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Strasbourg, 27 July 2009

“Diversity and inclusion: challenges for teacher education”

**Final conference of the Council of Europe project
“Policies and Practices for Teaching Sociocultural Diversity”
(2006 – 2009)**

26 – 28 October 2009, Oslo, Norway

Information note and Draft programme

Directorate general IV – Directorate of Education and Languages
Unit of European Education Policies

Dates and place

26 – 28 October 2009
Oslo University College
Pilestredet 52,
Oslo, Norway

Conference aims and objectives

The conference is organised in the framework of the Council of Europe's Project "Policies and practices for teaching socio-cultural diversity" (2006-2009) and in cooperation with the Ministry of Education of Norway and the Oslo University College.

The conference will bring together senior officials from member states governments dealing with issues concerning teacher education policies as well as key players (managers, teacher trainers/educators, researchers) and experts from teacher education institutions and other relevant international Non-Governmental Organisations. It aims to give the participants the opportunity to enlarge their vision of key issues concerning diversity and inclusion in the field of teacher education and identify new perspectives for work at European level.

Within this general context and aim, the conference will provide an evaluative focus on the work and outcomes of the Council of Europe Project "Policies and practices for teaching socio-cultural diversity". Given the crucial importance of the issue of teacher education in Europe today, as a key factor in ensuring quality education for all, it is important that the results of the project are disseminated through exchanges between policymakers, researchers and practitioners from different member states.

A special focus will be given to the conditions of implementation and adaptation to national contexts of the Framework of Teachers Competences for engaging with Diversity developed within the framework of the project.

In addition to reviewing the outcomes of the Project "Policies and practices for teaching socio-cultural diversity", the conference will also be proactive in identifying a range of future actions that can be initiated and strengthened in the field of teachers education, so contributing to the on-going debates and reforms in teacher education policies.

An additional objective of the conference will be to identify the short-term and long-term implications of the project for the Council of Europe and other key players and promote practical ideas and stimulate further activities in this area.

Participation

Participants of the Conference will be governmental and no-governmental experts and senior officials from the member states. Non-member states having observer status with the Council of Europe will also be invited. It is expected that delegations contain 2-3 persons from each member state. A balanced representation of officials from Education Ministries or other teacher education institutions and relevant organisations is expected. One representative should preferably be from a teacher education institution (student teacher, newly qualified teacher, teacher trainer/educator, researcher, manager of a teacher training institution).

The Norwegian authorities will cover the costs of interpretation services (English and French) throughout the conference and will host a welcoming reception and an official dinner. The Oslo University College will be the host of the Conference.

The Council of Europe will cover travel and subsistence expenses for only 1 participant per member state representing a teacher education institution, as well as travel and subsistence expenses for keynote speakers, project's experts, working group moderators and rapporteurs.

Several international organisations (IGOs and INGOs) and institutions will be invited, at their own expense.

The following Council of Europe bodies will be invited at their own expense: Parliamentary Assembly, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, Steering Committee for Higher Education and Research.

Organisation and working methods, expected outcomes

The Conference will be organised in a way that will allow for keynote speeches and presentations in plenary as well as working groups. Working Groups will focus on three main areas identified by the project group for the development of teachers' competences on diversity.

The Working groups (see the draft programme which follows hereafter) will aim at drawing up a prioritised list of urgent actions for member states and international organisations in the implementation process of the Framework of Teachers Competences for engaging with Diversity.

The conference will provide a unique opportunity for participants to identify priority actions regarding the use and dissemination of the outcomes of the Council of Europe's work.

A conference report including all papers from keynote speakers and reports from working group sessions and conclusions will be published by the Council of Europe following the event.

Practical Information

Venue of the Conference

Oslo University College,
Pilestredet 52,
P.O. 4 St Olavs plass,
N-0130 Oslo
<http://www.ouc.no>

Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be provided at the conference. During the group sessions, simultaneous interpretation will be provided in one group only.

Documents

The conference documents will be available in the two official languages of the Council of Europe (English and French);

Accommodation

The Norwegian Ministry of Education has blocked rooms in Hotel Thon Hotel Munch with special rates for the participants of the Conference. (Singelroom 810 NOK -with breakfast/ Double room 1 person 1010 NOK- with breakfast). The hotel will keep rooms blocked until 30 September 2009, after which the organisers can not guarantee the availability of rooms. All participants are invited to contact directly the hotel in order to proceed to their room reservation, at the following address:

Hotel address:

Thon Hotel Munch
Munchs gate 5
0165 Oslo
Tel.: +47 23 21 96 00
Fax: +47 23 21 96 01
munch@thonhotels.no
<http://www.thonhotels.com/Hotels/Countrys/Norway/Oslo/Thon-Hotel-Munch/>

International and Local Transport

All participants are invited to organise themselves their journey to Oslo and from Oslo airport to their hotel.

By air to Oslo Airport Gardermoen

Oslo may be reached from all continents with direct flights or via Copenhagen, with departures for Oslo every hour. Oslo Airport Gardermoen is one of the most modern airports in Europe and is situated 50 km from the city centre. Website Oslo Airport Gardermoen:
www.oslo.no/

How to get from Oslo Airport Gardermoen to Hotel Thon Hotel Munch:

see website <http://www.thonhotels.com/Hotels/Countrys/Norway/Oslo/Thon-Hotel-Munch/>

Airport Express Coach (SAS Flybussen)

The SAS Flybussen runs directly from Oslo Airport Gardermoen to the Oslo city centre every 20 minutes every day. The fare is NOK 180 / EUR 20 one way. Website Flybussen: <http://www.flybussen.no/index.asp?lang=ENG>

By Airport Express Train (Flytoget) to Nationaltheatret Station

The Airport Express Train, Flytoget takes you from the airport to the Nationaltheatret Station in 27 minutes. Trains depart every 10 minutes. The fare is NOK 170 / EUR 20 one way. Website Flytoget <http://www.flytoget.no/eng/>

By Taxi

Airport Taxis take you from Oslo Airport Gardermoen to the hotel at a price of approximately NOK 690 / EUR 80. On arrival, please contact the taxi information desk in the arrival hall.

Visa

In case you need a visa to enter Norway, we will issue a signed invitation to the event, which must be used when applying for a visa. Kindly note that it is your responsibility to apply for visa (including transit visas) in due time. We recommend that you contact the nearest Norwegian Embassy as soon as possible for information about visa application procedures. You can find information on visa requirements on the Foreign Service Mission where the applications will be submitted, and on [the website of the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration](http://www.udi.no/templates/Tema.aspx?id=4477). <http://www.udi.no/templates/Tema.aspx?id=4477>

Conference organisers

All members states and INGOs are invited to appoint their representatives **before 10 September 2009** and send their nominations **preferably by e-mail to:**

In Oslo

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e-mail: hkj@kd.dep.no

At the Council of Europe

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Draft Programme

Monday 26 October 2009

- 14.00 – 15.00 Registration of participants
- 15.00 – 15.15 Culture
- 15.15 – 15.40 Opening of conference: Official welcome addresses:
Minister of Education and Research (10 min)
Council of Europe official (10 min)
- 15.40 – 16.00 Objective and framework of the conference
- 16.00 – 16.30 Key note speaker: Professor Anne-Lise Arnesen
"The complex of sociocultural diversity – challenges for teacher education"
- 16.30 – 17.00 Coffee break
- 17.00 – 18.00 Presentation and evaluation of project - results and lessons learnt
by the Project team
- 19.00 – 21.00 Official reception at Oslo City Hall

Tuesday 27 October 2009

- 09.00 – 09.15 Culture
- 09.15 – 10.00 Keynote speaker: Professor Fazal Rizvi
"Dilemmas of Cosmopolitanism and Social Justice in Education"
- 10.00 – 10.30 Introduction of the 3 group themes
Objectives and framework of the workshops
- 10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00 – 12.30 Working groups session 1
Implementation of competences
- Group 1 – Knowledge and understanding, with short introduction on competences with special needs, gender, history as focal points
- Group 2 - Communication and relationships with short introductions on competences with ethnic diversity, lingual diversity, conflicts and conflict solving as focal points

Group 3 - Management and teaching with short introductions on competences with religious and world view diversity, social economic diversity, right to quality education as focal points

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

Working groups sessions 2
Implementation of competences

Group 2 - Communication and relationships with short introductions on competences with ethnic diversity, lingual diversity, conflicts and conflict solving as focal points

Group 3 - Management and teaching with short introductions on competences with religious and world view diversity, social economic diversity, right to quality education as focal points

Group 1 – Knowledge and understanding, with short introduction on competences with special needs, gender, history as focal points

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee break

16.00 – 17.30

Working groups sessions 3
Implementation of competences

Group 3 - Management and teaching with short introductions on competences with religious and world view diversity, social economic diversity, right to quality education as focal points

Group 1 – Knowledge and understanding, with short introduction on competences with special needs, gender, history as focal points

Group 2 - Communication and relationships with short introductions on competences with ethnic diversity, lingual diversity, conflicts and conflict solving as focal points

17:30 – 18:30

Meeting of the group rapporteurs with the general rapporteur

20.00

Official dinner hosted by the Ministry of Education and Research

Wednesday 28 October 2009

09.00 – 09.15	Culture
09.15 – 10.30	Plenary session: Feedback from the workshop sessions. Comments and questions from the audience
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 12.00	Panel discussion: An agenda for change
12.00 – 12.30	Main conclusions and recommendations by Professor Julie Allan
12.30 – 13.00	Closing of conference