

Pestalozzi Programme Summer School

Understanding Diversity

29 June – 8 July 2013
Academy of Bad Wildbad, Germany

The aim of the Summer School¹ was to support the participating teachers and other education professionals in their professional practice and their professional development. In particular this implies

- Promotion a better understanding of diversity in their professional practice
- Awareness in teachers and learners, in their families and communities of the importance of a positive attitude towards diversity in all its forms
- Preparedness and ability to take action to counter discriminatory attitudes and actions
- Inclusion of the development of the transversal attitudes, skills and knowledge necessary for living in diverse and democratic societies in their teaching practice



The participants also joined the online Community of Practice of the Pestalozzi Programme with over 1300 members.



The Summer School dealt with various aspects of the overall theme “Understanding diversity”. Ms Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General for Democracy at the Council of Europe and Mr Siegmund Keller, on behalf of Ms Marion von Wartenberg, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports Baden-Württemberg, welcomed the participants. The mayor of Bad Wildbad, Mr Klaus Mack also welcomed the participants.

The programme consisted of about 30 hours of selective courses and about 30 hours of common activities where all the participants were

¹ The Summer School replaces the training seminars organised in cooperation with our partners in Baden-Württemberg over the past 30 years. The format of an intensive and multi-faceted training programme of eight full days was chosen to increase the impact of the training which usually was of a duration of three days. Furthermore, the higher number of participants creates better networking opportunities for all.

engaged in the same activity at the same time. Participants could choose from 30 courses touching on the various aspects of diversity (f.ex. intercultural competence, discrimination, ethics, history, social justice, inclusion, human rights, etc.) and of pedagogy (cooperative learning, learner-centred approaches, involvement of stakeholders, participation, etc.). More general aspects of education were also addressed such as how to foster motivation and curiosity, the multiple purposes of education, the role of teachers and schools for democratic societies, etc.



The common activities included Open space technology, daily reflection groups, Socratic Walks, public speaking and half a day of common overall evaluation as well as a public round table debate on **“Does school have a future? Which schools for a truly democratic society?”**

The Round Table was moderated by Mr Michael Hermann (Sociologist, Radio Journalist, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Baden-Württemberg) speaking with Mr Pavel Zgaga (Director of the Center for Educational Policy Studies, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia), Ms Kristin Narr (Educational Media Specialist, Internet & Gesellschaft, Germany), Mr Rudolf Bosch (School President, Government Headquarters, Freiburg, Germany) and Ms Eva Moreno Sánchez (Director of Curricular Development for Preschool Education, Ministry of Public Education, Mexico). The Council of Europe was represented by Mr Josef Huber (Head of the Pestalozzi Programme). Speakers agreed that, yes, there is a future for school, but that we need to reorient and change what we do in school and how we do it.

Over 60 participants (mainly teachers and some school heads and school psychologists) from over 30 European countries and one participant from Mexico worked and exchanged intensively during the whole duration (full eight days) guided by 14 trainers from the Pestalozzi Network of Trainers.

The results and outcomes of the work in the different courses were regularly shared with the wider online Community of Practice of the Pestalozzi Programme. This also included live streaming of the public round table debate and twitter as an on-going feedback channel.

The dynamic and motivated atmosphere and participants’ positive and enthusiastic statements during the evaluation process let us assume that the carefully planned and orchestrated programme based on a maximum of participants’ active involvement and cooperative learning as well as on a variety of courses, topics and approaches paid off and will support participants’ wish and capacity to change their professional practice.



This encouraging result was made possible by the careful, detailed preparation of the overall structure as well as of each individual course - from January 2013 onwards - coordinated by Ms *Pascale Mompoin-Gaillard* (the General Rapporteur of the Pestalozzi Programme) with the help of Ms *Carmen Becker* (Germany), Ms *Visnja Rajić* (Croatia) and Mr *Richard Harris* (UK). All of them also acted as trainers and facilitators while coordinating the work of the other trainers involved in the different courses. The quality of the work of the facilitators was highly appreciated by all the participants: Mr Ferenc Arató (Hungary), Ms Ana Boa Ventura (Portugal/USA), Ms Rasa Askinyte-Degesiene (Lithuania), Ms Maria Brown (Malta), Ms Leah Davcheva (Bulgaria), Mr Aart Franken (Netherlands), Ms Carolina Gonçalves (Portugal), Ms Susana Gonçalves (Portugal), Ms Liene Jurgelāne (Latvia), Ms Ildikó Lázár (Hungary) and Ms Danielle Leclercq (Belgium).

The coordination team and the facilitators were supported by the pedagogical advisor of the Academy of Bad Wildbad, Ms *Karin Steimle-Rohde*, and by the Secretariat of the Pestalozzi Programme.

A more in-depth evaluation and documentation of results will allow to draw more detailed conclusions and to use the lessons learnt for the preparation of next year's Summer School.

Further details on the courses and other learning activities here: [Course Book](#)

Further details on the Round Table Debate here: [Round Table Flyer](#)