



*The great aim of education is not knowledge but action  
/Herbert Spencer/*

## **YOUTH OPENS THE SPACE**

### **active participation for sustainable development**

UNESCO Youth Conference

August 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> 2009, Wroclaw (Poland)

*People involved in education for active participation, education for sustainable development, **youth trainers, youth leaders, youth workers** gathered again in beautiful city in south west of Poland, **exchanging experiences, learning from each other, setting up partnerships, planning future projects....***

*Feels like joining this group? This invitation is for you!*

*This is already the second time when we can invite you to open the space for ideas and inspirations, learning experience together with us. First edition took place 2 years ago, and till today we get positive feedback about the event itself and its follow up activities which are still in progress...*

#### **MAIN THEME**

Education is a meaningful tool enabling us to introduce and to integrate young people in the world of dialogue, the world of mutual understanding, the world whose future depends on them. Therefore we have chosen active participation for sustainable development as the main topic of our conference. We will approach these issues from the standpoint of non – formal education to let participants understand better the complexity of today's World.

**Education for active participation** (citizenship and civic education, active citizenship, active participation of young people) is an irreplaceable tool to promote the sense of responsibility for what is happening around us, to empower young people in order to become active members of the society. It aims to give knowledge, train competences and promote attitudes, which make us responsible and active citizens. Therefore it underlines that we can all make a difference and have a real impact on our reality.

**Education for sustainable development** (ecological education, global education, education for sustainable development). It aims to reach balance in between social and economical wealth and culture, tradition, natural resources. Education for sustainable development underlines the need of respecting human dignity, diversity, protection of natural environment and natural resources of Earth.

### HOW IS THE CONFERENCE RELATED TO UNESCO?

This year event relates directly to **Decade of Education for Sustainable Development** which was launched by UNESCO in 2005.

UNESCO Participation Programme is main sponsor of our conference.

### AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the project is to **create a network** of youth workers and trainers active in the field of non-formal education – with the primary focus on education for active participation and sustainable development.

The aim will be achieved by following objectives:

- to **exchange good practices** connected with non-formal education in particular education for active participation and for sustainable development through **tool fair** (focused on methods) and **gallery of good practices** (examples of successful project / initiatives)
- creating partnerships for future projects connected with the main topic
- **to plan future international youth projects** (international youth projects: youth exchanges, trainings, seminars and local initiatives co-ordinated by international networks),

### PARTICIPANTS

We want to invite young people interested in and active in the field of education for active participation and sustainable development from EuroMed countries and CEE (Central – East Europe):

- **youth trainers** with years of experiences in non formal education
- representatives of **youth organisations**, involved in non formal education **projects**, maximum 2 people from one organisation
- **youth workers** involved in educational youth projects
- **youth activists** involved in educational initiatives
- 18 years old and more

**We invite participants from the following countries:**

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

**COSTS**

- costs of food and accommodation will be covered by organisers from the UNESCO Participation Programme,
- as well as 50% of travel expenses (2<sup>nd</sup> class ticket, the cheapest mean of transport), we will reimburse max 200 euro per person (what means 50% of your ticket should not be more than 200 euro),
- there will be fee of 20 eur.

**PROGRAMME****1<sup>st</sup> day**

arrivals

ice-breaking & getting to know each other, dinner

**2<sup>nd</sup> day**

**opening ceremony**

**open space**

intercultural dinner

**3<sup>rd</sup> day**

**tool fair** – workshops run by experts and participants themselves on main topics of conference, possibility to get to know new methods

**best practices** – gallery with best practices examples

NGO market

**4<sup>th</sup> day**

**Technology of Participation - action planning for follow up projects**

**closing ceremony**

see you again party, concert

**5<sup>th</sup> day**

departures

**All participants of the project will be obliged to run small workshop, project or initiative in their local community in between September – November 2009, preferably within Global Education Week (2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November). All activities organised on local level will be connected via website.**

### **OPEN SPACE**

is an effective method enabling to work with large groups, creating a unique atmosphere of **involvement, active participation** and **responsibility for the outcome** of the meeting. It gives people the sense of freedom and puts the responsibility for the learning outcomes on participants.

Open space with the group of youth involved in variety of activities and committed to the topic of the conference brings fruitful results, gives a chance to discuss all the important issues appearing during the meeting. At the same time all possibilities for future cooperation can be explored and new partnerships established.

### **TECHNOLOGY OF PARTICIPATION**

is an innovative method used for facilitation, which encourage all participants to take active role in planning the process within project and future activities. It is combination of the three methods for group facilitation: **Discussion Method, The Workshop Method (Consensus Workshop), the Action Planning Method.**

Thanks to ToP all participants will come back home with clear ideas and plans for projects, as well as clear next steps on how to make those plans come truth.

### **RESULTS AND FOLLOW-UP**

- **Workshops, projects and initiatives run by participants in their local communities** within Global Education Week (November 2009)
- **a regional platform / network** of people involved in education for active participation and education for sustainable development
- **Publication with methods and good practices** – both projects examples and educational tools, dealing with the topic, both paper and e-version
- **e-learning platform** used as a communication tool and space for developing projects of future cooperation
- **common future activities** – international youth exchanges, local youth initiatives coordinated in international networks, connected through e-learning platform

### **WHO OPENS THE SPACE?**

Team of UNESCO Initiatives Centre in cooperation with local youth organisations, NGOs dealing with the main topic of the conference.

More about previous forum and about our organisation you can find at:

[www.unescocentre.pl](http://www.unescocentre.pl).

### **WHERE DO WE OPEN THE SPACE?**

**Wroclaw** (Breslau, Vratislav), the capital city of the Lower Silesia region, is one of the biggest, oldest and most beautiful urban centres in Poland; a place of historical crossroads

for over ten centuries, established over one thousand years ago at a convenient crossing on the Odra River and a junction of major old routes leading from the south of Europe to the north, towards the Baltic coast, and from the west to the east, towards the Black Sea.

In the swirl of history Wroclaw had moved from hands to hands, being under the rule of many lineages and countries. Polish in the beginning of its history, became Bohemian (Czech) in the 13th century, when it was passed to the house of Luxembourg. In 16th century the city went under the rules of the Habsburgs and in 18th century became a Prussian city. After the First World War Prussian Wroclaw became German and after the Second World War – Polish.

The multinational, multicultural, multireligious and multilingual urban centre has kept its tolerant spirit and today still is a melting pot of cultures, traditions and religions. With the fall of communism and freeing of its potential the city became an important Polish centre of education, economy and transportation. With its long history, beauty, rich culture, proud and happy citizens - became an interesting place to visit and live in, with its strongest NGO activity in Poland - a place with many possibilities and alternatives. With You - an open space for open-minded people.

More info: [www.wroclaw.pl](http://www.wroclaw.pl)

## CONTACT / HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in taking part in our event, please do contact us:

[www.unescocentre.pl](http://www.unescocentre.pl)

**Contact person** for future details:

Kasia Szajda

UNESCO Initiatives Centre

Ul. Nowowiejska 38

50-137 Wroclaw, Poland

Tel: +48 602 457 599

[yots@unescocentre.pl](mailto:yots@unescocentre.pl)

[www.unescocentre.pl](http://www.unescocentre.pl)



UNESCO Initiatives Centre  
Nowowiejska 38,  
50-315 Wroclaw, Poland  
phone: +48 71 716 48 40

[info@unescocentre.pl](mailto:info@unescocentre.pl)  
[www.unescocentre.pl](http://www.unescocentre.pl)