

Issue No. 2 April, 2004

Education Policy *Newsletter of* *Education Policy Centers*

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EDITORIAL

- **New initiative: The Topic of the Month**

Starting from the next issue, the Newsletter will offer new rubrics 'The topic of the month'. The Education Policy Centers and all the readers of the Newsletter are invited to suggest new topics and actively participate in submitting information on the proposed topic. This will be a very good opportunity for the Centers to pull together existing resources, share ideas and advertise their best practices. For the issue in May the suggested topic is "Anti-corruption education. Transparency and accountability in Education". You will find more information about this initiative in the section "New projects& Initiatives".

NEWS & EVENTS

- **Establishment of the RWCT (Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking) International Consortium.**

Coming together in Vilnius (Lithuania) on March 15, 2004, representatives of 22 organizations from 22 countries (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan) signed the Agreement of the RWCT International Consortium.

The RWCT International Consortium provides professional development opportunities for educators who bring up highly motivated and well educated citizens capable of critical thinking, setting and achieving their own and community goals, and bearing social responsibility.

As a network of in-country nongovernmental organizations, building on the efforts of its members, the Consortium strives for:

- Educators to become promoters of critical, creative and caring thinking, education for all, civic literacy and democratic society values.
- Students and parents to become active participants of the teaching/learning process aimed at successfully meeting the challenges of the 21st century.
- Educational administrators to foster these efforts and help in establishing stronger connections with authorities at all levels, in securing media promotion and strengthening community bondages.
- Society members to become supporters of lifelong learning, as a tool of coping with an ever-changing society.

According to the Consortium Agreement the website located at <http://www.ct-net.net> has become the official information resource of the Consortium. At present, the primary construction of the site is being finalized, and it will start operating in the nearest future.

SERBIA

Suspension and Revision of International Projects by the Ministry of Education

- **Ministry of Education met with donors and creditors (source: Web Site of Serbian Government)**

Belgrade, April 2, 2004 - Serbian Minister of Education and Sport Ljiljana Colic held a meeting with foreign donors and creditors and briefed them on Ministry's plans and priorities in the implementation of education reform.

Colic said that in the creation of a new system of education, the former Ministry paid special attention to teacher training in the form of seminars and workshops in order to improve communication between educators.

She said that her post as new education minister implies an analysis of the work of the previous ministry and ways in which allocated funds were used. She said that the results of this kind of funding are visible and do not require special analyses, but that programs of seminars and their results need detailed examination.

Colic said that the Ministry is aware of the fact that the seminars are part of international projects that have been launched, and informed donors and creditors that the seminars will be suspended until professional teams engaged by the Ministry make changes in this kind of education. She added that the Ministry has had no intention at any moment to end cooperation with foreign partners.

[Click for more information on this topic](#)

GEORGIA

- **International Conference on Project Development – “Evaluation of the Level of Integration and Harmonization of the Countries of the South Caucasus with 1997 Lisbon Convention”**

Tbilisi, Georgia

April 2-3, 2004

The International Institute for Education Policy, Planning and Management, Georgia participated in the Eurasia Foundation grant program to support public policy research and legislative recommendations for integrating the South Caucasus Countries with the European conventions and norms. The main objectives of the project were to carry out a survey assessing the South Caucasus countries' integration and harmonization with international structures in the higher education and compliance with Lisbon Convention on Recognition of Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education, as well as marketing of the survey results and advocating for the adoption and implementation of the convention standards and policy recommendations. The Institute is implementing the project on the regional level, in close collaboration with its partners from Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In the framework of this effort, the Institute held international conference on April 2-3, 2004 in Tbilisi, Georgia. Foreign experts of education, specialists from the South Caucasus countries as well as representatives of the corresponding local and international organizations had participated in the event. The two-day conference examined main developments in the higher education systems of the region, analyzed the preliminary results of the project, and planned follow-up activities in close collaboration with donor community and relevant stakeholders.

[Click for more information on this topic](#)

LATVIA

- **Reform - the last drop**

If you compare the amendments in the Education Law to natural processes, then it could be said that Latvian society is generally "heating up." No one is indifferent anymore; neither those out on the street shouting "no" to the reform, nor those who choose to stay at

home and watch events on their TVs. [Click for more information on this topic](#)

- **On March 20, 2003, Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS had organized a round table discussion on Education Reform in Latvia.** The main aim of the discussion was to find if there is a common platform for the future of the reform? Considering that lately the discussion of the reform was overly politicized, PROVIDUS attempted to make this discussion on professional grounds. The participants of the discussion were - the Minister of Education and Science, representatives from the Ministry of Integration, local educational Authorities, directors from minority schools and representatives from NGO. It was agreed that all sides acknowledge learning Latvian language at the secondary school level. However, the teaching of language should not be forced upon minority schools. There is an idea to promote bilingual education not only in schools with Russian language of instruction, but also in schools with Latvian language of instruction. Although further dialog is needed to clarify and agree of the aims of the reform of education in Latvia, as well as are the minority school teachers ready for the reform. [Click for more information on this topic](#)

CENTRAL ASIA

- **Civic Education Project (CEP) - Central Asia and Mongolia in cooperation with the Open Society Institute (OSI) and ACCELS** welcomes Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program Alumni of all years and fields of study to participate in the Regional Conference "The Muskie Alumni Impact on Central Asia" to be held at Silk Road Hotel Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic on May 7-9, 2004.

The event is organized with the following goals:

- 1) To estimate and document the impact of Muskie Alumni on the developing societies of the post-Soviet Central Asian republics;
 - 2) To give the most active alumni of the region an opportunity to share the experiences and achievements;
 - 3) To develop feasible joint projects to be implemented by Muskie Alumni in their relative fields to promote further development and cooperation within the region. [More information on this topic](#)
- **The British Council Kazakhstan-Kyrgyzstan** is supporting KEIF 2004 (Kazakhstan International Educational Fair); this is the second time that Intellect Consulting Educational Agency has organized the Fair in Almaty. Intellect Consulting Educational Agency is ready to welcome universities, colleges, boarding schools and language schools from all over the world to Almaty. Building on the experience of the first Fair, the Agency is aiming to attract more prospective students this year, in order to increase the number of students from Kazakhstan at UK educational establishments. More than

3000 visitors attended the Fair last year. There were 25 participants, schools as well as universities, from 11 countries including the UK. The UK is still the most popular overseas destination for Kazakhstani students who want to go to language schools, colleges and universities. For further information please contact Ms. Olga Polnikova (Academic Counselor and Exhibition Co-ordinator, Intellect Agency): intellect@online.ru or visit www.intellect.kz

OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)

- **Education Ministers from OECD countries met in Dublin on 18-19 March 2004**

In introducing the theme, Minister José David Gomes Justino pointed to the twin challenges of widening access to education and raising levels of performance. He invited participants to reflect on key policy levers that could help to address these challenges and raise educational quality for all, including formulating educational goals and monitoring adherence to these; fostering learning environments and models of school governance that are conducive to innovation; and allocating human and financial resources in ways that enhance an equitable distribution of learning opportunities. He particularly stressed the importance of creating knowledge-rich schooling systems in which those responsible for delivering educational services act as partners and have the authority to act, the necessary information to do so, and access to effective support systems to assist them in implementing change. This would require the right balance between internal and external evaluation and between co-operative and competitive approaches. He invited the OECD to help governments in sharing experiences with the development of dynamic benchmarks and effective support systems as well as policies for educational improvement. He concluded by suggesting that success be defined not merely in terms of current performance levels but also by the progress individual schools are making. [Click for more information on this topic](#)

European Commission

- **A new generation of Community program in education and training after 2006**

The Commission adopted on 9 March a Communication on "The new generation of Community education and training programmes after 2006". This Communication outlines the content of two major new Community programs in the field of education and training, which the Commission will formally propose in the summer. These are:

- An Integrated Program in Lifelong Learning, for mobility and cooperation between EU, EEA/EFTA and Candidate Countries, which will subsume the existing Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci programs.
- A Tempus Plus program, for the countries neighboring the EU and for the existing Tempus countries, which will focus on cooperation and development in higher (university-level) education, vocational training, school and adult education.

The Commission proposals build on the experience of the existing generation of programmes, which is summarised in a series of interim evaluation reports published at the same time as the Communication, and on the outcome of a public consultation exercise on the future development of these programmes, which took place between November 2002 and February 2003. Education Commissioner Viviane Reding told reporters that these programmes are designed to play a significant role in transforming Europe into a knowledge economy. She pointed out that Member States must transform words into deeds by increasing significantly the funding available for these mobility programmes. She indicated that a tripling of the budget would be necessary to reach the targets set. [Click for more information on this topic](#)

Education Policy Center UNDER THE SPOT LIGHT

This month: *Centre for Public Policy PROVIDUS*

Contact information:

Address Alberta Jela 13, LV 1010 Riga, Latvia

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Director Ms. **Vita Terauda**

Coordinator –contact of Education Policy Program **Indra Dedze**

Governance, Board members:

Vita Terauda, Krista Baumane, Guntars Catlaks, Žanete Ozolina

Year established December 2002

Mission/Scope

The Centre for Public Policy "PROVIDUS" has been active in the fields of criminal justice, rule of law, education policy and democratic transition since 1992. Originally a part of the Soros Foundation - Latvia, PROVIDUS gained a separate legal identity in 2002. PROVIDUS works to liberalize criminal justice policy, promoting the development and wider application of alternatives to imprisonment, to assist victims of violence, to raise human rights awareness among police officers and to promote prison reform. PROVIDUS has an active voice in governance issues, anti-corruption policy and education policy. PROVIDUS hosts an Internet portal www.politika.lv devoted to public policy debate and citizen involvement.

Activities (in general)

In year 2003 PROVIDUS had the following activities:

- Preparation and publishing of the third education report;
- Inviting foreign experts and consultants, (this activity is shared with public policy fellow program);
- Organizing activities with local government authorities;

Sponsoring the following pilot projects:

- "Mixed Schools as Example of Bilingual Education"
- "Bilingual Education in Rezekne District"
- "Second Chance Education"
- "Measurements of the Quality of Education for Local Governments".
- "The Principle of Succession between Pre-school and First Grade".

Education and training:

Training of authors of the Report on Education within the Public policy program. The program had been in place for three years. Language of teaching mostly English, with some seminars hosted in Latvian.

- Seminar "Public Policy and Media Relations. Tools and Tips", Jose de Baros, Nebojsa Radic, 18.02.2003. Language: English.
- Seminar "Questionnaires and Interviews", Ivars Austers. 13.05.2003, Language: Latvian
- Seminars "Problem Definition in Policy Papers: Difference between Academic Research and Policy Analysis", Stephen Heyneman, 3-4.06.2003. Language: English.
- Seminars "Recommendations in Policy Papers: How Much Costs the Decision Making. Plan of Impact", Stephen Heyneman, 14-15.10.2003. Language: English.

Publications:

1. [Education in Latvia's Transition: The Challenge of Management. Report on Education in Latvia 2001/2002.](#) (in Latvian and English)
2. [Bilingual Education in Latvia: A report by international experts.](#) Authors: Pieter Batelaan, Ludmila Choumak, Mark Diachkov, Francois Grin, Alex Housen, Alan N. Crawford, Karen M. Pedersen, Ekaterina Protassova, Irene Schwob, Iveta Silova, financed by: Soros Foundation – Latvia. Language: Latvian, English.
3. [The Economic Return from Higher Education in Latvia.](#) Authors: Aleksejs Snitnikovs, PROVIDUS Policy Fellow, financed by: Soros Foundation – Latvia. Language: Latvian.

4. [Implementation of Standardized Exams in Latvia](#). Authors: The Baltic Institute of Social sciences, financed by: Soros Foundation – Latvia. Language: Latvian.

NEW PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

Anti-Corruption Education.

Transparency and Accountability in Education.

Corruption remains a problem, both at the national and local level, and the rights of citizens are compromised as a result. Education is not an exception. The transparency of decision making and open access to information; the transparent distribution of funds and consultations with social partners; the external and internal audits and anti-corruption education programs: a contribution to more transparent, accountable, non-corrupt practice of education policy.

INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE

Please, join this effort and add your resources to the shared collection of anti-corruption initiatives in education. We are looking forward to getting from your short summaries of projects, case studies, overviews of activities and best practices on the topics of transparency, accountability and anti-corruption education.

Please, provide us with (a summary of up to 0.5 -2 pages):

- short overview of anti-corruption education initiatives; examples of initiatives carried out by the Soros Foundation or its spin-offs in your country;

OR

- links(or short information) on the topic "Transparency and Accountability in Education";

OR

- presentations of projects or reform steps in your countries that strengthen transparent governance and anti-corruption related problems in education;

OR

- links to anti-corruption Internet sites: national and international.

Please submit your contribution until 1st of May 2004.

DONORS, FINANCIAL & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Open Society Institute - [Global Supplementary Grant Program](#)

The Scholarship Programs are pleased to offer supplementary grants to students from selected countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The purpose of the program is to enable qualified students to pursue doctoral studies in the humanities and social sciences at accredited universities in Western Europe, the Middle/Near East, Asia, Australia, and North America.

Grants will be awarded on the basis of academic record, merit of the proposed study, applicant's long-term goals, and financial need. The grants will provide supplemental funding for one year of study with the option to apply for a second year. Reapplication procedures will be outlined in the 2005/2006 application form. Renewal grants will be competed with the general pool of applicants and are not guaranteed. Only students who have been accepted into a full-time doctoral (Ph.D.) program at an accredited university are eligible to apply.

[Click to download the application form](#)

International Summer University Macedonia 2004 pilot - Apply to Teach

International teaching faculty can still apply to teach at the International Summer University Macedonia (ISUM 2004) in Macedonia. If interested, please visit <http://www.academictraining.org> to apply online. The ISUM 2004 (pilot project) offers teaching positions only for professors from EU member states and South East European countries in the field of Law, Public Administration, Economics, Business Administration and Education. Visiting professors voluntarily teach the intensive courses, usually comprising 15 teaching days. Professors receive an allowance of 75 Euros per week. Travel expenses are reimbursed and free accommodation is provided. The target group consists of (senior) students and (young) academic staff. Courses start on 12 July 2004. Exact location is still to be determined. More information and application forms can be obtained online at <http://www.academictraining.org>

Brain Gain Program

The Brain Gain Program (BGP) is aimed at inviting professors, assistant or experts in relevant fields originating from former Yugoslavia to teach as guest lecturers – for several days up to 3 weeks - at universities/faculties in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia. World University Service- Austria is providing funding to enable the universities to invite qualified academics originating from the region to lecture courses, which are not available at the SEE university faculties. Additionally, courses by Austrian guest lecturers can be funded through the BGP if required. For more information on the program visit <http://www.wus-austria.org> or [click here](#)

PUBLICATIONS

OECD - POLICY BRIEF

Education and Equity

February 2004

For a more equitable society, all individuals, independently of their socio-economic background, origin and gender, should ideally have access to equivalent learning opportunities; those with organic disabilities, learning difficulties or social disadvantages should benefit from specific support; and finally, improving outcomes of all learners, and especially those who are less successful, should be a permanent objective of all educational systems.

Drawing from work developed by the OECD over the past few years, this *Policy Brief* highlights policy lessons from current experiences in OECD countries in dealing with these issues. [Click to download the study](#)

Materials of the SEE ECN regional workshop on Decentralization of Education System

In February 2004, Task Force Education and Youth Enhanced Graz Process Working Table 1, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Institute for Educational Sciences, Romania and South East European Educational Cooperation Network organized "South East European Educational Cooperation Network" regional workshop on Decentralization of education systems. For this purpose was developed a special web portal with all presentations used at the seminar and some background material, which is accessible from:

http://www.see-educoop.net/portal/id_workshop_bukaresta.htm

Also is available an updated special category of documents on Bologna process in SEE-ECN on-line library. There are more than 100 documents on the Bologna process in SEE, most of which are translated into the languages of the region:

http://www.see-educoop.net/portal/id_bologna.htm

USEFUL LINKS

OSI Related Education Policy Centers

On-line information about the Network of Education Policy Centres

- OSI Education Support Program has gathered and pasted on the web information about OSI related Education Policy Centres. Please, log-in with password and user name 'policy' (lower case letters only) at www.osi.hu/esp/resource . This will lead you to the centre as a guest. Under the OSI logo you can find two labels, one of them is "Welcome", the other is "Programs and Resource Packs". If you click on the latter the Contents Catalogue appears. Here there are more options from which you have to choose "All Programs and Resource Packs". All resource packs are listed here, the only thing you have to look for the "Network of Education Policy Centres".

Links to the websites of the Education Policy Centers:

Center for Democratic Education, **Albania**, www.cde-ct.org

Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD), **Croatia**, www.idi.hr/cerd

Center for Educational Policy (CEP), **Czech Republic**, http://alfa.pedf.cuni.cz/~www_svp/

Institute for Economic and Social Analysis, **Czech Republic**, www.isea.cz

Center for Policy Studies PRAXIS, **Estonia**, www.praxis.ee

International Institute for Education Policy, Planning and Management, **Georgia**, <http://www.eppm.org.ge>

Center for Educational Policy Analysis, **Hungary**, <http://www.oki.hu>

Educational Policy Analysis Center, **Kazakhstan**

Kosova Education Center (KEC), **Kosova**, <http://www.kec-ks.org>

Public Policy Center, **Kyrgyzstan**, cpp@users.kyrnet.kg

Education Laboratory, **Kyrgyzstan**

Center for Public Policy PROVIDUS, **Latvia**, <http://www.politika.lv>

Center for Education Policy, **Lithuania**, spc@svietimas.lt

Institute for Public Policy, **Moldova**, www.ipp.md

Institute of Public Affairs (IPA), **Poland**, www.isp.org.pl

National Institute of Education (NIE), **Bulgaria**, <http://www.nie.bg>

Center Education 2000+, **Romania**, www.cedu.ro

Centre for Educational Policy Studies, **Russian Federation**, <http://www.msses.ru>

Educational Forum, **Serbia**, apesikan@f.bg.ac.yu /or/ zavram@eunet.yu

Education Policy Center at Orava Association for Democratic Education, **Slovakia**, www.zdruzenieorava.sk

Slovak Governance Institute, **Slovakia**, www.governance.sk
Centre for Educational Policy Studies (CEPS), **Slovenia**, <http://ceps.pef.uni-lj.si>
Educational Reform Support Unit «Pulse», **Tajikistan**, <http://www.ersu-pulse.by.ru>
Turkey Education Reform Initiative, **Turkey**, neyyir@sabanciuniv.edu
Educational Studies Center, **Ukraine**, www.megacenter.org.ua
International Centre for Policy Studies, **Ukraine**, www.icps.kiev.ua
The Institute for Policy Studies, **Ukraine**, http://www.ipt.iatp.org.ua/english/index_eng.htm
Center for Modern Education Information Technologies, **Uzbekistan**

Other OSI related professional and regional education networks

South East Europe Education Co-operation Network
Contact person: Igor Repac, Ceps.Ljubljana@Uni-Lj.si

Central Asian Education Co-operation Network
Contact person: Jana Huttova, jhuttova@osi.hu

International Step by Step Association, ISSA,
Contact person: Sarah Klaus, sklaus@sorosny.org

Coalition of RWCT programs and institutions:
Contact: Daiva Penkauskiene, daiva.dc@vpu.lt

Debate association, IDEA
Contact person: Noel Selegzi, nselegzi@sorosny.org

Networks of OSI related programs and partner NGOs dedicated to education for social justice.
Contact person: Christina McDonald cmcdonald@osi.hu

International Research and Evaluation Network (IRENE) (under development).
Contact person: Hugh Mclean mclean@osi.hu

EDITOR'S NOTE

Many thanks to the contribution for this issue to: Indra Dedze (PROVIDUS-Latvia), Nino Kutateladze (International Institute for Education Policy, Planning and Management- Georgia), Igor Repac (Centre for Educational Policy Studies- Slovenia), Virginija Budiene (OSI Budapest-ESP)

- This issue of the Newsletter is based on the information, submitted by the Education Policy Centers
- Please provide news & information for the next issue until 1st of May 2004 to: epcnews@hotmail.com

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