

1 Education



The Education Programme of the Office focuses on assisting Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Aruba in attaining the six goals of the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All and the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, the priority areas for the 2012-2013 biennium were: teacher training, early childhood care and education, technical-professional training, HIV/AIDS and other STDs prevention, education for the reduction of risks in the event of natural disasters and the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence. UNESCO Chairs and the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) received special support from the Office during the period.

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1.1 Education for all

MARCH 2012. HAVANA, CUBA

7th International Congress on Didactic Methods for Sciences

With the participation of more than 300 delegates from 15 countries, the Congress was held at the Convention Centre in Havana under the slogan “The Scientific Education of Youth in the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.” As part of the agenda, the National Professional Officer (NPO) for Education of the UNESCO Havana Office and Orestes Valdés, specialist in Environmental Education at the Ministry of Education



(MINED), launched the books *Estudio comparativo en la formación de profesores para la secundaria básica. El caso de la formación de profesores de Matemática* (A Comparative Study in Training Junior High School Teachers: The Training of Mathematics Teachers) and *Educación para el desarrollo sostenible, prevención de desastres y protección de la salud mental en escuelas y comunidades* (Education for Sustainable Development, Disaster Prevention and Protection of Mental Health in Schools and Communities). The latter contains five infographics and multimedia material. Both specialists reported the significant results obtained in the project *Disaster Prevention and Education in Emergency Situations in Case of Natural Phenomena in Caribbean Islands*, which is being implemented by the Havana Office since 2007 with the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) in Cuba and the Dominican Republic. The event was organized by MINED and by the Latin American and Caribbean Pedagogical Institute (IPLAC), under the auspices of UNESCO •

APRIL 23RD- 29TH, 2012. CUBA

Festivities for the Global Action Week for Education 2012

Under the slogan “Rights from the Start! Early Childhood Care and Education Now!”, a number of activities were carried out by the 76 educational institutions of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) in Cuba during the Global Action Week for Education 2012, an initiative organized by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) and actively promoted by UNESCO to raise awareness on the importance of Education for All (EFA). Worthy of note in particular was the gala performance at the Domingo Murillo Primary School with children who study in various schools at Ciudad Escolar Libertad in the Cuban capital. This activity marked the beginning of the festivities in the country, also within the framework of the 20th ASPnet National Seminar in Cuba. Lectures on early childhood care by promoters of the Cuban programme *Educa a tu hijo* (Educating Your Child),



which has been implemented for two decades in the country, tree planting and a variety of cultural activities were some of the actions carried out as part of the festivities, which this year focused on the first of the six EFA goals: “Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children” •

JULY 2012 - DECEMBER 2013. SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Advisory and Follow-up in the preparation of the National Literacy Plan “Quisqueya aprende contigo” (Quisqueya Learns with You)

Supported by a presidential decree which declares the elimination of illiteracy as a top national priority, the National Literacy Plan “Quisqueya aprende contigo” aims at teaching more than 700,000

Dominicans how to read and write before September 2014. The Office provided the Dominican Government with technical advisory in the preparation of the programme, an action that will be acknowledged during the inauguration ceremony of president-elect Danilo Medina when he will praise the “support and technical advisory received from UNESCO and other countries that have successfully implemented similar programmes” to eliminate illiteracy. The



OCTOBER 2012. HAVANA, CUBA, AND SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2012

At the ceremony where the *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2012: "Youth and Skills. Putting Education to Work"* was launched, the Director of the Havana Office summarized the progress and the challenges faced to attain the six goals in the Education for All (EFA) Programme in the world, which appear in the first part of this report published by UNESCO every year since 2002. The report is an invaluable instrument in the assessment of the progress made in this respect. Present in the ceremony were rectors from several universities in the capital, MINED officials, members of the various UNESCO Chairs and of the ASPnet in the country, specialists from national institutions, as well as other authorities and colleagues from several agencies of the United Nations system in Cuba. The exhibition *Con luz propia*, by Cuban

institution has also continued providing the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic (MINERD) and the Division of Special Programmes of the Presidency with support for the monitoring and follow-up of this important initiative. In particular, the Office was especially invited to the ceremony presided over by the President and attended by most of the ministers for the closing of the first phase in the implementation of the plan (AUGUST 2013, SANTO DOMINGO), which was at the same time the graduation ceremony of the first 70,000 graduates of the programme ●



painter Esteban Machado, was inaugurated as part of the ceremony with opening remarks by outstanding educator Dr. Lidia Turner Martí.

In turn, for the launching of the *Report* in Santo Domingo, the NPO for Education of the Office also made an assessment of the progress and challenges relative to EFA in the world, and referred in particular to the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, a region where 2.7 million children are excluded from primary education and 1.7 million teenagers are excluded from secondary education. According to the document, in the Dominican Republic in particular, the enrolment ratios in early childhood is below 60 percent, 10 percent of the adult population is illiterate, and over 40 percent of teenagers drop out of school before completing the first cycle of secondary school ●

DECEMBER 2012. HAVANA, CUBA

Cultural Gala "A Tribute to My Teacher"

On the occasion of Educator's Day in Cuba and the 51st anniversary of the Cuban Literacy Campaign, the gala performance, held at the National Theatre, became a

display of the versatility and artistic talent characterizing the students from the Guillermo Tomás Bouffartigue Conservatory, one of the 76 UNESCO Associated Schools in the country. The programme included pieces by several authors, namely Antonio Vivaldi, Rodrigo Prats, Beatriz Corona and Camp Kirkland, performed by orchestras and bands, as well as soloists and choirs. The gala was jointly organized by the Office, the National Cuban Commission for UNESCO (CNCU), and the ASPnet in Cuba, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture. In his opening words the NPO for Education of UNESCO Havana extolled the figure of the teacher in Cuban society through stories and anecdotes featuring Cuban educators. *Canción al maestro* (A Song to My Teacher) premiered as a special tribute during the gala. This work won the award of the contest organized in May 2011 by the Latin American Chair



"José Martí and Education" of the Cuban Association of Pedagogues, the Cuban Chapter of the Association of Educators of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Centre for Studies on José Martí and the José Martí Organization of Pioneers, under the auspices of the Office ●

FEBRUARY 2013. HAVANA, CUBA

International Congress on Pedagogy

The Office had an active participation in the activities of the most important academic event in the educational sphere in Cuba, organized by MINED and sponsored by UNESCO, with the



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participation of some 4,000 delegates from 40 countries. Worthy of note during the conference was the keynote address by Qian Tang, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education, in which he outlined the *Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2012*. The lecture "Education for Sustainable Development: From Theory to Practice. An Assessment of Some Results Obtained in Cuban Schools", by the NPO for Education of the Office, summarized the guidelines developed both at the national and the international levels from the perspective of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. The NPO for Education of the Office also presented the lecture "Methodology, Results and Impact



of the Project *Disaster Prevention and Education in Emergency Situations in Case of Natural Phenomena in Caribbean Islands*," implemented in educational institutions of the UNESCO ASPnet in Cuba and the Dominican Republic since 2007 during the symposium "Environmental Education for Sustainable Development" held as part of the Congress.

With the participation of doctoral students from Angola, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela, the pre-convention course "Environmental Education and Sustainable Development: Strategies for interdisciplinary curriculum and institutional integration in the programmes, projects and best practices in universities, schools, families and communities in Cuba" was given by specialists from the Office, MINED,

UNICEF-Cuba, the Centre for Studies on Environmental Education and the Félix Varela Morales Pedagogical Sciences University" •

JANUARY 2013. HAVANA, CUBA

National Scientific Seminar "Reading and Writing in University: An imperative to improve the quality of education for teachers and professors"

Organized by the Office in cooperation with MINED, the event sought to delve on the importance of reading and writing and on the use of literature in teacher training. Updating the theoretical knowledge of teachers and promoting research in this field were also objectives of this capacity-building action in which the heads of the Language and Literature Departments of all the pedagogical universities in the country participated. In the opening



session of the seminar, special tribute was paid to education professionals Angelina Romeu Escobar, Leticia Rodríguez Pérez, Rosario Mañalich Suárez and Georgina Arias Leyva, for a remarkable career in teaching and the dissemination of literature in the country. The academic programme included presentations on the experiences and projects to promote reading and the teaching of Spanish and literature in various municipalities in the country. These experiences have been collected in the memoirs of the seminar, published at a later date •



FEBRUARY 2013. HAVANA, CUBA

Launching of the book *iQuiero ser meteorólogo! (I Want to Be a Meteorologist!)*, memoirs of a unique project in vocational training

Launched during the 22nd International Book Fair, Cuba 2013, the most important event of the publishing world in the country, the book compiles the proceedings of the event under the same name, a vocational training of more than 530 children and teenagers from 77 schools on the island by students of the BSc in Meteorology of the Higher Institute of Applied Technologies and Sciences (InSTEC), and is sponsored by the UNESCO Chair in Environment and Development, the Institute of Meteorology and the Meteorology Society of Cuba. The book, by professors María Josefina Codorníu Pujals, Luisa Margarita Zayas Valdés and Ulises Jáuregui Haza, was published as part of the *Educación Cubana* collection with support from the Office •

MARCH 2013. HAVANA, CUBA

10th Scientific-Methodological Workshop of the Dulce María Escalona Chair and 4th Workshop of the Antonio Núñez Jiménez Chair in Scientific Culture

Science teaching in general education and teacher training was the central theme addressed during the UNESCO-sponsored event at the Enrique José Varona Pedagogical University (UCPEJV) in the Cuban capital. In his keynote address in the opening ceremony the NPO for Education of the Office mentioned the need to enjoy the study of mathematics

and to make good use of all the opportunities to study that exist in the country, and encouraged young teachers in particular to renew their interest in basic sciences as a way to contribute to increase the prestige of pedagogical careers especially among young people. Several awards and distinctions were presented to outstanding pedagogical students and to experienced professors during the ceremony, presided over by the Rector of the UCPEJV, the presidents of the Dulce María Escalona Chair and of the Cuban Society of Mathematics and



Computer Science (SCMC), and a methodologist of the MINED Division for Teacher Training. Dr. Rolando Forneiro, vice-minister of MINED, presided over the closing ceremony of the event ●

MARCH 2013. SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Launching of Training Programme for Capacity Building in Climate Change for Teachers in the Dominican Educational System

Launched at the Green Hall of the National Palace of the Dominican



Republic, this important programme aims at training some 400 primary and secondary school teachers from the 18 educational regions in the country. The programme includes ten workshops and a programme of international exchanges and internships for teachers. The initiative is one of the components of the project *UN CC: Learn*, implemented in the country since November 2010 with the support of 33 United Nations multilateral agencies and economic funding from Switzerland.

Vice-President Margarita Cedefio de Fernández highlighted the fact that the Dominican Republic is the first Spanish-speaking country to use this innovative learning program, especially designed by UNESCO. In turn, the NPO for Education of the Office focused on the need to foster education for sustainable development by promoting the ideal of a more just global community through training activities and public awareness. The official also indicated that this outlook on development can be used to highlight the essential contribution of educational and training programmes to everyday life, which enables communities to create local sustainable solutions for the problems associated with poverty and vulnerability ●

MARCH 2013. HAVANA, CUBA

Awards Ceremony of the 2nd National Contest of Mathematics Teachers

The 2nd Luis J. Davidson National Contest for Mathematics Teachers, organized by the Cuban Society of Mathematics and Computer Science (SCMC) with the support of the Office, was conceived as an incentive for secondary school mathematics teachers. Danier Mendoza, David Juan Hernández, Julio Achang, Héctor Camilo Igaúza, Juan C. Navarro and Evidio Quintana were the winners of the contest, among 77 professors from seven provinces, 10 of whom were in the finals, according to the information provided by Dr. Luis Ramiro Piñeiro, SCMC president. The ceremony was held in the emblematic Yard of Laurel Trees of the School of Mathematics and Computer Science of the 200-year-old University of Havana. Dr. Margarita McPherson, Vice-Minister of Education of Cuba, and the NPO for



Education of the Office, as well as other officials and professors, participated in the event ●

JULY 2013. HAVANA, CUBA

10th National Workshop “TICEDUC 2013”

The keynote address “Media and Information Literacy: A Necessity for the Development of Knowledge Societies,” by the NPOs for Education and Communication and Information of the Office, was delivered during the opening session of the event, in order to exchange pedagogical experiences and research results on the use of information and communication technologies in schools. The workshop was organized by the Vice-Rector’s Office in charge of Educational Technologies and the Vicente González Castro Honorary Chair of the Enrique José Varona Pedagogical University, with the support of the Office, the Association of Pedagogues of Cuba, the SCMC, and the Dulce María Escalona Honorary Chair ●

SEPTEMBER 2012 - OCTOBER 2013. VILLA CLARA AND HAVANA, CUBA

Training of Mathematics and Physics Teachers: Experimental preparation in Physics, use of IT resources and elaboration of new Mathematics and Physics textbooks

Implemented by the MINED Division of Professional Training and Capacity-Building with the support of the Office, the project aims at building capacities of professors from pedagogical universities in the

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Celebration of International Literacy Day in Cuba

The power of literacy as an essential factor in attaining the full emancipation of persons and lasting peace was highlighted during the International Literacy Day 2012 festivities in Cuba, organized by the National Museum of the Literacy Campaign of the Enrique José Varona Pedagogical University (UCPEJV), the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples (ICAP) and the Office.

The ceremony was presided over by the Rector of the UCPEJV, the Director of UNESCO Havana, and ambassadors and representatives of Dominica, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela in Cuba. Also present were officials from the Latin American and Caribbean Pedagogical Institute (IPLAC), of the Latin

American Reference Centre for Special Needs Education (CELAEE) and ICAP, as well as students of the BA in Special Needs Education of the Pedagogical University. Several members of the volunteer literacy brigades who participated in the Literacy Campaign in 1961 were present on behalf of the thousands of volunteers who helped



carry out the feat of eliminating illiteracy in Cuba. During the ceremony, the NPO for Education of the Office read the message sent by the Director-General of the Organization, Irina Bokova, while Dr. Zoila Benítez, of the UNESCO Chair in Educational Sciences at the UCPEJV, spoke of her experiences as a brigade member of the National Literacy Campaign in 1961 and as methodological advisor of the programme *Yo sí puedo* (Yes, I Can). This Cuban initiative, through which more than

6.8 million people have learned to read and write in 29 countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, North America, Africa, Oceania and Europe, was conferred the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Award.

The National Museum of the Literacy Campaign hosted the central festivity in the country again in 2013, presided over by UCPEJV Vice-Rector

for University Outreach, the NPO for Education of the Office, officials from MINED, IPLAC, CNCU, the Ambassador of Guatemala to Cuba, and officials from the Embassy of Venezuela in the country. A number of pedagogues attended the celebration, many of whom had also participated in the Literacy Campaign in 1961 •

country for experimental work in the use of information technology for Physics and Mathematics, and producing additional materials to train teachers in these fields. Three workshops were implemented through this initiative (SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER 2012, AND APRIL 2013, VILLA CLARA) with the participation of 80 teachers from centres of higher education throughout the country. To conclude the project, the last workshop is scheduled for November 2013 in Havana.



These actions are expected to have a direct impact and expand the scientific culture of students in general secondary and technical education and also contribute to create a novel way of teaching science based on the need to transform traditional objectives, methods and ways to work in the field •

1.2 Quality Inclusive Education Systems

FEBRUARY 2012. HAVANA, CUBA

8th International Congress of Higher Education “Universidad 2012”

“Quality Education and Sustainable Development” was the title of the keynote address delivered by Mr Qian Tang, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education at the most important conference on higher education on the island, an event organized every two years by the Ministry of Higher Education of Cuba (MES) under the auspices of UNESCO. In his presentation, the UNESCO official stressed the convenience of including topics related to sustainable development in syllabus and educational programs, and also of organizing teaching



and learning in such a way as to encourage critical thinking.

In the framework of Universidad 2012, the Director of the Office inaugurated the first session of the 11th International Workshop “Higher Education and Its Perspectives”. In his presentation, the Representative of UNESCO to Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Aruba, discussed the principles of sustainable development and the major challenges higher education has to address, among them, the elimination of poverty, the modification of unacceptable production and consumption practices, and the protection and management of natural resources for social and economic development.

Also as part of the Congress the panel “Impact of UNESCO Chairs on Higher Education in Latin America” was conducted, with the participation of the NPO for Education of the Office and Ana Margarita Sosa Castillo, of the UNESCO Chair in University Management and Teaching of the University of Havana. Members of other UNESCO Chairs in the country participating in the discussion highlighted the areas of impact and how many specialists and institutions have been benefited, not only in Cuba, but also in several other countries in the region ●



UNESCO Chairs in Cuba and the Dominican Republic

MARCH 2012. HAVANA, CUBA

Ceremony for the Creation of the UNESCO Chair in Environment and Development of the Higher Institute of Technologies and Applied Sciences (InSTEC)

By virtue of the agreement signed between UNESCO and the Higher Institute of Technologies and Applied Sciences (InSTEC), the Chair was created with the objective of “promoting a comprehensive system of activities in the areas of research, training, information and documentation in the field of environment.” The Chair also aims to become an instrument that would facilitate collaboration among professors at InSTEC, as well as among well-known researchers at the national and international levels. The constituent ceremony of this UNESCO Chair was presided over by Dr. Bárbara Garea, rector of the institution of higher education, Dr. Fidel Castro Díaz-Balart, scientific advisor of the Council of State, Dr. Ismael Clark, president of the Academy of Sciences of Cuba, Alicia González, permanent secretary of the CNCU, and the Director of the Office ●



OCTOBER 2012. SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Ceremony for the Creation of the UNESCO Chair in Teacher Training and Research on Reading and Writing, Mother and Teacher Pontifical Catholic University (PUCMM)

The ceremony for the constitution of this UNESCO Chair was held within the framework of the seminar “Reading and Writing for a Pluralistic and Democratic Society,” presided over by Agripino Núñez Collado, rector of the PUCMM,

Bruno Rosario Candelier, president of the country’s Language Academy, Liliana Montenegro, director of the Centre of Excellence for the Research and Dissemination of Reading and Writing (CEDILE), Nikaully Vargas, permanent secretary of the CNDU, and the NPO for Education of the Office, among other personalities. The new Chair was created with the purpose of doing research to encourage the development of reading in the country and to design innovative strategies to strengthen teacher training in the Spanish language for primary, secondary and higher education ●

DECEMBER 2012 AND JUNE 2013. HAVANA, CUBA

6th and 7th National Workshops of UNESCO Chairs in Cuba

During the 6th National Workshop, organized by the CNCU with the collaboration of the Office, the representatives of the UNESCO Chairs in Cuba explained the most important activities implemented during the year and stated the projections for the work of their respective chairs in the coming months. A draft project to strengthen the network of UNESCO Chairs in the



country to be implemented in 2013 was among the initiatives discussed by the participants.

The 7th National Workshop took place with the presence of Paulina González-Pose, chief of the Section of Higher Education at UNESCO, on official visit for the event. The high official explained the key priorities of the Organization with

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regards to higher education and presented an overview of the structure and current situation of UNESCO's University Twinning and Networking Scheme (UNITWIN) and UNESCO Chairs.

The workshop also served as an adequate setting for the launching of the Portal of UNESCO Chairs of Cuba, a new virtual space created to facilitate



the management of the information generated by the nine chairs created in the country and to promote collaboration among them and their counterparts in the world. This workshop, which was also a timely occasion to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Network of UNESCO Chairs on the island, was presided over by Miriam Alpízar, Vice-Minister of Higher Education of Cuba and included speeches by the President of the CNCU, the Coordinator of the Network of UNESCO Chairs in Cuba, the Director of the Observatory on Social Responsibility in Latin America and the Caribbean (ORSALC) and the Director of the Office •

JULY 2012. HAVANA, CUBA

10th International Meeting on Early Childhood and Preschool Education and International Congress Education and Pedagogy for Special Needs

In the first working session of the event, held at the Convention Centre in Havana with the participation of more than 300 delegates from 20 countries, the NPO for Education of the Office presented the lecture "Early Childhood Quality Inclusive Education: from Utopia to Reality." In the interagency panel, with representatives



from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food programme (WFP), the UNESCO official also mentioned research projects showing that Early

Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) has to be one of the foundations for human development. He also analyzed the reality of the most vulnerable groups of boys and girls in early childhood in Latin America and the Caribbean and stressed the need to promote active policies for universal initial quality education as an imperative in the continent •

JULY - DECEMBER 2013. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Follow-up to the National Plan for Comprehensive Protection and Care of Early Childhood "Quisqueya Begins with You"

The Office has provided support to MINERD and the Division of Special Programmes of the Presidency in the follow-up to the National Plan for Comprehensive Protection and Care of Early Childhood, which under the slogan "Quisqueya Empieza Contigo" (Quisqueya



Begins with You) seeks to organize and regulate the variety of services rendered, and to expand the coverage and quality of comprehensive care to children under five years of age, their families and communities. For this purpose, the Dominican government has scheduled the construction of 250 new Centres for Comprehensive Care of Early Childhood for the 2013-16 period, which would work with 107,000 young children, and four Centres for Comprehensive Education and

Care of children with special needs. The plan includes the creation of one thousand community centres, mandatory pre-primary grade for five-year old children and a training program for the certification of nannies and caregivers, as well as the children's timely registration •

JUNE 2013. HAVANA, CUBA

Internship on Comprehensive Early Childhood Care

The objective of this academic action was to provide specialists in Early Childhood Education and Care from the Dominican Republic and Cuba a reference framework on this important issue through the exchange of experiences, modalities and strategies that have contributed to the implementation and consolidation of public policies for the benefit of early childhood. The course included guided visits to day-care centres in the Cuban capital and first-hand information on the Cuban programme *Educa a tu hijo* (Educating Your Child), and on the characteristics of the interventions being carried out in both rural and urban areas. There were also several exchanges with pedagogical universities to learn about the ongoing training programmes and strategies for education personnel. This activity was coordinated by the Latin American Centre for Pre-School Education (CELEP) of the Enrique José Varona Pedagogical University and the support of UNESCO Havana •

NOVEMBER 2013. SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

4th Subregional Education Seminar "Knowledge, best practices and management of quality educational processes."

Organized by MINERD, the CNDU, the Salomé Ureña Higher Institute of Educational Training (ISFODOSU) and the National Institute for Training and Capacity Building in Teaching (INAFOCAM), with support from the Office, the event seeks to provide a space for debate on the management of quality educational processes in Latin America and the Caribbean. More than 400 scholars and specialists from the region are expected to participate •

1.3 Education, Sustainable Development and a Culture of Peace and Non-violence

PROJECT

National Capacity Building on responding to HIV and AIDS by the Education sector through a socio-cultural approach

The Office, in collaboration with several partners and with the purpose of maximizing coherence, coordination and impact in the response of the United Nations to AIDS, organized the following activities with funding from the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF):

APRIL 2012. HAVANA, CUBA

8th Regional Workshop on Promotion and Education for Health in Schools and Universities

The Director of the Office in his keynote address expressed that building and expanding the capacity for an effective and sustainable education oriented to respond to HIV, strengthening comprehensive education on sexuality and HIV, and achieving progress on the issue of gender equality and human rights are three key priorities



that have become the focus of a number of UNESCO activities and action plans. In addition, the Coordinator of the SIDACULT Regional Project, an initiative of the

Havana Office which explores and stimulates new cultural and social responses regarding HIV and AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean, presented an extensive report on the results of the work on this initiative and confirmed that, as a result, there are more than 400 projects and members of the Regional SIDACULT Network in the continent. At the end of the working session, the Coordinator of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network in Cuba explained the experiences implemented by several schools on HIV and AIDS. The workshop, attended by more than 260 delegates from 12 countries, was organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Pedagogical Institute (IPLAC), the National Centre for the Promotion of Education for Health (CNPES), MINED and the Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP) of Cuba ●



topics discussed and the project *Teatro Terapéutico. Tratamiento alternativo-didáctico-deportivo-recreativo cultural comunitario para las personas que viven con VIH, e ITS VIH/SIDA: una respuesta para su prevención desde un enfoque sociocultural* (Therapy Theatre. An Alternative-Didactic-Sports-Recreational Treatment for Persons Living with HIV and STDs HIV/AIDS: A Response for Prevention from a Socio-Cultural Approach). Sports equipment and supplies were donated to community centres during the workshop ●



OCTOBER 2012. SANTIAGO DE CUBA, CUBA

Capacity-Building Workshop on education about STD/HIV/AIDS through Physical Education

Organized in coordination with the Frank País Pedagogical University and the divisions of Public Health and Sports in the province, this action counted with the participation of 40 Physical Education teachers in the territory. Among the lecturers were Dr. José Antonio Lamotte Castillo, prestigious expert on the topic, well known both nationally and internationally, MSc. Juana Palma Vaillán, director of the Orientation Centre of the Frank País Pedagogical University, and MSc.

Jorge A. Jiménez Callis, professor and researcher of this important institution of higher education. The workshop launched books and audiovisual materials on the

APRIL - DECEMBER 2013. SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Diploma Course “Preventing HIV/AIDS from the School”

This capacity-building action was organized jointly with the Salomé Ureña Higher Institute for Teacher Training (ISFODOSU), and was addressed to trainers, guides, psychologists and teachers in the various levels of the Dominican Educational System with the objective of providing them with the necessary knowledge and tools for a socio-cultural gender-based approach to STDs/HIV/AIDS and to promote values and skills for a healthy lifestyle.

The workshop “Cultural Approach in the Struggle against Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS in the Preparation and Training of Teachers” is scheduled for November 2013, Havana, Cuba, in order to present the results of the project, identify good practices in its implementation and outline the follow-up activities related to this initiative ●

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AUGUST 2013. LIMA, PERU

Meeting of the Regional Community of Practice on Sexuality Education

Promoting technical exchanges on the implementation of education on sexuality and strengthening programmes on sexual education and sexual health in schools was the objective of this meeting, organized by the UNESCO Regional Office for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of the Peruvian government and UNAIDS. Focal



Points in the Health and Education sectors from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay attended the meeting, where they discussed the aspects of the *2008 Prevention Through Education Declaration* approved by the First Meeting of Ministers of Health and Education to prevent HIV in Latin America and the Caribbean. Cuba and Mexico presented their progress and national strategies for including these topics in the school syllabus ●

NOVEMBER 2013. HAVANA, CUBA

Congress on Mathematics and Computer Sciences COMPUMAT 2013

Organized by the University of Informatics (UCI), and the Society of Mathematics and Computer Sciences with the support of the Office, the Congress will discuss the results of research projects in the various fields of Mathematics and Computer Science among other issues related to the teaching of these sciences ●

UNESCO Associated Schools Network in Cuba and the Dominican Republic

APRIL 2012, HAVANA AND MAY 2013, VILLA CLARA

20th and 21st National Seminars of UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network in Cuba

Some 120 delegates from around the country participated in the 20th Seminar, including teachers from the 76 UNESCO Associated Schools of Cuba. In the opening session of the seminar, the Director of the Office highlighted the various projects implemented by these schools and the importance of the joint efforts of students and professors in the implementation of the strategies and programmes of the Organization in the fields of education, science, culture and communication. The ceremony was also the occasion to present the awards of the contest “La prevención y educación sobre los desastres se inicia en mi escuela” (Prevention and Education against Disasters Begins in My School), and for the premiere of the documentary *Cuba: UNESCO Associated Schools*, about the work carried out by the Associated Schools in the country seen through the students’ own accounts and stories.

Worthy of note were the keynote lectures “UNESCO and Heritage”, delivered by Dr. Eusebio Leal Spengler, Historian of Havana, and “World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the role of communities”, by a specialist from the Culture Programme of the Office. The panel on the results and impact of the project *Educación para el desarrollo sostenible, prevención de desastres y protección de la salud mental en escuelas y comunidades* (Education for Sustainable Development, Disaster Prevention and Protection of Mental Health in Schools and Communities) also took place, coordinated by the Office and the MINED Division of Science and Technology. Presentations about the projects implemented by the schools were also included in the academic programme of the seminar.

A remarkable display of talent was the concert given at the Minor Basilica of the Convent of St. Francis of Assisi by the Children and Youth Symphony Orchestra of the Guillermo Tomás

Bouffartigüe Conservatory, one of the UNESCO Associated Schools located in the municipality of Guanabacoa, a territory famous for its musical traditions throughout the country. Similarly, the versatility of the galas organized by the students from the Ángela Landa Elementary School, located in the historic centre, and Domingo Murillo Elementary School, in Ciudad Escolar Libertad, was also noteworthy.

Of great interest was the visit to the facilities of the Villena-Revolución Agricultural Polytechnic Institute, the UNESCO Associated School which hosted the seminar. It was an opportunity for both students and professors of the 50-year old institution to show the areas for goat breeding, production of animal feed, beekeeping and production of honey, as well as a model dairy farm, the most productive in the province.

The 21st Seminar, with the presence of the Director of the Office, the President of the CNCU and the National Coordinator of ASPnet in the country, was dedicated to the 60th Anniversary of ASPnet, the 30th Anniversary of its creation in Cuba and the celebration in 2013 of the International Year of Water Cooperation.



Papers and presentations on the projects *School Newsletters for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence* and *Disaster Prevention and Education in Emergency Situations in Case of Natural Phenomena in Caribbean Islands* were conducted by the NPOs of the Communication and

Information and Education programmes of the Office and by Dr. Yoanka Rodney, lecturer at the Enrique José Varona Pedagogical University, Dr. Orestes Valdés, MINED specialist, and Dr. Iván Barreto, director of Educational Informatics at the MINED. These working sessions were devoted to the exchange of experiences and good practices among the participants, who also had the opportunity to visit the ecological reserve Mogotes de Jumagua, and the cities of Caibarién and Remedios, which hosted several activities of the seminar.

As part of the event, the 110 delegates from around the country visited the five educational institutions members of ASPnet in the province, where they appreciated the joint efforts of professors and students in the implementation of UNESCO strategies and programmes in



the spheres of education, science, culture and communication. In addition, all the schools prepared cultural galas of a high artistic quality.

Livia Salvari, ASPnet international coordinator, sent a message to the delegates and thanked teachers for “their outstanding performance in endowing students with knowledge, values, attitudes and behaviours for tomorrow’s world,” thus stressing the positive impact of the initiatives implemented by member institutions of ASPnet for the country’s future generations ●

APRIL 2013. SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

National Capacity-Building Workshop for Teachers at UNESCO Associated Schools Network of the Dominican Republic

Organized by the Dominican National Commission for UNESCO (CNDU) in collaboration with the Office, the seminar was attended by teachers from the 25 schools members of ASPnet in the provinces of Santo Domingo, San Cristóbal, Baní, San Pedro de Macorís and Santiago de los Caballeros. The opening session was presided over by Valerie Julliard, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in the country, Ana Rita Guzmán, director general for International Affairs of the Ministry of Education (MINERD), Nikaully Vargas, secretary general of the CNDU, and the NPO for Education of the Office.

Worthy of note as part of the academic programme were the workshops “School Newsletters”, conducted by María Isabel Soldevila, coordinator of the UNESCO Chair Communication, Democracy

and Governance of the Mother and Teacher Pontifical Catholic University of Santo Domingo, and Aurelio Henríquez, president of the Dominican College of Journalists (CDB); and “Management of Risks Caused by Natural Disasters” and “Culture of Peace”, by specialists in those topics respectively.



In the closing session of the workshop the project *School Newsletters for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence* was presented, an initiative implemented in Cuba and the Dominican Republic that aims at strengthening the key values of a culture of peace and non-violence among children and young people by facilitating the production and distribution of school newsletters in institutions belonging to ASPnet in both nations ●