

Contribution to the End of Decade Report on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)

Latvia

Disclaimer: In resolution 64/80, the General Assembly requested UNESCO to prepare a summary report on the activities carried out over the past ten years of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010) by UNESCO, other United Nations entities, Member States and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to promote and implement the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. This report will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly at its 65th session in 2010. This contribution towards this report was received from the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO. The contents of this document are those of the author(s) and the opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of UNESCO and do not commit the Organization.

Contributions
 about the activities carried out to implement
 the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace
 by **Latvian National Commission for UNESCO**

<i>Nr.</i>	<i>Short description of the activity</i>	<i>Time / place</i>	<i>Contribution to Programme of Action</i>	<i>Main achievements</i>	<i>Main challenges</i>	<i>Best practices</i>
1.	<p>Project “UNESCO Youth School ”</p> <p>In order to promote youth nonformal education and peer education group of youngsters were trained and educated with nonformal education methods about democracy, globalization, society participation etc., so later these youngsters could lead presentations to others.</p> <p>The main aim of the project was to empower youngsters to become leaders and to spread their knowledge, skills and experiences to other youngsters.</p> <p>During the project toolkit „What you can do in a student council at your school?” was prepared by youngsters themselves and later on distributed in all schools in Latvia to support the work and development of student councils. Toolkit is still useful and applied in the work of student councils in many schools in Latvia.</p>	2001- 2005 Latvia	<p>Action area Nr. 5 – Actions to foster democratic participation</p> <p>(b) special emphasis on democratic principles and practices in all levels of formal, informal and nonformal education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trained youngsters who currently are active leaders of democratic society; - strengthened youth engagement in UNESCO activities; - developed experiences for successful youth involvement 	Most governmental institutions don't see youngsters as valuable and trustful partners	Active youth engagement in UNESCO programmes contributed greatly to promote sustainable development, ideas of culture of peace as well as to raise overall quality of life and interpersonal and intergenerational communication

	<p>Additionally these youngsters were actively involved in different UNESCO programme implementation as support staff, city guides as well as preparing special youth programmes for different conferences on various UNESCO topics (e.g. intangible heritage).</p> <p>In the implementation of the project various methods were used - summer camp, seminars, lectures, presentations, group work, competitions, etc.</p>					
2.	<p>Children and youngsters story project “Friend’s tales” *</p> <p>Project promotes quality intercultural and intergenerational communication between Latvian children and youngsters (age 10-16) and children and youngsters from such minority groups living in Latvia as Azeri, Armenians, Georgians, Estonians and Lithuanians, thus developing their ability to listen, analyse text and reflect it in the context of their own and other cultures.</p> <p>Children and youngsters were joined in different creative activities – story writing, reading and illustrating. All this helps to discover new talents and allows to learn from each other and learn about different cultures and experiences.</p> <p>The main aims of the project are: - to promote tolerance and intercultural dialogue among representatives of different</p>	<p>2009 - 2010</p> <p>Riga, Latvia</p>	<p>Action area Nr.6 – Actions to advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity</p> <p>(i) support actions that foster understanding, tolerance, solidarity and cooperation among peoples and within among nations</p>	<p>Representatives from post-conflict Caucasus countries all living in Latvia were participating in the project together with children from countries without any current conflicts</p>	<p>Cooperation with minority non-governmental organisations and embassies</p>	<p>Thematic storytelling evenings in cooperation with Latvian and national minority non-governmental organisations and embassies</p>

	<p>minority groups in Latvia; - to strengthen intercultural and inter-generation communication and solidarity in Latvia; - to promote respectful attitude towards otherness.</p> <p>In the implementation of the project various tools and methods were used - website for children and youngsters (www.stastulaiks.lv), story-writing competition, thematic storytelling evenings and summer camp.</p>					
3.	<p>The partnership project “Signs of Identity / Signs of Diversity” *</p> <p>The main aim of the project was to create a platform to facilitate qualitative, enriching and fruitful exchange, cooperation and dialogue among Caucasus and Baltic countries and France through artistic creativity and analyzing, examining and expressing into art different messages about different cultural roots, aspects of identity as well as about uniting in cultural diversity.</p> <p>26 young artists and their professors from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and France during the artistic workshop organized in Riga, Latvia, in 2009 had developed two mosaics about</p>	<p>2007 – 2010 Riga, Latvia</p>	<p>Action area Nr.6 – Actions to advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity</p> <p>(i) support actions that foster understanding, tolerance, solidarity and cooperation among peoples and within among nations</p>	<p>- 54 mosaics reflecting common and diverse signs form different cultures - representatives form post-conflict Caucasus countries were participating in the project together without any conflicts</p>	<p>To create such an environment that all participants feel emotionally comfortable and get successfully involved in the activities of the project</p>	<p>Art workshops are successful method to advance tolerance. Despite the historical background all artists after the project agreed that cultural diversity is a unique and very necessary phenomenon to continue the creative processes of the world</p>

* Both projects are rooted and developed within the UNESCO “Caucasus project” framework and the *Recommendations on Dialogue among Civilizations. Caucasus*, adopted in Vilnius, Lithuania, 2003.

	<p>cultural diversity (altogether 54 mosaics). All mosaics as well as different materials from the workshop were summarised in a catalogue as well as in an exhibition.</p> <p>Currently the mosaic exhibition is being exhibited in all the participating countries as well as recently during the International Festival of Cultural Diversity in May 2010 was also displayed at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.</p>					
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