



Task Force
Education
And Youth
Enhanced Graz Process
Working Table 1
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe



Strasbourg, 5 March 2001

**Enhanced Graz Process
Working group on education for democratic citizenship
and management of diversity**

Seminar on EDC / diversity project and policy development

6 – 7 May 2001

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Seminar presentation, programme and registration
form

Background

Following the setting up of the Stability Pact for South East Europe in June 1999, education was identified as one of the priority areas of its Working Table 1 on democratisation and human rights. The “Graz Process”¹ was charged with the co-ordination of the Task Force Education and Youth within the Stability Pact, thus becoming the “Enhanced Graz Process”.

Education for democratic citizenship and management of diversity is one of the six areas of the Task Force on Education and Youth / Enhanced Graz Process and is coordinated by the Council of Europe.

After the preparation of an activity plan and a call for projects, the Stability Pact donors’ conference (March 2000) resulted in the funding of 45 education and youth “quickstart” projects including twelve on EDC/management of diversity whose implementation started end of 2000, beginning of 2001.²

Strategy 2001

The focus of the Enhanced Graz Process’ work in 2001 is to set up a co-ordinated process for education policy reform and system change in South East Europe involving all educational stakeholders at national and regional level. The Strategy 2001 focuses on the links between system development and pilot grassroots initiatives, and between the national and regional dimensions. It will be based on the results of the thematic reviews on educational systems in Southeast Europe carried out by OECD to be published at the end of March.

The Education and Youth Task Force, through its working groups, is also establishing new priorities for a future action plan to be presented at the next meeting of Working Table 1 in Ljubljana in June.

Advocacy among regional decision makers and the donor community for the role of education in strengthening stability in Southeast Europe is another key feature of the Task Force’s current work, particularly with a view to the envisaged regional Stability Pact funding conference in Autumn 2001.

EDC and management of diversity activities

Based on the results of the 1998 and 1999 conferences on educational cooperation in Southeast Europe which took place respectively in Graz and Sofia, the EDC working group on education for democratic citizenship and management of diversity agreed on the philosophy of its activities, outlined in Appendix 1 of this document, at its first

¹ In November 1998 the Conference “European Educational Co-operation for Peace, Stability and Democracy” was organised in Graz, Austria. The recommendations of this conference lead to the formation of a Task Force and thus initiate the “Graz Process”.

² For further information on the Enhanced Graz Process, the activity plan and the funded projects, consult <http://www.see-educoop.net>

meeting in Bucarest in January 2000. Since that meeting and the preparation of its specific activity plan, the working group's main tasks have been to evaluate projects submitted to the Stability Pact, exchange information on EDC activities in the region and monitor the implementation of the twelve "quickstart" projects funded by the Stability Pact.

It has also prepared the ground for the stocktaking research on EDC and management of diversity policies, one of the funded projects coordinated by the Council of Europe. This stocktaking research is the EDC / diversity counterpart to the OECD thematic reviews. It aims at collecting information and identifying common and specific issues and trends concerning existing policy provisions on EDC and the management of diversity in South East Europe. The research will cover legislation and policy guidelines, learning strategies and curriculum provisions, formal and non-formal education, education for minorities including Roma, the organisation of a democratic learning environment.³ It will provide the basis for policy development work in these areas.

The third meeting of the Graz Process Working Group on Education for Democratic Citizenship/Management of diversity will take place in Timisoara, Romania on 18-19 March 2001. The aim of this strategic working meeting is to make a first proposal for future priorities and support strategies, based on the review of the so-called quickstart projects, and policy development perspectives.

The Seminar

The Seminar is the key event of the contribution of the working group on EDC and management of diversity to the Task Force's Strategy 2001 and to the preparation of future priority proposals in time for the next meeting of Working Table 1.

Responding to the current challenges of the Task Force's Strategy 2001 outlined above, it will examine specific EDC / diversity project and policy issues such as policy development processes, including the link between the many civil society initiatives and government plans and measures, and the mutual influence between practices and policies (systemic impact of pilot experiences, policies creating favourable conditions for practices, etc).

The Seminar is conceived as an inclusive consultation process involving the various EDC and management of diversity stakeholders. Participants will be organisers of the EDC/ diversity quickstart projects, practitioners, independent experts, NGOs, representatives of education ministries, donor countries and institutions, private foundations, originating primarily from Southeast Europe, and from Europe at large.

The Seminar will be both process and strategy oriented. Its objectives are to

1. strengthen the current EDC/diversity network by bringing together the various actors involved in distinct activities, and widening the platform by involving new potential partners

³ The stocktaking research group meet on 19 and 20 February 2001 in Strasbourg and a second meeting will precede the Seminar on 4 – 5 May 2001 in Sarajevo.

2. exchange information on on-going EDC / diversity initiatives and projects and on support strategies in this field, including the Stability Pact, thus enabling practitioners to place their initiatives in a wider context, and contributing to the mapping of donor support in this area
3. discuss in particular the implementation of the Stability Pact EDC / diversity “quickstart” projects, including their impact on system change
4. provide an opportunity for building synergies and strengthening regional cooperation on EDC and management of diversity
5. discuss and agree on future priorities and support strategies on EDC and management of diversity in SEE, based, inter alia, on the results of the “quickstart projects” and on preliminary findings of the stocktaking research on EDC / diversity policies

From the Seminar should emerge a shared vision and therefore a shared ownership by concerned actors in the region of future developments of EDC and management of diversity in SEE.

Its concrete outcome will be a set of agreed proposals to be included in the Enhanced Graz Process future priorities to be presented at the June meeting of Working Table 1 in Ljubljana. The Seminar will also identify suitable strategies by the relevant authorities in the region and the donor community to support the implementation of these proposals.

The preliminary programme of the Seminar appears in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1

Introduction of the activity plan of the working group on Education for democratic citizenship and management of diversity

INTRODUCTION

The working group on education for democratic citizenship / management of diversity met on 28-29 January 2000 in Bucharest. It prepared the activity plan set out below. These activities are based on the following content considerations, which the working group agreed to :

1. Activities are based on the fundamental legal instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention of Human Rights, the Unesco Convention against Discrimination in Education, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Framework convention for the protection of national minorities, the European Charter on regional or minority languages in Europe
 2. the objectives of the activities on education for democratic citizenship and management of diversity are
 - i. to learn to live and participate in a democratic society based on the fundamental principles of human rights, pluralist democracy and the rule of law (learning about rights, responsibilities; contribute to eliminate discrimination)
 - ii. to learn to live together in a democratic society (through intercultural learning, ensuring both integration and the respect for diversity)
 2. the methodological approach of activities include
 - i. the learning of core values and skills (including a holistic approach of skills – cognitive, affective, social)
 - ii. the existence of a democratic school environment (including changes in school management)
 - iii. using a diversity of inter-active, participatory and learner-centred learning and content approaches – eg human rights education, intercultural learning, peace education, etc,
 - iv. a changing role of the teacher / trainer
 - v. the involvement of a variety of actors, including parents, the community, NGOs, local authorities
 2. EDC / diversity activities need to be tackled through long term actions and processes of change. They require a commitment to the importance of education and the dedication of governments to reform. They must link top-down policy initiatives and bottom-up practices. They are the responsibility of national governments, but also of the international community and of civil society. Therefore new forms of partnerships are needed.
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Appendix 2

Seminar on EDC / diversity project and policy development *Preliminary Draft Programme*

Saturday, 5 May 2001

- Arrival
- Check in
- Informal gathering

Sunday, 6 May 2001

9.30	Opening of the seminar Presentation of the objectives and programme of the seminar Presentation of participants
10.00	Information on the Stability Pact, the Enhanced Graz Process, the EDC/diversity working group and its activity plan Discussion
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break
11.30	“Education for democratic citizenship and management of diversity in SEE – key concepts and issues”: introductory presentation Discussion
12.30	Lunch
14.00	Information market

- 15.30 Panel on project and policy development
 - presentation of OECD and EDC stocktaking processes
 - “ From projects to policy development” examples in a country and / or from an institution
 Discussion
- 17.30 – 18.00 Presentation of working groups

Monday, 7 May 2001

- 9.00 Working groups
 - stocktaking research and policy development
 - implementation of current quickstart projects
 - priorities for future actions on EDC and management of diversity
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.00 Reports of working groups in plenary
 Discussion
- 15.30-16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00-17.00 Discussion on future support and strategies
 Conclusions by the rapporteur of the seminar
 Closing of the seminar

Tuesday, 8 May 2001

Departure of the Participants

Appendix 3

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Seminar venue and travel arrangements :

The Seminar will be organised in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in co-operation with the Council of Europe Sarajevo office.

The seminar venue as well as further technical information, including on travel, will be sent to participants as soon as they will have returned the registration form to the Council of Europe Secretariat (See Appendix 4).

Financial arrangements :

All costs regarding travel and accommodation are to be borne by the participant or her/his organisation. No additional participation fee will be charged.

For the independent experts from South East Europe, a request for support is being made to the Open Society Institute/ Soros Foundation Network "East East Program" to cover travel and subsistence costs.

Governmental experts from South Eastern Europe are kindly requested to explore funding by the World Bank in their countries.

Additional financial support will be provided by the Enhanced Graz Process Office Innovation Fund and the Council of Europe.

Accommodation:

Participants can be accommodated in single rooms. Further information concerning accommodation and board will be sent to you as soon as you will return your inscription sheet.

Information Market:

Participants are invited to bring any materials they wish to exhibit at the information market (posters, books, leaflets, etc.).

Working documents:

The working documents for the Seminar will be sent at a later stage.

Working language:

The working language of the seminar will be English.

Appendix 4**REGISTRATION FORM**

**Enhanced Graz Process
Working group on education for democratic citizenship
and management of diversity**

**Seminar on EDC / diversity project and policy development
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 6-7 May 2001**

Please return this registration form duly filled in to

Ms Mechthilde Fuhrer
Division on education for democratic citizenship and human rights education
Council of Europe
F - 67075 Strasbourg Cedex

tel.: + 33 (0) 3 90 21 49 98

fax: + 33 (0) 3 88 41 27 88

e-mail: mechthilde.fuhrer@coe.int

by 28 March 2001 at the latest.

Please note that as soon as you will return this form to us, we will send you further information as far as accommodation, board and travelling are concerned.

Name:

First name:

Organisation:

Function in the organisation:

Contact details

Address:

e-mail:

tel:

fax:

Arrival date and time:

Departure date and time:

Contributions I would like to make to the Seminar: