NEPC Summer School 2015

Education - incubator for a sustainable future: how can public education empower citizens for global sustainability?

28th June – 2nd July 2015

BACKGROUND

Network of Education Policy Centers (NEPC) believes Education for Sustainability to be a crucial instrument for a socially just and environmentally sound society. NEPC identified Education for Sustainability as a programmatic priority in its current strategy. Education for Sustainability should be a core value and one of the principles on which modern education is founded. It is a comprehensive concept for quality education and learning that addresses global key issues such as global citizenship, health, solidarity, new economic models, poverty reduction, sustainable livelihoods, climate change, gender equality, corporate social responsibility, and other key issues under the core values of NEPC. Education for Sustainability is an overarching topic weaving together most of the issues that NEPC has been engaged with in the past, such as equity in education, education of ethnic and other minorities, and corruption in education, whilst firmly orientated on the challenges of the future. This topic also covers issues that the network has been shifting its interest to, such as migration and education, privatization in education, and the impact of poverty on education. Moreover, education for Sustainability is not only about content, but also has pedagogical implications for teaching and social and cooperative learning, participation, and activism. NEPC’s strategic approach is to build this program on its already existing ENjoinED initiative, spread it to new countries, involve new partners and stakeholders, implement activities at school level, and provide policy options to introduce education for sustainability into the educational systems in the region. NEPC sees this process as crucial in societies that face economic, social and environmental crises but have not yet set sustainability as an educational priority.

Sustainable development (SD) endeavours to equitably meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs in the same way. Education for sustainability (ES) empowers citizens to contribute to informed decisions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society for present and future generations. From a present condition economic, technological, political and financial instruments and innovations will be required, but they will not go far enough without a fundamental change in the way we think and act. Education bridges today’s human development attainment and tomorrow’s sustainability. Initiatives for ESD should work on transforming education so that it is able to contribute effectively to the reorientation of societies towards sustainability. This is a transformation of both educational systems and structures, as well as a reframing of teaching and learning. To start with, a true transformation requires that the core of teaching and learning should rest on
principles of ESD, rather than be considered as an add-on to existing curricula and teaching practices. NEPC’s own findings from the ENjoinED initiative show that existing national framework curricula for compulsory education are well aligned with social and cultural aspects of sustainability, at the expense of addressing the economic and environmental sustainability of our societies. Knowing that public education has to prepare today’s youth for a world very different from one we were schooled in, to instruct them how to avoid producing further irreversible damages whilst striving for wellbeing, we explore the ways in which key sustainability issues should be most effectively integrated into national educational policies.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Relying on this knowledge and concepts and in order to focus and have a deeper impact on the members and participants NEPC devotes its Summer School 2015 to Education for Sustainability.

The NEPC summer schools 2015 aims to show that education systems and schools are by default incubators of future and explore whether our education systems today contributes to unsustainability, how can education empower citizens for global sustainability and what step we need to take to make schools incubators for sustainable future a reality.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL WILL BE ORGANIZED IN 5 DAYS COVERING 3 THEMATIC AREAS:

- **ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS, SOCIAL CONSTRAINTS OF GLOBALLY DOMINANT DEVELOPMENT MODEL**
- **SOCIETAL RESPONSES TO CONSTRAINTS**
- **SUSTAINABLE CURRICULA AND SCHOOL POTENTIAL**

OBJECTIVES OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL:

- **OFFER VARIOUS THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES OF SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE AND APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL RESPONSES**
- **DESIGN SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF POSSIBILITIES FOR INCLUDING SUSTAINABILITY IN TEACHING**
- **EXPLORE EXISTING BARRIERS FOR EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND POTENTIAL FOR CHANGE OF SCHOOLS, TEACHERS AND CURRICULUM**
1. Summer school structure: Pedagogical Strategy

2015 NEPC Summer School will be based on E|P|C (Explore, Participate, Change) approach and rely on lectures, discussion circles, workshops and participative learning.

The lectures will cover theoretical concepts and specific issues of sustainability and education for sustainability and backed by empirical findings, presented by experienced experts and researchers in given fields.

The discussion circles will provide an opportunity for participants to clarify concepts, challenge the proposed thesis and explore their understanding of main issues raised in the lecture.

The workshops will aim to offer practical tools for implementation of given topic in classrooms, and schools settings define policy or uncover the gaps in policy and practice.

The participative learning sessions will empower participants to design follow up activities/policy recommendations for change based on learning from lectures, discussion circles and workshops.

Readings will be divided into required and recommended. Participants will be expected to have read the required readings prior to the beginning of the summer school. This should help reduce the variance in comprehension and participation in the discussion.

Selected participants will receive a set of questions they will be asked to prepare informed responses to before attending the Summer School.

2. Evaluation and assessment of impact

Participants of the Summer School will be asked to design a presentation of their learning during the participative learning sessions in small groups. Each group will present their learning outcomes on the final day of the Summer School and will receive feedback form the faculty and other participants.

Evaluation questionnaires and interviews will be conducted at the end of the seminar and, resources permitting, three months following the seminar. The questionnaires will be quite specific as to what was learned and what should be learned next time.

The content of the summer school will be summarized in a report and sent to all Summer School participants and NEPC members to enhance follow up activities of the participants and provide a learning tool to those who were not able to attend.

Faculty:

Chair - Mladen Domazet
Institute for Political Ecology, Zagreb, Croatia

Brannon Andersen
Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina, USA

Lana Jurko
Network of Education Policy Centers

Oren Pizmony Levy
Teachers Collage, Columbia University, New York City, New York, USA

Mislav Žitko,
University of Zagreb, Croatia
3. Participants

A maximum of 30 participants will be accepted for the summer school. Participants will be selected by the faculty chair and the director of the NEPC network. Participants will be chosen on the quality of their application showing their understanding of the purposes of the Summer School and their potential for utilizing what they learn. Official language of Summer School is English.

PRACTICALITIES

Who is it for?

The NEPC 2015 Summer School is open to NEPC member representatives, Education Policy Makers, Teachers, Researchers, Graduate Students, and Education Specialists.

Fee & Accommodation costs

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<tr>
<th>Summer School Fee</th>
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<tr>
<td>NEPC members</td>
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<tr>
<td>325,00 Euro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non NEPC members</td>
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<td>450,00 Euro</td>
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<th>Accommodation and Board (to be paid at the hotel)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>single room</td>
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<tr>
<td>240,00 Euro</td>
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<tr>
<td>double room</td>
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<td>196,00 Euro</td>
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Dates & Venue

Arrivals - 27 June 2015

Departures - 3 July 2015

The Hotel Dunav is very conveniently located outside of the town of Sremski Karlovci, near the city of Novi Sad and not far away from Belgrade. It is situated at the very bank of the river Danube, at the foot of Fruška Gora Mountain. One is overwhelmed by its unique charm, comfort, discretion and warmth at the first sight. Long time ago there used to be a very popular meeting place of Serbian and Austro-Hungarian intellectuals and bohemians. Hotel Dunav represents an excellent choice for holidays or a day trip, at the same time being an ideal place for business people to organize presentations, workshops, conferences and congresses. [http://www.hoteldunav.co.rs/en/](http://www.hoteldunav.co.rs/en/)

Registration:

Registration opens from 5 May 2015
Registration closes on 5 June 2015
Applications available through [www.edupolicy.net](http://www.edupolicy.net)