

Estonia

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UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

Progress Report

Period of activity: 2005

UNESCO Chair in Civics and Multicultural Education Studies

Host Institution: Jaan Tõnisson Institute Civic Education Centre

Report established by: Mr. Sulev Valdmaa, Chairholder

I. Activities.

1. Education/Training/Research.

The Chair prepared a survey on the educational situation of Roma people living in Estonia. The survey was part of a bigger report that was submitted to the EU.

Training:

The Chair compiled an academic quiz for school students about democracy, civic education and citizenship issues, launched on the Estonian Day of Citizen, November 26, with the aim of raising students' interest in these issues.

In partnership with the Estonian Integration Foundation (www.meis.ee), the Chair developed training of trainers' materials to build a pool of some 100 consultants to run seminars for candidates of the Estonian citizenship examination. This exercise had a 80% pass rate. The target group was a selected group of volunteers willing to become consultants of Estonian Citizenship seminars.

The Chair also conducted:

- Two two-week training courses for civic education teachers, grade 4.
- Three 4-week academic course in world cultural heritage and art history

2.Conferences:

In addition, the Chair organized an international conference on “Mass Media and Civic Education” which was held in Tallinn, in April 2005. Among the fifty participants were students from Estonia, the United States, Latvia, Sweden, Lithuania and Denmark

Other:

In partnership with the State Centre for Examinations and Qualification, the Chair also participates in the renewal of Estonian National Curriculum.

II. Impact

The results of the Chair activities in 2005 can be summarized as follows:

- Around 60 teachers of primary and lower-secondary grades were prepared to teach Civic Education in grade 4;
- Some 80 volunteers were trained to conduct seminars for preparing non-citizens to pass the examination of Estonian Citizenship. This comprised knowledge of the Estonian Constitution.
- A series of training materials, including handbooks and course plans, was produced to prepare volunteers towards becoming citizenship exam consultants.
- Some 120 students were trained in World Cultural Heritage and Art History.
- A survey of the educational situation of Romas living in Estonia

III. Forthcoming Activities

In 2006 the Chair will continue to:

- Contribute to the development of the National Curriculum Reform;
- Train teachers in Civic Education for the 4-th grade
- Give courses in World Cultural Heritage and Art History.

IV. Development Prospects

The Chair has recently joined and participates in Europe-wide projects, and has also joined the worldwide network of Civitas International.