



THE REGIONAL BALTIC SUMMER ACADEMY

Building Safe and Inclusive Schools for All

Ethics in Education: Whole School Approach

28th June – 2nd July 2019

Lithuania

The Regional Baltic Summer Academy is a training programme that aims to build the capacity of schools in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to foster an inclusive and democratic culture by training teachers, school leaders, community members and student representatives in citizenship and human rights education. It also offers support for school development projects.

Organised yearly since 2015, the Academy is a great opportunity to learn practical tools and strategies on how to create a more open, inclusive and democratic school environment for all children through a whole-school approach. The programme allows school teams to analyse school needs and priorities and prepare a concrete action plan to meet the challenges their school is dealing with.

By bringing together participants and institutions from 3 Baltic countries the Academy also strengthens regional cooperation and dialogue.

The Academy takes place in a different Baltic State each year. In 2019, the Academy is organised in Lithuania by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Education Development Centre and the European Wergeland Centre.

The training course focuses on developing competences of young people needed for active life in modern societies, such as cooperation skills, critical thinking skills, ability to make independent decisions, flexibility and adaptability.

Such competences can best be developed in an environment where all students practice democracy - debate, take part in decision-making and influence school policies.

An inclusive and democratic learning environment is based on ethical principles, such as respect for all, human dignity and equality¹². In inclusive environment everyone feels valued.

Democratic Competences by Council of Europe: Values-Attitudes-Skills-Knowledge & Critical Understanding

- Conflict-resolution skills
- Knowledge and Critical understanding of the world
- Cooperation skills
- Respect
- Civic-Mindedness

[Find out more on the Council of Europe Website](#)

The Academy, therefore, aims to help teachers and schools develop strategies for addressing all these topics, plan and implement actions for making the school culture, governance and classroom practices safer and more inclusive for all on the basis of key principles of ethical conduct.

THE ACADEMY SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS BY:

- Enhancing competences of teachers and school leaders to promote *principles of an inclusive and democratic school*;

¹ *Code of Ethics for Educators: Lithuania*

https://www.smm.lt/uploads/documents/en_versijai/legal_information/kodeksasE

² *The Estonian Lifelong Learning Strategy 2020*

https://www.hm.ee/sites/default/files/estonian_lifelong_strategy.pdf

Principles of an inclusive and democratic schools

- Value diversity
- Include everybody
- Give everybody equal chances
- Respect human dignity
- Live in peace

[\(Council of Europe Charter on EDC/HRE\)](#)



- Providing a forum to exchange effective practices and experiences in developing democratic competences of pupils;
- Supporting the school in initiating changes in key areas of school life such as teaching and learning, governance and culture and cooperation with the community;
- Encouraging cooperation between different actors in education;
- Putting into use Council of Europe materials for learning and living democracy;

ACTIONS FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE AND DEMOCRATIC SCHOOL

The Academy helps schools take actions to develop further their school. School teams may decide that their school will:

- Train teachers to use participatory methods in class;
- Establish school or pupil parliaments and support their participation in decision/making;
- Develop opportunities for parents to express their opinion about education for their children;
- Encourage students to engage in community activities.

BENEFITS FOR SCHOOLS

Becoming a more inclusive and democratic school provides benefits for students, teachers and your school:

- There is a friendly school atmosphere, which fosters cooperation and respect;
- Pupils feel more confident, actively listen to each other and take responsibility for their school;
- Teachers feel more confident in using interactive methods in teaching and are able to address controversial issues in class;
- Pupils with weaker academic results are more involved in school;
- Relations between teacher – pupil, teacher – parent, pupil – pupil are co-operative;
- Pupils are showing greater interest in community affairs;
- Cooperation between schools and other organizations is created and enforced.

*Learning about democracy at school is interesting. It empowers our students to take part in their lives and to promote what is important for their school and society. It is refreshing to work using new techniques and methods. Students are more communicative and the atmosphere in the classroom is totally different".
(Teacher, Academy training)*

BRIEF TIMELINE FOR SCHOOLS – 2019/2020

SPRING 2019: APPLY (deadline April 30)

- Commit to become a more democratic and inclusive school – get the support from the school management
- Build a school-community team & apply together

MAY/JUNE: PRE-TASKS

- Assess the situation at your school to identify how democratic and inclusive your school already is, including strength and areas for improvements, using EWC tool.

JUNE 28TH – JULY 2ND: FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING

- Take part in the face-face-to-face training
- Design school-wide action plan on how to become a more democratic and inclusive school

SEPTEMBER- APRIL: IMPLEMENTATION

- Consult with your school on your action plan and finalise it
- Implement your actions involving members of the school community, with ongoing support from the national facilitators

APRIL/ MAY: EVALUATION & REPORTING

- Evaluate changes at your school
- Reflect on your achievements and limitations, and identify lessons learned
- Report to EWC by May 15th 2020. Share your results beyond your school! You can inspire others!
<http://www.theewc.org/Content/What-we-do/Summer-Academies>



- Receive a certificate

AFTER COMPLETION OF ACADEMY – PLAN FUTURE STEPS

- Continue your work in the next school year

Please note: The success of the training activities depends on the commitment of all participants. By accepting to take part in the Summer Academy, participants agree to participate actively in all the phases.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Who can apply?

Participants are invited to join the training as a team of three. Each team consists of 1) a school head or deputy head, 2) a teacher and 3) a student representative from the age of 14, for e.g. a student council member.

Alternatively to a student, the school can also choose a community member (an NGO representative or another member of the school community).

Working languages

The training is in English. All participants need to have good knowledge of English to be able to participate actively in the training.

Application and selection procedure

Application deadline: March 25th, 2019

The local organizers will select 36 participants / 12 teams. The selection will take into account balance between countries addressed, EDC/ HRE experiences, gender, motivation and ideas for dissemination. Only candidates selected for participation (including those for the waiting list) will be informed by email by April 10th, 2019.

Certificate of participation

Upon completion of all phases of the training, participants will receive an online certificate issued by the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia and Estonian Institute of Human Rights.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Venue:

The face to face training will take place in Lithuania. Detailed information about the venue will be sent to selected participants.

Travel and subsistence expenses - please read carefully

The training is free of charge. Accommodation, food and activities included in the program are covered by the host country for all participants.

Further information on travel arrangements will be sent to selected participants at a later stage.

For more information contact (national organiser):

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