



Mreža centara za obrazovne politike

Network of Education Policy Centers

NETWORK OF EDUCATION POLICY CENTERS (NEPC)

Annual Report January 1st 2010 – November 24th 2010

I GENERAL

1. Secretariat

The NEPC Secretariat still employs

Executive Director
Project Coordinator
Accountant

In March 2010 former Project coordinator Ms. Eli Pijaca resigned from the position and Ms. Asja Korbar has replaced her in the position.

As the work at NEPC secretariat is constantly increasing it has been decided that the Project Coordinator will become a full time position from December 1st 2010. Also in case NEPC receives the IPA grant for ESdPI project another person will be employed as an Administrative Officer for half time.

The NEPC board has in its last Board meeting October 2nd also decided to extend the contract for the Executive Director Ms. Lana Jurko for the next 3 years until December 31st 2013.

2. Board

The NEPC board of seven members meets 3 times a year, in March/April, September/October and during the GA. Board members actively participate in many NEPC activities as well as give strategic guidance for the development of the network. Each Board member is expected to take care of one of the NEPC sectors either in running a Network project, participating in the Summer school or fundraising and advocating for or on behalf of NEPC.

12th NEPC Board meeting was held on 21st & 22nd March 2010, Durres Albania

Topics discussed - Advocacy Retreat Outcome – discussion and preparing an action plan, Central Asia Initiative, New Initiatives I Case studies of testing centers in the region, II Latvia School community centre project III GREEN NEPC Policy Lab, Summer School, Exchange program
Budget

Minutes available upon request!

13th NEPC Board meeting was held on 1st and 2nd October 2010, Poreč,

Topics discussed - Summer School 2010 Outcome, NTC review, Lobbying report, PT II, Central Asia, Internships, You Tube, Latvia School community centre project, GREEN NEPC, Budget, Summer School topic 2011, New approaches for funding - seeking other interesting funders, visibility, Selection – Advocacy Project proposals, Calls by OSI , GA – dates venue topics training, Policy Lab November 2010, NEPC position paper based on PIPES and PT, Member evaluation – matrix, procedure for selecting and engaging experts when they are not NEPC members or employees of NEPC member, hiring a board member on a professional contract. What is NEPC policy/by law on this issue? How do we tackle the risk of conflict of interests?, Board member election in 2010, Executive Director – contract

Minutes available upon request!

3. Public relations

A: Education Policy and Equal Education Opportunities, OSI, March 18 –21, 2010, Tirana Albania

Why Cross-country Policy Research and Development are useful? - Introducing Network of Education Policy Centers (NEPC)

(Lana Jurko – NEPC Executive Director; Alexandru Crisan – International Education Consultant, President of NEPC Board)

Drawing the Line: Parental Informal Payments in Education Study - NEPC Book presentation.

Editor: Elmina Kazimzade, NEPC/ Center for Innovations in Education Azerbaijan

Unequal outcomes of citizenship education: are there education policy solutions? – reflections based on NEPC research

Maria Golubeva, NEPC/Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS, Latvia

Education equity problems related to household participation in general education in the public sector - reflections based on NEPC research

Elmina Kazimzade, NEPC /Center for Innovations in Education Azerbaijan

Giorgi Machabeli, NEPC/ International Institute for Education Policy, Planning and Management, Georgia

Panel on NEPC Comparative Research

Issue of the educational context as the instigator of the Private Tutoring phenomenon in the Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia and Mongolia-'Private Tutoring Phenomenon: Developing Policy Options'

Nailia Ismayilova, NEPC/Center for Innovations in Education, Azerbaijan

Tamuna Bregvadze, NEPC/International Institute for Education Policy, Planning and Management, Georgia

Batjargal Batkhuyag, NEPC/ Mongolian Education Alliance, Mongolia

Equity issues related to Private tutoring in Western Balkans - 'Private Tutoring Phenomenon: Developing Policy Options'

Andrea Soldo, NEPC/proMente social research, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Boris Jokić, NEPC/Centre for Educational Research and Development Institute for Social Research, Croatia

Private Tutoring Phenomenon: Developing Policy Options' – research design and comparative results from the Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia and Mongolia

Boris Jokić, Centre for Educational Research and Development Institute for Social Research, Croatia

Laura Kirss, PRAXIS, Estonia

B: Comparative and International Society's Annual Conference 2010, "Reimagining Education", March 1-5 2010, Chicago, USA

The Phenomenon of Private Tutoring: Developing Policy Options in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Mongolia

Boris Jokić, Nailia Ismayilova, Batjargal Batkhuyag, Lana Jurko

Who will lead education reforms: Azerbaijan case

Elmina Kazimzade

C: Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education, Council of Europe conference 15 & 16 April 2010, Strasbourg, France

Maria Golubeva

D: Parental Involvement in Life of School Matters, 23 – 24 April 2010, Becici, Montenegro

Lana Jurko

E: Policy Forum - Challenges of Financing Basic Education: Revisiting solutions involving the private sector IIEP, UNESCO 9-10 September 2010 Paris, France
Elmina Kazimzade & Lana Jurko

H: Schools for Inclusive Education in the Western Balkans and Turkey, ETF, Sanliurfa, Turkey- 4 - 6 October 2010
Asja Korbar

II NEPC 2010 PROGRAM

1. Advocacy

As it has been agreed earlier, this year 2010 will be devoted to advocacy. We now have available research results from 3 projects:

- Parental Informal Payments to Education Study (PIPES)
- Divided Education – Divided Citizens? (DEDC)
- Private Tutoring Phenomenon: Developing Policy Options

and we will build on these results to advocate for change in education policy across the NEPC region. As it has been seen from our external evaluation, NEPC needs to improve its international recognition as a policy network. Our advocacy strategy takes this into consideration and is designed to fill this gap. In Board discussion it was concluded that what we need is a comprehensive strategy for NEPC and not for each project on its own therefore there are 5 strands of advocacy activities that NEPC has been working on and will continue to work on:

Strand 1 – Advocacy Planning Retreat

A meeting of NEPC policy researchers involved in the projects up to 2010. The Board invited ESP staff and/or other NEPC partners to be our sounding board and moderators:

The tasks:

- to precisely define target audiences and goals for our advocacy;
- to make super focused customized messages for specific target audiences based on each project
- to write it up in an advocacy brief .

The output of the retreat is:

- a written brief outlining our targets and advocacy message for each target

The retreat was held in February 2010.

The report of the retreat is available on request!

Strand 2 – Projects & Activities based on our Advocacy messages

Based on *Scenario 1* from the Advocacy Retreat Report (ARR) a project for IPA funding was submitted. ***Leadership for Local Community: Empowering Teachers and Youth for Active Role in Local Communities*** (see details on page 13 of this reports)

Based on *Scenario 2* from the Advocacy Retreat Report (ARR) two projects for IPA funding were submitted in Croatia and B&H – **“Schools against corruption”**. The project was adopted and submitted for IPA funding in Albania in May.

Based on *Scenario 3* from the Advocacy Retreat Report (ARR) NEPC is currently working on a proposal for EC funding with the project **“Economy of Transition(s) from primary to secondary education (and to higher education) of vulnerable groups “** in Azerbaijan, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia & Turkey

NEPC will also write a **Position Paper on Household Investments** based on PT and PIPES Studies to be completed **February 2011**.

NEPC secretariat will continue to actively search for other funding opportunities for these or other scenarios from the ARR.

Strand 3 - Call for Advocacy Proposals to Members

Based on the Advocacy Retreat Report, NEPC prepared a call for members as a grant for their advocacy efforts in country/region. See Attached

The Board received 3 applications and approved all 3 of them

1. **"Seminar of e-democracy"** submitted by **Centre for public policy PROVIDUS**
2. **„How free is free education?"** submitted by **Orava Association for democratic Education**
3. **Systematize advocacy and information exchange campaigns in order to face new challenges in education** by International Institute for Education Policy, Planning and Management

Strand 4 – You Tube Video Initiative

A call for the Initiative has been prepared (*available on request*).

A call will go to schools and youth organizations in the region.

Awards will be announced at the 5th NEPC General Assembly on December 6th.

Strand 5 - International Lobbying

NEPC Board had hired an expert from the Network for 2 months short term consultancy to identify partners and ways of promoting our policy research results and to channel some of our policy recommendations (which have relevance in the European context) to EU Institutions (primarily, DG Education and Culture) and Council of Europe

This component of NEPC advocacy strategy is in itself multi layered and involves not only Board members but also our members and other partners. It also has 2 purposes advocacy of our ideas as well as increasing the visibility of NEPC in the international community.

a. **Policy lab** is part of the International lobbying strategy as it will bring our possible partners together for a 2 day event. Involving EI, OECD, EC DG Education and Culture, OSI ESP, Migration Advocacy Group already gives us an international dimension.

Policy Lab was held on November 12th 2010 in cooperation with **Research Institute of Education International** in Brussels. **Although we had less participants then we originally hoped for (15) the organisations and countries they came from was diverse which allowed for excellent discusiion and opened** avenues for future work. The format in which we connected CSO sector with international policy makers as well as researcher proved to be a way to go forward. The conclusion of the event will shortly be completed and available on line.

Participant list & Agenda available upon request!

b. As a part of our international presence we will continue to support our members in attending **International conferences/workshops/meetings**. However in order for these events to have a clear benefit whenever attending such events are supported by NEPC either by travel grants, use of NEPC data or other models, members will have an obligation to present NEPC as well. Templates for project presentation have already been created 2 slides will be added to them on NEPC in general that the presenters will be obliged to show. Depending on what kind of events members will attend they will also

be given a task to either connect with a particular organization/ person or to advertise a NEPC event. Supporting attendance will be based on Board decision of benefit. Whenever members are presenting NEPC data or projects they must seek permission from the Board on use of data (form exists and is available to all members). After returning from event attendees must write a short travel report including important contacts with contact details.

The lobbyist's task are outlined in the ToR available upon request!

The report on the Lobbying available upon request!

Policy Brief

Divided Education, Divided Citizens? Citizenship-related Attitudes in Segregated Schools in Estonia, Latvia, Slovakia and Romania
Maria Golubeva, May 2010

available upon request!

III NEPC PROJECTS

1. Private Tutoring: Developing possible options (PT)

Participating countries: Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Mongolia.

The project is in the final phase: "Development of several policy options for each country"
To be completed by November 30th 2010 in all countries.

It was decided that NEPC will publish the printed edition of the PT report.

Concept of the national reports:

1. Introduction (1/3 of a single page):
 - a. Definition of PT
 - b. Significance of researching PT in <COUNTRY>
 - c. Sentence on the need to go from research to policy options
2. PT I (1/2 a page)
 - a. Basics on the initial research – what, when, on whom (except Estonia)
 - b. Basic findings – scope, level, type, users and providers
 - c. Connecting sentence towards PT II – a move from evaluation of the phenomenon to development of the policy options
3. PT II – description and methodology (1/2 to ¾ of the page)
 - a. What it is and how it was envisaged – international perspective, involvement of the participants
 - b. Participants – who were they and how were they selected
 - c. Data methods – how many interviews and focus groups; total of interviewed and transcribed time
 - d. Analysis – from the individual perspective to emergence of thematic clusters that are the foundation of and for the phenomenon in <COUNTRY>
4. PT II – Findings of the first part of the projects (for each theme you need 1/3 of a page)
 - a. What are the main themes that emerged from the analyses
 - b. Each theme needs to be described, backed by several quotes that illustrate the main ideas behind the theme. It would be good if the quotes are from the stakeholders that are close to the emerged theme e.g. if there exist a theme

regarding the parents then maybe the quote from the focus group with parents would be suitable.

c. A sentence connecting emergent themes with the policy solutions

5. PT II – Policy options – (for each option up to a page)

a. Options will be presented based on the criteria we chose (still to be determined) and then connected to the findings of the first part. These criteria could be:

i. Cost effectiveness – from those that require the least financial and material resources to those that need the most;

ii. From those that demand (re)organization of the present educational structures to those that regulate the phenomenon from the outside

iii. Based on the targeted stakeholders – aimed at pupils, parents, private firms organizing the pt services.

iv. Treatment of the symptoms of the phenomenon towards treatments of systemic elements behind the phenomenon

b. Description of each option with the basic elements connected with it: for whom it is aimed, what are the benefits of the option, what are the requirements for it to function in the present system...

6. List of participants if they agree to be listed.

2. Summer School 2010

Emerging leaders for a new policy era: Educational leadership in transitioning societies



Duration: 5 days

Dates: 28th June – 2nd July 2010

No. of participants: 18

Location: Bazaleti Lake, Georgia

Faculty:

Michael W. Apple, Ph.D., John Bascom Professor, University of Wisconsin, USA

Elmina Kazimzade, Ph.D., Education Program Director, Center for Innovations in Education, Azerbaijan
Cathryn Magno, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Southern Connecticut State University, USA
Lystra Richardson, Ph.D., Professor, Southern Connecticut State University, USA

Summer School was intended for policy makers and implementers at national and regional level from the NEPC region and graduate students in education policy from all over the world.

This year summer school core topics were:

- **Leaders as change agents** - theoretical background of leadership/the theme and it's practical application in education in transition contexts, emphasizing the aspect of personal leadership
- **New policy for a new era-** policy frameworks, standards, accreditation and training models from various countries (Canada, Georgia, Russia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, UK, USA)
- **Research in unprecedented leadership trends – case studies :**
 - a. image of school principals through large-scale survey - Balkan countries;
 - b. “profile” of school principal and his/her perceptions of leadership through qualitative study – Azerbaijan.

In the development of the Summer School Program NEPC Secretariat was intensively collaborating with Summer School faculty.

NEPC Secretariat was intensively working on the Summer School budget, advertising activities, web site materials (including on-line application form) etc.

At the end of the seminar participants received evaluation sheets. According to the evaluation the **overall rating of the Summer Schools is 1, 08** (scale from 1=excellent to 5=poor).

Participants stressed out that the major strengths of the course were:

- excellent, qualified, great and diverse trainers
- participants with same needs and problems, but from different contexts, sharing experience with/from
- other countries
- lecture by prof. Apple – opening of the perspective of the political context we’re in
- good handouts & videos, content & content materials presented at the sessions
- the linkage between theory & practice, research & academic lecture
- clear course objectives
- the personal ‘insight’ / ‘evaluation’ important for increasing the skills & the necessity of the action plan
- based on it - the course and the topic brought this up
- discussions
- the location of the course
- friendly organizing staff (NEPC) & overall coordination & management was good
- enough time for deeper analysis of the issues
- work in small groups & good social relations/contacts
- preparation of the courses
- the ‘informal agenda’

Evaluation analyses is available upon request.

IV OTHER NEPC ACTIVITIES

Fundraising

NEPC continues its fundraising activities according to the business plan. It searches for calls which could be interest to either NEPC as a network or its members and informs its members on all calls that could be relevant to them.

Granted projects:

1. Advancing Participation and Representation of Ethnic Minority Groups in Education (APREME) EC & OSI funded

The project is in the final phase. School initiatives are under selection for the grants. In cooperation with CERD our Croatian member the Workshop on Teacher Leadership was organized on 8th November 2010.

6 schools have been selected for a grant.

Publication on good practices has been published. International and country reports based on research have been completed.

From October 24th – 28th Cooperation Strategy Meeting of the project partners organized by NEPC was held. It is our aim to see how our other members may be involved in the project and how NEPC can have a regional role in any future cooperation.

All materials available upon request!

2. Case Studies on National Testing Centers Review - ESP/OSI funded

Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine

By engaging the experts from the four countries in the region, NEPC will complete the comparative review of NTC cases in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine.

Objectives:

- **To analyze the National testing Centers in the four countries** based on the following criteria
 - Policy Rationale for establishing NTCs in selected countries
 - Legal & Institutional arrangements (position and relation to other EDU authorities)
 - Organizational Structure of testing Centers & Governance
 - Operations (exams and tests)
 - Funding
- **To prepare comparative report** that will include a special chapter on **Lessons learnt**

The project ran from May to September and has been completed with submission of all reports.

Materials available upon request!

3. Evaluation of the Soros Foundation Latvia initiative “Development of small schools into community learning and culture centers”

NEPC will act as partner in developing the evaluation methodology not only due to its policy and evaluation expertise, but also with its access to know-how from other countries in the region where school/ community center projects have been implemented before, especially Romania.

4. The development of wellbeing indicators for participatory EU strategy planning for Europe 2020 EUROPE FOR CITIZENS - multi country

Project started 1st October 2010

The primary focus of this initiative is on how citizen engagement in the debate on policy making and service provision can become a resource for sustainable development at all levels of governance (local, regional, national and European). The project promotes citizens participation as a resource for development to promote or improve the social and environmental wellbeing not just the economic wellbeing.

Applications in 2010 thus far not granted yet:

1. IPA multi country – official letter from EC received that we will receive the grant

Name of the project: **Education for Sustainable Development Partnership Initiative (ESdPI)**

Main applicant: **NEPC**

Overall objective of the action is to **develop a strong regional partnership among educational and environmental CSO's to entice public educational activities concerning environmental aspects of AC and common EU climate change policy.**

Specific objectives:

A. Mapping of the coverage of climate change and sustainability in the compulsory education **national curricula** of IPA-countries and at least 1 EU countries.

B. Forging a sustainable partnership between educational and environmental CSO's on national and regional level.

C. Development of educational modules for business, public authorities, and school teachers (3 separate modules) concerning sustainable development, environmental aspects of the *acquis*, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

D. Development of policy recommendations for including necessary environmental themes into national curricula in each of the IPA countries, including their *acquis* commitments and **advocating for policy change.**

Deadline: May 6th 2010

Partners NEPC + 11 partners + 3 Associates (B&H, Croatia, Estonia, Kosovo, Georgia, Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia)

Out of the partners 7 are NEPC members and one Associate is also a NEPC member.

Total cost of the Action: **458 000 Euro** – 80% of which is financed by EC.

Available upon request!

2. IPA 2009 Croatia – In the decision process

Main applicant: **FFE – NEPC partner in action (based on DEDC initial project)**

Name of the project: **Leadership for Local Community: Empowering Teachers and Youth for Active Role in Local Communities**

Overall objective. To strengthen capacities of educational system and youth in local community in the field of democratization, human rights, minority integration, and non violent conflict resolution in Vukovar-Srijem County.

Specific objectives. (1.) To map the impact that the practice of separate schooling has on the civic attitudes of students attending separate schools with majority and minority language of instruction; (2.) To support and equip youth for active role in local community; (3.) To give additional tools and knowledge to teachers and expert staff in the field of civic education, and teacher leadership.

Expected results. (1.) Multilevel research done and the impact of practice of separate schooling on the civic attitudes of students mapped; (2.) 30 young people trained in LLYP; (3.) 25 teachers and expert staff trained in CETP.

Deadline: 5th October 2010

Total cost of the Action: **186.453,32 EUR** - 90% of which is financed by EC

Available upon request!