an investment?** (t.b.c.)

**13.00-14.30**                    **Lunch**

**14.30-16.00**                    **Children at the centre of education: Pedagogy makes a difference - round table**

**16.00-16.30**                    **Coffee break**

**16:30 – 17.30**                    **Conclusions**

Chair: Ms Urszula GACEK, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Poland to the Council of Europe (t.b.c.)

Interactive feedback from the workshops

## **Concluding remarks**

- Director for Citizenship and Democratic Participation, Council of Europe (5 minutes) (t.b.c.)
- Ministry of National Education of Poland (5 minutes) (t.b.c.)

**17.40 Reception** hosted by

- Ms Urszula GACEK, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Poland to the Council of Europe (t.b.c.)
- Austria (t.b.c.)
- Ms Snežana SAMARDŽIĆ-MARKOVIĆ, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe (t.b.c.)