



Network of Education Policy Centers

NETWORK OF EDUCATION
POLICY CENTERS
ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Explore | Participate | Change

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→PROJECTS

Project: [Professional Capacity Dealing with Diversity – NAOS](#)

NEPC Role: Associate Partner

The central topic of the project is professional capacity concerning dealing with diversity related to migration (in all its different forms). Professional capacity includes innovative forms of cooperation between educational professionals and other professionals dealing with children.

The objective of the Erasmus+ strategic partnership is to strengthen professional capacity in the partner countries and their respective schools. With the ultimate goal to increase educational attainment and reduce drop out and unemployment among groups of migrant children.

Project activities (study visits, publications and advocacy) are organized within 5 content areas (review Severiens, Wolff & Van Herpen, 2014):

- * Language development
- * Pedagogic/ Didactics
- * Social Psychology & Identity development
- * Parental Involvement
- * School-community relationships

[Project Partners](#)

RISBO (The Netherlands) APPLICANT

Forum for Freedom in Education (Croatia)

Public Policy and Management Institute (Lithuania)

Tartu International School Mtu (Estonia)

Paidagogiko Institouto Kryprou (Cyprus)

University of Patras (Greece)

Universiteit Antwerpen (Belgium)

Hogskolen i Ostfold (Norway)

Universidade do Porto (Portugal)

Algemeen Pedagogisch Studiecentrum (The Netherlands)

NEPC in 2016:

In 2016 NEPC designed the concept and methodology for three country case studies. The topic of case study was use of popular culture in teaching diversity. The case study examined both the effects cases had on students as well as professional requirements form the teacher. The case studies were conducted in UK, Germany and Latvia and the reports will be finalized in March 2017.

Project: [Coordination of demonstration projects in the SEET region](#)

NEPC Role: Lead partner

The project, financed by European Training Foundation, supports 7 small grants in SEET region that aim to improve the quality of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for teachers in Vocational (VET) schools; improve the capability of policy makers and practitioners to develop CPD; development of policy and implementation strategies for sustainable systems of CPD.

The 7 demonstration projects are implemented by the following project partners:

Albania, Irisoft Education

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Agency for Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Education

Kosovo, Institute for Training and Economic Development (ITED)

Macedonia, Harvest of Knowledge

Montenegro, Ministry of Education

Serbia, Centre for Education Policy

Turkey, Gazeteci Cetin Altan MTAL (VET School)

NEPC role is to coordinate the demonstration projects, provide support and capacity building to demonstration project teams and disseminate the results.

The project started 14.09.2016. and the preparation phase has been completed by the end of the year. The project implementation is expected to start in January 2017.

→ LEARNING EVENT

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE EPC1: [The primary colours of education](#) (13th & 14th April, Cavtat)

The conference covered a wide range of topics, described education policies and practices in the NEPC region and beyond outlining the factors that influence education, exploring education reforms and reflecting on old and emerging challenges in education systems.

In the context of the closing societies, education can and should enhance the social change: empowering present generation to design the future world, providing students' knowledge on global issues and trends and support them in active engagement in the local communities.

As the conference was organized as one of the NEPC activities for its 10th anniversary, Secretariat fully covered the participation of 2 representatives from each member.

The conference in numbers:

2 days

5 key note speakers

7 panels

12 lectures
2 workshops
40 speakers
75 participants

From 1 to five; 1 is the most negative, 5 the most positive



<i>Before the conference I How satisfied you are with:</i>	
Registration process	5
Pre-event organization	4,8
Visa and accommodation assistance	4,9
General Assistance of NEPC staff	5
<i>Venue I How satisfied you are with:</i>	
venue and conference rooms	3,9
accommodation and hotel service	4,3
arrangements and quality of the catering	3,9
<i>Conference content I How satisfied you are with</i>	
General relevance of topics	4,7
Content organization	4,5
Usefulness of Content	4,5
Relevant for my work	4,5
Program structure	4,5

SUMMER SCHOOL 2016: [Managing Change and Uncertainty: Education for the Future](#) (Shkemberi Kavajes I Durres 3rd – 9th July 2016)

NEPC Summer school 2016 aimed to:

1. explore the challenges faced by education in the realities of change and uncertainty
2. provide the conceptual and policy framework for the 3R educational systems
3. showcase existing policies and practices

In order to explore, (re)discover and (re)imagine the challenges and solutions to the operationalization of sustainability in education systems, the Summer School program provided theoretical and practical frameworks meant to introduce new concepts, ideas and skills to tackle this issue.

Onofrio Romano presented the movement / philosophy of Degrowth, with his own view on its perspective, strong sides and shortcomings. He also showcased the idea of disappearing identities and the means by which some Mediterranean people preserved their identities through means which relate to some ideas of Degrowth.

Marija Roth introduced us to some of the basics of managing change and uncertainty within a broader education context.

Grzegorz Mazurkiewicz talked about global challenges and trends in a local context regarding good education as a basic right. The issue starts with the definition of “good education” and what education is, could be and should be.

Arne Verhaegen familiarized us with the fabled Finnish general education system – how it works, why it works and what makes it work.

The NEPC team, led by Lana Jurko, presented its innovative 3R concept of resilient, reactive and resourceful schools as a means of operationalizing sustainability in schools.

School participants presented case studies from their countries pertaining to education for sustainability. Finally, the learning sessions provided the input of the participants' own views and understanding of the ideas and concepts presented during the course of the Summer School.

Summer school 2016 in numbers:

- 18 participants (17 from NEPC members)
- 4 external experts
- 5 lectures
- 3 workshops
- 3 learning sessions

Secretariat covered the in-country costs of one representative from each member, while two member's also received the travel grant.



<i>Pre – Summer School activities How satisfied you are:</i>	
With the registration process?	5
With the pre-event organization?	5
With the NEPC Summer School Web Site?	4,75
With the visa and accommodation assistance?	n/a
With the general assistance of NEPC staff?	5
<i>Venue How satisfied you are:</i>	
With the venue and training rooms?	4,54
With accommodation and hotel service?	4,54
With the arrangements and quality of the catering?	5
<i>Course content How satisfied you are:</i>	
Relevance/choice of general topic was appropriate	4,85
Courses met my expectations	4,77
Training packages were well organized	4,77
The course objectives were clear	4,62
Structure of the course was well planned	4,62

→ PUBLICATION

Study: [Mapping current school governance polices in NEPC region](#)

NEPC Role: commissioned by

Published on line in English

NEPC carried out a study on mapping current school governance policies in the NEPC region, with the aim to compare and critically analyse basic models of governance in participating countries with regard to distribution of leadership, management and funding responsibilities, stakeholder participation and partnership, accountability mechanisms and leadership styles of school principals.

The comparative study provides a broader context for school governance policies in general and helps influence policy in member states with the evidence from similar countries (e.g. good practice, examples, etc.).

Project partners

Albania - Children are the future

Bosnia and Herzegovina –Center for Educational Initiatives Step by Step

Croatia – Forum for Freedom in Education

Kosovo - Kosova Education Center

Lithuania – Vilnius University, Education Policy Center

Macedonia – Macedonian Civic Education Center

Macedonia – Foundation for Education and Cultural Initiatives Step by Step

Moldova – Association Educational Centre PRO DIDACTICA

Mongolia – Mongolian Education Alliance

Montenegro – Pedagogical Centre of Montenegro

Russia – Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences

Slovenia – Centre for Knowledge promotion (Study Expert)

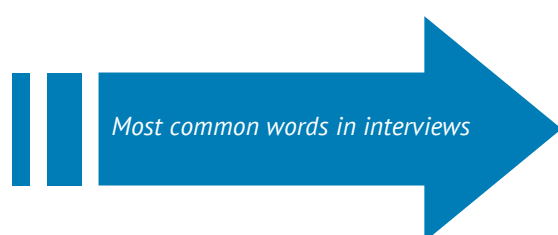
Organization monography: [NEPC@10](#)

NEPC Role: Editor

Printed in English (150 copies)

NEPC@10 intended to be an attractive, light and inspiring way to present the first NEPC decade through the perspectives of people that have contribute to NEPC foundation and development.

The publication presents how NEPC members, partners, experts and friends perceive the first decade of the Network. Moreover, the personal views are enriched by the description of NEPC projects, learning events and publications.



Networking | Cooperation | Family | Support | Fun | School | Education | Professionalism | Transparency | Flexibility | Equality | Equitable education | Respect | Commitment | Inspiration | Demanding

→ADVOCACY

Providing Education to Refugee Children from Conflict Areas in the Middle East - Fast track to Equal Opportunities and Integration

Organizer: Education International (EI)

Stockholm, Sweden 21st & 22nd November 2016

Lana Jurko attended the conference on behalf of NEPC and SIRIUS. The conference focused on education for forcibly displaced children from Syria and other conflict areas in the Middle East in schools and refugee centres in host and transit countries. It provided a space for exchanging information and experiences, identifying challenges and good practices at system and classroom levels; recommending policies and strategies to ensure access to quality education to all refugee and migrant children. It also provided opportunities for learning more about the work of EI and exploring possible strategies for cooperation with teacher unions in NEPC region.

Crossing Borders Migration and Citizenship Education in Europe

Organizer: NECE Networking European Citizenship Education

Zagreb, Croatia 10th – 12th November 2016

Lana Jurko and Raffaella d’Apolito attended the conference in Zagreb that gathered over 300 participants from the field of citizenship education all across Europe. It focused on the ongoing European (non)response to the issue of migration including the divisions within and between European societies and on how citizenship education should react to the polarising debate and the controversies about migration, diversity and identity. It offered a variety of lectures, workshops, and open formats/spaces, among them a ‘Train the trainer’ workshop on controversial and sensitive topics using formal and non-formal learning methods, and a scenario workshop on the future of citizenship education in a world shaped by migration and plurality. Lana presented NEPC in the open space.

3rd Days of Educational Sciences – Educational Change: Challenges and Expectations
Organizer: Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, Centre for Educational Research and Development
Zagreb, Croatia 20th & 21st October 2016

Lana Jurko attended the conference *Educational Change: Challenges and Expectations*. The 3rd Days of Educational Sciences were dedicated to different perspectives of educational changes, expectations of their participants, but also the challenges they impose on the scientific community.

Walking the Meaning Great Transformations? Degrowth Conference Budapest 2016
Budapest, Hungary 30th August – 3rd September 2016

Lana Jurko attended the conference that gathered about 600 researchers, students, practitioners and activists from across the world to discuss latest conceptual and empirical contributions to degrowth, broadly understood as a response to ecological, social and political unsustainability of the contemporary society. The Conference, implemented primarily through thematic presentations and plenary discussions on the topics of CHALLENGES, STRATEGIES and ALLIANCES for the degrowth movement such as: • Exit from growth ≠ exit from capitalism? • Environmentally sound economies • New forms of democracy and new institutions • Degrowth and other social movements • Building on solidarity • Empowering communities.

Lana moderated the final plenary *Polanyi historical lessons, future challenges, semiperiphery*.

8TH Regional Conference of educators
Organizer: COI Step by Step
Neum, Bosnia & Herzegovina 25th – 28th August 2016

Lana Jurko attended the 8th Regional Conference of Educators that gathered over 300 teachers, practitioners and educational researchers from South East Europe. The conference provides a space for sharing good practices and debating educational issues. Lana presented the findings from the Governance Mapping Study conducted by NEPC in a lecture *Mapping of the current school governance policies in the NEPC region*.

Migration – Integration: Schools Manage Diversity
Organizer: Pädagogischer Austauschdienst (PAD) Germany

Bonn, Germany 23rd & 24th May 2016

Lana Jurko attended the conference that collected experiences and results from international school exchange programmes and facilitated their exploitation to support the integration of young refugees. It focused on the intercultural school development and pedagogical concepts for school diversity; promotion of intercultural and interreligious competences, of tolerance and democratic values and language learning in the context of multilingualism. Lana represented NEPC and SIRIUS. She presented in a Workshop the work of SIRIUS as well as the NAOS project on preparing teachers for working in diverse classrooms.

*Education, participation, integration – Erasmus+ and refugees conference
Organizer: bibb (federal institute for vocational education and training – Germany) Essen,
Germany 19th & 20th April 2016*

Marwan Zeitoun attended the Education, Participation, Integration – Erasmus+ and Refugees conference in Essen. The aim of the conference was providing networking and support to institutions and organizations with facilitation the integration of refugees, exchange and utilization of innovative concepts and increasing the visibility of European support through Erasmus+. Marwan participated in the round tables during the field-specific workshop dealing with school education and in the thematic workshop on intercultural learning and linguistic integration.

*Thinking about Teachers, Teaching and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
18th & 19th April, 2016*

Lana Jurko was invited to present the NEPC region perspective and collected knowledge on Sustainability Education and its effect on teachers in our region.

The Seminar was organized in partnership with [Open Society Foundations](#) (OSF), [Education International](#) (EI), and the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#) (OECD). The seminar brought together practitioners, researchers and policy-makers committed to enhancing the development of the teaching profession. The seminars strengthen the discourse on the future of teaching and teachers. The purpose of the 2016 seminar was to examine education Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all – from the perspective of teachers and teaching.

The seminar explored:

- The opportunities and challenges presented in the Framework for Action: Education 2030 (Published November 2015) for teacher policy and the teaching profession, particularly in relation to the target for increasing the supply of qualified teachers (Target 4.c) but also in relation to the other nine education targets;
- The role of teachers and teaching in achievement of the education targets in Goal 4, but also in relation to the other Sustainable Development Goals

- The necessary partnerships and priority actions for making early progress towards 10 education targets in the next three years.

→NETWORK

Human resources

NEPC Secretariat team

- * Executive Director (100% working hours) Lana Jurko
- * Program Officer (100% working hours) Marwan Zeitoun – Until October 2016
- * Administrative Officer (100% working hours) Raffaella d’Apolito
- * Financial Manager (50% working hours) Vesna Kallay

NEPC Experts in 2016

- * Sergij Gabršček, Governance Mapping
- * Grzegorz Mazurkiewicz, Summer School 2016
- * Onofrio Romano, Summer School 2016
- * Marija Roth, Summer School 2016
- * Arne Verhaegen, Summer School 2016

Board Members

Till 15th April 2016

- * Mario Bajkuša, President
- * Batjargal Batkhuyag
- * Rima Bezede
- * Tamar Bregvadze
- * Ivona Čelebičić
- * Gordana Miljević
- * Isik Tüzün

From 15th April 2016

- * Mario Bajkuša, President – Representative of members-at-large
- * Elmina Kazimzade – Representative of region C
- * Suzana Geržina - Representative of region A
- * Elena Lenskaya - Representative of members-at-large
- * Radmila Rangelov-Jusović - Representative of region B

Organizational Development

Members

In 2016:

- Center for Applied policy (Bulgaria) became affiliated member
- Gordana Miljević became affiliated member
- PROVIDUS Centre for public policy changed its status from full to affiliated member

As of December 2016, NEPC counts 23 full members from 18 countries and 6 affiliated members (2 organizations and 4 individuals).

Network Analysis

Learning activities opened to all members and covered by Secretariat (conference, summer school) registered good rate of response (Max 22 – Min 7). While low rate is registered in activities, requiring time-investment not paid (participation in Facebook campaign, respond to NEPC ed.3 of Comparative Study in Education).

Even if in 2016 there was low project oriented cooperation among members, a better rate of fundraising cooperation initiated by NEPC is registered (involving 12 members).

Strategy 2016-2020

The Strategy 2016-2020 has been built on learning from the first decade trying to propose the development of recommendations from previous projects and initiatives, unfortunately the first year of strategy implementation has shown how most of the activities planned within the objective 1 and considerable number of the activities planned in objective 2 are improbable to be realized. The attempt to fundraise for the continuation of previous projects has not been successfully, for this reason a desk research about possible new donors (mostly foundation) has been conducted.

The challenge of the Strategy implementation has been discussed at Board meeting and considering the activities implemented are in line with Strategy objectives, the review of the Strategy is planned for 2018.

Board Meetings

In 2016, 2 board meetings were organized:

- * 19th & 20th June, Samobor - Croatia
- * 12th & 13th December, Vrbovec - Croatia

Board members contributed to the design of Policy Lab and Summer School, supported Secretariat in communication with members and provided feedback on on-going activities and plan for 2017. Major comments regard the need for more visibility of the Network and the need to establish cooperation with other Networks.

General Assembly - GA

10th NEPC Regular General Assembly was organized in Cavtat (Croatia) on April 15th. 20 out of 23 representatives of institutional members were present.

Minutes available upon request

→FUNDRAISING

<i>FUNDER</i>	<i>NEPC ROLE</i>	<i>ACRONYM/TITLE</i>	<i>RESULTS</i>
<i>EC - E+</i>	Applicant	BRAVEdu - Breaking the Poverty Taboo: Roles and Responsibilities of Education	RESERVE LIST
<i>EC- E4C</i>	Applicant	WISE - Welcoming and Inter-cultural Schools for Europe	REJECTED
<i>EC - E+</i>	Partner	AVIOR - Open Source Multilingual Teaching Materials Forum for Migrant Pupils in Europe	APPROVED
<i>EC - E+</i>	Applicant	5x5- Implementing Inclusive School Cultures - Education for Social Inclusion	REJECTED
<i>EC - E+</i>	Partner	Hand in hand	APPROVED
<i>ETF</i>	Applicant	Coordination of Demonstration Projects in the SEET region	APPROVED
<i>EPIM</i>	Applicant	Education & Integration of Youth Migrants	REJECTED

→NETWORKING

[SIRIUS Policy Network on Migrant Education](#)

In December 2016, SIRIUS Network has been formally established. NEPC is founding member and Lana Jurko is member of the SIRUS board. During 2016 NEPC was fully involved in providing support to SIRIUS in Network development, assisting in drafting strategic documents, bylaws and shaping the structure of the SIRIUS network.

NEPC has also developed a mapping study on school leadership roles and responsibilities in diverse schools for SIRIUS and the professional support provided to the school leaders across Europe. Based on the mapping and the previous research NEPC will prepare a Policy brief on the topic. Thus connecting NEPC governance study and SIRIUS work. NEPC provides to SIRIUS knowledge and experience from non EU countries on issues of inclusive education as well as informs its members of the EU policy situation,

NEPC members PRAXIS, Estonia and Forum for freedom in Education, Croatia are members of SIRIUS and several other members expressed their wish to join. NEPC will facilitate the connection.

→ACTIVITIES NOT (OR PARTLY) REALIZED IN 2016

[Policy Lab](#) foreseen in November 2016 has been postponed to February 2017.

[Members' workshop on Segregation and Labelling](#) in Education has been embedded in the Summer School 2017 program.

[NEPC Comparative Studies in Education ED.3 on Inclusive education,](#)

[Collection of Good Practices in Inclusive Education](#), the publication is in final preparation phase, publishing is planned for February 2017.

[Regional visits to EU](#)

NEPC NUMBERS IN 2016

29 full and affiliated members

85 participants in learning events

2 publications

7 project proposals, 3 approved

738 Facebook likes

8 international conferences attended

Reflections from 2016

In 2016, NEPC turned 10: the anniversary conference in Cavtat gathered NEPC members, partners, founders, friends to celebrate but also to reflect on what would be the NEPC role in the years to come. The conference will be organized bi-annually to keep on creating platform of sharing and discussions among members, which seems to be the most common expectation members have from NEPC.

The publication NEPC@10, gathering the perspectives of NEPC people, provided an inspiring and interesting picture of the first NEPC decade, while it is certain the future will create new nuances of the mixture of our primary colours.

We use this opportunity to thank Institute for Social Research Zagreb, Children are the Future and ProDIDACTICA for their efforts in organizing NEPC days.

The evaluation of conference as well as of summer school show the importance of learning event for the network and the need to keep organizing and creating learning opportunities.

Network of Education Policy Centers, Narrative Report 2016

2016 was the year of celebration but also a quite demanding year if we analyse the results of fundraising activities, the investment of time and energy in creating project proposals is not visible in any report but it was visible the lack of common projects with members that always generate learning, inspire future activities and reinforce cooperation.

Plans for 2017 are much brighter, with 3 projects proposals approved, NEPC will hopefully have the strengths to provide more opportunities for members, deepen connections with other educational networks and associations (ESHA, EI, EPA), achieve more international recognition and become stronger organization.

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