



European Workshop

Pedagogy for Democracy and Human Rights

Fuerteventura, Spain. 02 - 05 April 2017

Trainers:

Mercè Bernaus, Spain

Carmen Siurana, Spain



Focus

This workshop was organised by the SEPIE (Spanish Service for the Internationalization of Education) and the education authorities of the Canary Islands. The event focused on Democracy and Human Rights. The 3-day workshop was centred on the methodology of the Pestalozzi Programme: learning by doing.

The workshop focussed on the development of competences for democracy at school. It viewed how transversal attitudes, skills and knowledge could be incorporated into lessons, courses, teaching programs, and school activities in order to develop democratic awareness at schools and spread Human Rights throughout the whole community.

Sunday 02 April – Welcoming participants

Participants arrived in Fuerteventura on the 2nd of April and they received the documents of the workshop with some flyers about the Pestalozzy program and also about Fuerteventura.

Some warm up activities were organized to welcome the European and Spanish participants and get to know each other.



Monday 03 April – Opening session

The opening session started with a warm welcome from Pablo Martin, Director of the SEPIE, and focused on the need to strengthen synergies in education between the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

D^a. Soledad Monzón Cabrera, Consejera de Educación y Universidades del Gobierno de Canarias, focused her presentation on the need to work on attitudes and values in education. D. Juan Manuel Santana Pérez, Viceconsejero de Educación y Universidades del Gobierno de Canarias insisted on the need to work on entrepreneurship and values at tertiary level. D. Marcial Morales Martín, Presidente del Cabildo Insular de Fuerteventura, welcomed the participants wishing everybody a successful workshop and an enjoyable stay in Fuerteventura.



A chorus of students delighted the participants interpreting some beautiful songs

Presentation of the Council of Europe and the work on Pedagogy for Democracy and Human Rights

Andres Ajo Lázaro, Director of the School Education Unit at the SEPIE, presented "Principles and values of the Council of Europe", which focus on the mechanisms, initiatives and resources launched by the Council of Europe in order to disseminate these principles through education.

Beatriz Tourón Torrado, National Liaison Officer for the Pestalozzi Programme, explained the regulations and activities of the Pestalozzi program connected to teacher training in all signatory countries of the European Cultural Convention.



After the plenary sessions, Mercé Bernaus and Carmen Siurana, trainers from the Pestalozzi program, undertook the practical part of the workshop. They started with warm up activities and a presentation of the workshop. Classroom strategies for democratic practice and dealing with human rights were put into practice. The strategies used were taken from the practical approach of the Pestalozzi methodology: ice-breaking activities, evaluation trees, open space, and learning by doing. All participants contributed with their previous experience in this field, producing a very fruitful exchange of good practices.



Tuesday 04 April – More on Competences for Democratic Culture and good practice examples

As a continuation of the practical workshops with the trainers, the program for the second day also included a visit to a school which includes pre school and primary education, and which is a referent for its democratic culture and for working on practical projects related to human rights. After a brief presentation on the school history, participants took active part in some classrooms interacting with the pupils.

Then participants enjoyed a splendid lunch that was offered by the IES Puerto del Rosario. The lunch was prepared and served by the students – future cooks and waiters. The cultural program also included a trip to the mountains and to the impressive dunes on the coast.



Wednesday 05 April – Visualizing changes and new projects

The activities for the third day were initiated by Andrés Ajo Lázaro, Head of the School Unit at the SEPIE, who presented the funding possibilities of Erasmus+ Programme, launched by the European Commission to support innovative projects in the field of school education.

Other activities carried out during this last day were related to “Developing competences for democratic culture”. The synergies among participants were consolidated through the working groups and the creation of collaborative networks.



Conclusion

The event concluded with a certificate presentation ceremony. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the workshop and the activities carried out and they also commented on how inspired and motivated they felt by the Pestalozzi philosophy. This workshop provided an international frame of reference for individual efforts, highlighting the similarity of issues and challenges which teachers face across borders. It is hoped that this workshop will contribute to the continuous development of teachers and the dissemination of the Pestalozzi philosophy.

Coordination:

Beatriz Tourón, NLO Pestalozzi, SEPIE, Spain

Andrés Ajo Lázaro, Head of School and Adult Education Unit, SEPIE, Spain