

UNITED CONFERENCE

"Wake Up Europe: It's Time to Act!"

12-17 November 2012, in Raasepori (FIN)

WORKING GROUP C

School for All – Antidiscrimination in school education

School is a big part of life for every child and youngster. Besides academic knowledge children also learn different behaviours and adopt different attitudes and opinions relevant to everyday life. School is not just a place to learn, it is also place where children grow up and make friends for rest of their lives. Our school experience stays with us forever and we pass this on to future generations.

Pupils and teachers may become victims of discrimination in many different ways, not only during school time but also outside school. The effects of school bullying and name-calling can have a lasting impact on their lives; the consequences of a “little joke” can be enormous. What roles do parents, teachers, authorities and NGOs play in fighting xenophobia in schools?

During our group work we will concentrate on different forms of racism and discrimination in schools; how they affect the people involved, how it starts and how can we tackle those problems. Participants will share their own experiences and present the programmes they have been involved with. The idea is not to find a final solution but share good practices and create a platform to further develop existing activities as well as come up with new innovative ideas. We will have a look at possibilities for NGOs to provide help in creating schools without racism.

SCHOOL	WITHOUT RACISM
SCHOOL	SHOWING COURAGE

Together we will create a list of good practices for tackling racism in schools, dealing with consequences and how NGOs can cooperate with schools to create a tolerant and more open school environment. We will create plan(s) to address xenophobia and discrimination in school and we will present our work to the plenary.

Programme:

First session – Recognising the problem

Racism in school is a problem that affects people in different ways; those involved can have different perspectives of racism. Pupils and teachers may have a completely different understanding than parents, NGOs or official legislation. Something that one may see as a big problem, for another is just a harmless joke. Where one feels bullied, another may feel part of a group. During the first session we will explore different types of racism in schools and search for answers to the following questions:

What is discrimination and racism and how are they visible in school life?

What kinds of minorities are affected by racism and discrimination in school?

What manifestations of racism and discrimination there are in schools?

Second session - What can we do?

What if nobody listens and nobody knows? The majority of school racism cases are unknown to teachers and other adults. Victims have to deal with their bullies on their own and they have neither the voice nor courage to tell others. Making the problem visible helps to fight it.

In this session we will look at different activities and practices to make xenophobia visible within schools and share different methods on how to tackle the problem.

If you have been/are involved in projects and programmes aiming to reduce school racism, be ready to present them!

Third session – “Battle strategy”

“If you win one battle it doesn’t mean you won the whole war”. One activity could change someone’s attitude and may bring some understanding, but to get rid of racism and make schools antiracist takes much more than one day and more than one method. It is a long process that needs to be planned. How can we change popular attitudes and prevent future racist incidents? If we cannot prevent them, then how should we respond to them? During this session we will create full-scale action plans in smaller groups to address school racism.

Working group facilitator:

Leo Kaipiainen	Red Cross Finland - Suomen Punainen Risti	Finland
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Working group participants:

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Olexandra Delemenchuk	Center for Civil Liberties	Ukraine
Oltiana Rama	International Volunteer Project	Albania
Ralph du Long	UNITED for Intercultural Action	Netherlands
Sabine Yildirim	German Young Naturefriends - Naturfreundejugend	Germany
Taisi Valdlo	Sillamäe Society for Child Welfare	Estonia
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