

The Pestalozzi Programme Summer School 2014

In cooperation with the Academy of Bad Wildbad

Introduction

The Summer School will deal with the different aspects of the theme “Promoting participation”. It will look at the diverse issues of participation in social, cultural, political and economic life, etc. and in particular at what school, and teachers and educators, can do to promote the development of the attitudes, skills and knowledge which are necessary to be able to fully participate in life in a democratic society. Pedagogical and methodological issues will also be addressed throughout such as cooperative learning for democratic education, innovation and creativity, fostering motivation and curiosity, education for personal development and the multiple purposes of education, the role of teachers and schools for democratic societies, etc.

Participants will have the possibility to choose their personalised learning curriculum from a range of offers. Common activities throughout the eight days will allow participants to work together as a whole group, to learn together and to exchange ideas and experiences.

A public round table discussion on the topic “Social media as new forms of participation: which role for schools?” will offer an opportunity to address and reflect on an important educational issue and to interact with a wide variety of interested professionals.

Expected outcomes

We expect that after the training course the participants will be in better position to

- raise awareness for the importance of promoting participation in school education in their school environment (school head, colleagues, parents, learners)
- understand the crucial role that learner participation plays for the success of their learning experience
- promote participation through their professional practice in day-to-day teaching
- take action to address non-participative aspects of their practice
- contribute in their teaching and training practice to the development of the transversal attitudes, skills and knowledge necessary for living in diverse and democratic societies

The participants will also join the Community of Practice of the Pestalozzi Programme, a network of education professionals equipped to continue the training on an international, national, regional and local level with a shared view of the competences which need to be developed and of the appropriate methodology of training and teaching.

We also expect that participants contribute to the dissemination of the work results through online productions during and, above all, after the summer school, but also by sharing their learning with colleagues in ways which are promising and appropriate in their own professional context.

Guiding questions and general principles

The training activities will all contribute to identifying appropriate answers to questions such as

- What is participation? Why does it need to be developed/ promoted?
- What values, attitudes, skills and knowledge every individual needs to develop for which type of actions?
- How can education, how can teachers contribute to developing participation?
- What does a teacher need to be able to do this?
- Where can participation be promoted (domain, age group, subject, space, actions)?
- Which pedagogy is the best suited to promote the necessary attitudes, skills and knowledge for participation?

In the process looking for answers to these and other questions it will be important to also clarify conceptual issues: change, empowerment, citizenship, power, etc. And it will be equally important to identify the basic attitudes and skills which need to be developed such as cooperation and negotiation of meaning, as well as a whole range of transversal attitudes, skills and knowledge which are necessary to be able to fully participate in a democratic society.

Courses and activities

Common activities

Common activities throughout the eight days will allow participants to work together as a whole group, to learn together and to exchange ideas and experiences: Open space, Socratic walks, daily reflection groups, soap boxes, public debate, excursions and social programme

Intensive course

Six intensive courses (9-12 hours) will be offered; these courses will take place mainly in the mornings and will centre on the following topics

- Cooperative learning: principles and structures
- Understanding democratic citizenship through participation
- Citizenship 2.0
- The importance of communication for participation
- Ethics of participation
- Exploring participation in schools

Shorter courses

Shorter courses (2-6 hours) will take place mainly in the afternoons and will take up topics such as the use of story-telling for participation, shaping identities in a world of diversity, arts and participation, non-participation and its implications, models and modes of school development, the purposes of education, participation and the need for action, simulated creation of social and political structures, market place: methods, activities, ideas, a manifesto for teachers, ...

Time is also foreseen for ad-hoc activities in reaction to requests by participants to deepen certain aspects of the theme and/or share their practices.