



Ljubljana 2010



MED-23-2
Rev3

Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education

“Education for Sustainable Democratic Societies: the Role of Teachers”

23rd session

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 4-5 June 2010

Draft programme and Agenda

INTRODUCTION

At a time when the challenges facing European societies such as poverty and social exclusion are being exacerbated by the global economic crisis, it is clearly important for Council of Europe member states to seize the opportunities for new approaches presented by problems of this kind and take advantage of the benefits of 60 years of intergovernmental co-operation to tackle the various challenges in a sustainable manner.

In the field of education, the crisis raises questions about the types of societies which Europe wishes to develop and pass on to future generations. In this respect, the member states have already advocated a more humane and inclusive Europe, which was the main theme of the previous session held in Istanbul in 2007. But how can these aims of inclusion and humanity be achieved in practice? How can we build a socially sustainable society, based on the fundamental principles of respect for human rights, living together, equal opportunities for all and citizen participation? What part should education play in this debate?

Under the heading "Education for Sustainable Democratic Societies: the Role of Teachers", the 23rd session of the Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education will be an opportunity to discuss these issues and consider the role of education and, more specifically, teachers, in finding common, viable and effective solutions to the challenges facing European societies at present, such as the increasing diversity of our societies.

Initial and in-service training of teachers will be the main focus of the conference and will be treated from a lifelong learning perspective. Particular emphasis will be placed on the competences education professionals need in order to help build a sustainable democratic society where human rights play an integral part in peace and stability, on their professional development and on their responsibilities as members of co-operation networks and as agents of social change. Discussions will also address strategies to enhance the role and influence of the teaching profession within European societies.

At their meeting in Ljubljana in Slovenia on 4 and 5 June 2010, the Ministers of Education of the 50 states parties to the European Cultural Convention will therefore be able to draw on the discussions at the 23rd Conference to devise strategies for education and teacher training policies and thereby give direction to future Council of Europe action.

The three strands of discussion will be considered in the following contributions, which will provide the basis for debate in the working group sessions.

TEACHER COMPETENCES FOR DIVERSE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES

In order to manage and build on the increasing diversity of school environments, teachers must be equipped with multiple competences that go far beyond their academic subjects. With the aid of these transversal competences acquired during high-quality training suited to modern society, they must be able to foster in the learner community the skills needed to live together in a democratic society characterised by such diversity and to work for peace. The strategic importance of this issue in the process of building a sustainable democratic society is vital, given that pupils' competences are closely linked to those of their teachers.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL RECOGNITION

If they are to help build a democratic society, teachers must receive support and their professional role must be recognised. However, it would seem that the standing of the teaching profession in general has declined over the years, which makes teachers' work even more difficult than in the past. To restore the profession's standing and provide teachers with all the tools they need to play their role as agents of change, the issues of professional development need to be looked at seriously, along with those of teachers' working conditions, their participation in decision-making processes and their recruitment, which should reflect the diversity of society.

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING IN EDUCATION

In the field of education, ongoing and co-ordinated co-operation between the various sectors of society and the different tiers of education can help build a sustainable democratic society. In this respect, teachers should be trained in order to facilitate the creation of partnerships and the maintenance of networks. Many forms of partnerships are possible, depending on institutional and local contexts. However, even if teachers are central actors in the creation and the maintenance of these partnerships, these tasks must be endorsed by all the social actors concerned from the point of view of shared responsibility.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Thursday 3 June 2010

- 10 am - 1 pm Registration of participants at Grand Hotel Union Executive, Ljubljana
4 pm - 6 pm
- 2 pm - 5.30 pm Optional tourist programme
- 7 pm Welcome cocktail, Grand Hotel Union Executive, Ljubljana

Friday 4 June 2010 - Congress Centre, Brdo

- 8.30 am Departure by bus from Grand Hotel Union Executive to the Congress Centre in Brdo
- 9 am Registration of participants (continued)
- 9.30 am **Official opening session**
- Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
 - Mr Igor Lukšič, Ph.D., Minister of Education and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia
 - Mr Nikola Todorov, Representative of the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Minister of Education and Science of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
 - Ms Andreja Rihter, Representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Member of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education
 - Mr Günther Krug, Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- 11 am **Family Photo**
- Break
- 11.30 am **Plenary session 1** – Theme: "Education for Sustainable Democratic Societies: the Role of Teachers"
- Mr Danilo Türk, Ph.D., President of the Republic of Slovenia: "Challenges of Contemporary Societies"
- Introduction to the theme of the Conference: "Education and Society: the Role of Teachers", by Pavel Zgaga, Ph.D.
- Discussion:** open to Ministers and Heads of Delegation
- 1 pm Key issues for afternoon discussions by the Chair of the Conference
- 1.10 pm **Press briefing**

- 1.30 pm **Lunch** hosted by Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, for Ministers and Heads of Delegation on invitation
- Lunch** hosted by the Slovenian authorities for other participants
- 3 pm-5.30 pm **Groups sessions**
- Sub-theme A: Teacher competences for diverse democratic societies
- Sub-theme B: Professional development and social recognition
- Sub-theme C: Partnerships and networks in education
- 5.45 pm Departure by bus from the Brdo Congress Centre to Grand Hotel Union Executive
- 7 pm Official dinner, Grand Hotel Union Executive, Ljubljana

Saturday 5 June 2010 - Congress Centre, Brdo

- 8.30 am Departure by bus from Grand Hotel Union Executive to the Congress Centre in Brdo
- 9.30 am **Plenary session 2** – Sub-themes A, B, C
- Presentation of remarks made during the group sessions and continuation of discussions
- 10.30 am Break
- 11 am **Plenary session 3** – Council of Europe's Education Programme in the context of the current institutional reform
- Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe (DGIV)
- Adoption of the Resolutions and Final Declaration
- 12 am **Closing session**
- Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe (DGIV)
 - Mr Igor Lukšič, Ph.D., Minister of Education and Sport of Slovenia
- 12.30 am Buffet lunch
- 2 pm - 7 pm Optional tourist programme

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening of the 23rd Session

- Address by Ms Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- Election of the President and the two vice-chairs
- Address by Mr Igor Lukšič, Ph.D., Minister of Education and Sport of Slovenia
- Address by Mr Nikola Todorov, Representative of the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Minister of Education and Science of "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
- Ms Andreja Rihter, Representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Member of the Committee on Culture, Science and Education
- Address by Mr Günther Krug, Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Document : MED-23-2 rev3

2. Plenary session 1 – Introduction to the main theme

- Discussion

Document: MED-23-4

3. Groups sessions – Sub-themes

- Sub-theme A: Teacher competences for diverse democratic societies
- Sub-theme B: Social recognition and professional development
- Sub-theme C: Partnerships and networks in education

Documents: MED-23-5
MED-23-6
MED-23-7
MED-23-16

4. Plenary session 2 – Sub-themes A, B, C

- Presentation of remarks made during the group sessions and continuation of discussions

5. Plenary session 3 – Council of Europe's Education Programme in the context of the current institutional reform

- Adoption of the Resolutions and Final Declaration

Documents: MED-23-11
MED-23-12
MED-23-13 prov2
MED-23-14 prov
MED-23-15 prov
MED-23-17

6. Closing of the 23rd Session

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

MED-23-1 prov Provisional list of participants

MED-23-2 rev3 Draft programme and Agenda

MED-23-3 rev2 Information on the organisation of the Conference

MED-23-4 Introduction to the main theme : “Education for Sustainable Democratic Societies : the Role of Teachers”

MED-23-5 Introduction to sub-theme A: Teacher Competences for Diverse Democratic Societies

MED-23-6 Introduction to sub-theme B: Professional Development and Social Recognition

MED-23-7 Introduction to sub-theme C: Partnerships and Networking in Education

MED-23-11 Activity report on the Implementation of the commitments entered into at the 22nd Session of the Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education (Istanbul, 2007)

MED-23-12 Report on the Pestalozzi Programme, the Council of Europe training programme for education professionals: 2006 to 2009

MED-23-13 prov2 Draft resolution on the enhancement of teachers’ professional development through the Pestalozzi Programme

MED-23-14 prov Draft declaration on the theme of the Conference

MED-23-15 prov Draft resolution on the Council of Europe’s Education Programme in the context of the current institutional reform

MED-23-16 Final communiqué of the Informal Conference of Ministers of Education from the Western Balkans

MED-23-17 Education programme 2010-2014: “Education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic culture”

Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education

CM/AS(2010)Rec1884 final

“Cultural education: the promotion of cultural knowledge, creativity and intercultural understanding through education” – Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 1884 (2009) - Reply adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 April 2010 at the 1083rd meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies

PACE Recommendation 1884 (2009)

Cultural education: the promotion of culture, creativity and intercultural understanding through education

CAHPAH(2010)3 final

Position Paper for the 23rd Session of the Council of Europe Standing Conference of Ministers of Education