



The Slovak and Czech Regional Academy: Building Inclusive School Environments for All is supported through the bilateral fund at national level within the Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway grants (EEA and Norway Grants 2009 – 2014 in the Slovak Republic).



The Slovak and Czech Regional Academy

# BUILDING INCLUSIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL

**Diversity – Recognition – Equality**

TBC, Slovak Republic

*2 – 6 November 2016*





The Slovak and Czech Regional Academy: **Building Inclusive School Environments for All. Diversity – Recognition – Equality** is a training programme dedicated to building a democratic and inclusive culture in primary schools in the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic. Its aim is to strengthen the competences of education professionals and community actors in the field of human rights education (HRE), education for democratic citizenship (EDC) and to encourage joint actions and partnerships of schools with NGOs. The Academy is a great opportunity for school leaders, teachers, and civil society organisations to learn

practical tools and strategies on how to create more democratic and inclusive environments for all children through EDC and HRE. The Slovak and Czech Regional Academy 2016 is organised by the National Institute for Education in cooperation with the Council of Europe, the European Wergeland Centre and partners' institutions in the Slovak and Czech Republic: Methodology and Pedagogy Centre, National Institute for Certified Educational Measurements, Open Society Foundation, National Institute for Education of the Czech Republic. The Slovak and Czech Regional Academy is organised with the support of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE ACADEMY

- To enhance competences of teachers and school leaders for engaging with diversity in the classroom and school;
- To support participants to develop school-based EDC/HRE projects which promote a democratic and inclusive school environment for all pupils;
- To provide a forum to exchange effective practices and experiences for increasing inclusion in schools;
- To encourage dialogue and cooperation between varieties of actors in education and participating countries/regions;
- To facilitate the dissemination and use of the CoE Charter for EDC/HRE and CoE materials;
- To strengthen further a network of multipliers in EDC/HRE.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The training phases: **Phase 1:** Preparation phase – online (October 2016)  
**Phase 2:** In-person training (2 – 6 November 2016)  
**Phase 3:** Follow-up and action plan implementation (November 2016 – April 2017)  
**Phase 4:** Evaluation (May – June 2017)

### Venue

Further information about the logistics of the training and the venue will be provided to the selected candidates.

### Working languages

The training will be held in English. All members of a team should have a basic understanding of English to be able to participate actively, while at least two members should have a good knowledge of English. Recommended level is at least B2 according to the CEFR. Interpretation from/into English/Slovak will be provided during the training.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Participants from the Slovak or Czech Republic join the training as a team of four members. Each team consists of:

- 1) a school head or a deputy;
- 2) a teacher of social science subjects: Civics and/or Ethics;
- 3) a teacher of any general educational/academic subject;
- 4) a representative of an NGO active in the field of human rights education, education for democratic citizenship for two preceding years at least; a representative of parents; a representative of local municipality.

Application form is available here: <http://www.statpedu.sk/clanky/vzdelavacie-aktivity/slovenska-ceska-regionalna-akademia>. Please, fill out the application form by **10 October 2016** and send it to: [michaela.ujhazyova@statpedu.sk](mailto:michaela.ujhazyova@statpedu.sk) and Cc to: [denisa.duranova@statpedu.sk](mailto:denisa.duranova@statpedu.sk)

Send the printed, signed and stamped application form by **14 October 2016** to the following address: National Institute for Education, Michaela Ujházyová, Pluhová 8, 830 00 Bratislava. Please, write “Regional Academy” on the envelope. Coordinators of the selected teams will receive a confirmation email to their email address provided in the Application Form by **17 October 2016**.

The selection process will be administered by the National Institute for Education and the Methodology and Pedagogy Centre. The Slovak and Czech Regional Academy will host 32 participants in 4 teams from the Slovak Republic and 4 teams from the Czech Republic. Selection of the school teams will be based on the following criteria: representation of primary schools from different regions, from large and small settlements, school teams with different experience in EDC/HRE, motivation and ideas for projects and English language skills. Priority will be given to schools which face challenges related to issues of diversity, minorities and integration.

### Travel and subsistence expenses

Training in the Slovak and Czech Regional Academy, travelling expenses, accommodation, food and activities included in the programme are provided free of charge. Travel expenses to and from the Academy venue will be reimbursed to participants after submitting travelling documents. Further information on travel arrangements will follow at a later stage to selected candidates.

### Certificate of participation

Upon completion of all phases of the training, participants will receive a certificate of participation.

### Further information

For more information, please visit the European Wergeland Centre (further EWC) web site: <http://www.theewc.org/Content/What-we-do/Summer-Academies>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Primary school plays an important role in developing ethical and civic attitudes of children. The school environment is the first community exceeding family, where children get familiar with certain normative system, decision-making processes and the role of participation in the school life. School is an environment where pupils acquire strategies how to cope with diversity, learn principles of tolerance and mutual respect, and realize the importance of democratic rules and norms in society.

The relevance of stronger implementation of HRE and EDC in schools is also acknowledged by the public surveys of the values and political orientation of young people in Slovakia. These together with the latest development of public discourse show the significant influence of xenophobic, hateful and populist rhetoric in shaping the attitudes of young people to the current social problems.

Apart from the minorities living in both countries (Roma, Hungarian, Czech/Slovak, Ukrainian, Ruthenian, German, Polish, Vietnamese), there are also children from other countries and children from mixed families in our schools. Although the Slovak and Czech Republic are traditionally countries of emigrants and economic migration is part of their national history, there are present anti-immigration attitudes. Xenophobic attitudes escalated by migration crisis are not just an isolated problem of Central Europe. Report of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, published by the Council in 2015, confirms the increased violence against immigrants (also from EU countries), intolerance and hate speech in many European countries. In this situation, building inclusive schools and societies are more important than ever.

The work on the competencies for a democratic culture is an important part of the Council of Europe's activities for inclusive societies, since it assumes that all learners, also those with a majority background, need to develop the values, attitudes, skills and knowledge which will enable them to encounter, respect and interact in a context of diversity.

Building inclusive schools is possible through shaping the school culture, policies and practices so they respond to a diverse range of learners: e.g. male, female; from different ethnic and religious backgrounds, refugee, migrant and returnee children. By training educational professionals and civic actors, the Academy aims to strengthen democratic and inclusive school environment that will create a positive and friendly atmosphere for all learners.

The Slovak and Czech Regional Academy provides school teams with effective tools, which they can utilize not only at their lessons and project activities, but which can help them to facilitate democratic and inclusive school environments and cooperation with local community. As the analyses of school needs and priorities are built into the training programme, participation at the Academy allows school teams to prepare an action plan which meets the challenges their school is dealing with.

## MAIN FEATURES OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMME

### 1. Expertise and international recognition

The training is offered by organisations and institutions with a long-standing experience in promoting human rights and democracy through education. It promotes Council of Europe policies, and teaching and learning materials which are recognised by education professionals for their usefulness. The training is conducted by a team of trainers with international experience.

### 2. School-community teams

School teams are composed of representatives of various stakeholders who can support cooperation of schools and community actors (NGOs). School projects have the potential to exceed the school environment and to focus on the local community. Cooperation between schools and NGOs, from developing an action plan to the evaluation of its implementation, promotes the exchange of experiences, strategies and helps to create favourable conditions for openness and inclusiveness.

### 3. A whole-school approach to EDC/ HRE

The Academy promotes a whole-school approach to EDC/HRE which means going beyond the classroom in teaching democracy and human rights. The activities planned at the training by the school teams do not begin and end as an initiative of the teacher(s) alone. Parents, pupils and school management should be involved and support the school environment that would reflect values and principles of democracy and human rights.

### 4. Regional cooperation & dialogue

The training is an opportunity for participants from different regions to meet with other educators and community actors. The training offers an important platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas in EDC/HRE.

### 5. Action orientation

During the training, participants develop a project with the support of a trainer. The project addresses specific challenges faced in their school communities. Based on it, participants involve their colleagues, pupils and other stakeholders to initiate positive changes and responses to the challenges identified. The projects are to be implemented during the school year 2016/2017, and supported online by a trainer.

### CoE Tools and Materials:

CoE Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education  
Democratic School Governance  
Compass – A Manual for Human Rights Education with Young People  
Compassito – A Manual for Human Rights Education for Children  
Training Pack – Teaching controversial issues  
Bookmarks – Combating hate speech online through human rights education

The 2016 theme of the Academies ties in with the current priorities of the Council of Europe including the Action Plan on Building Inclusive Societies (2016-19).



**Preparation phase – online:** October 2016

**In-person training:** 2 – 6 November 2016

**Follow-up and action plan implementation:** November 2016 – April 2017

**Evaluation:** May – June 2017

**Application deadline:** 10 October 2016.

**E-mail notice to selected candidates:** 17 October 2016

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For questions about the Slovak and Czech Regional Academy, please contact:

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Please, include Ms Denisa Ďuranová: [denisa.duranova@statpedu.sk](mailto:denisa.duranova@statpedu.sk) in the Cc.