

Invitation for Participation on the VI. International congress of boarding schools of Slovenia

Slovene Association of educators in boarding schools organizes VI. International professional congress in cooperation with National education institute and Slovene boarding schools association. The title of the congress is:

CHALLENGES OF EDUCATION IN GLOBAL SOCIETY

The congress will be taking place on the 22nd and the 23rd of March 2018 in Tabor boarding school in Ljubljana (address: Vidovdanska ulica 7, Ljubljana)

The Congress is an expert meeting of professionals working in boarding schools, primary and high school education, students homes, universities, social work centers, correctional institutions, health care centers and other institutions providing care for children and young people who are included in the educational system in one way or another.

The aims of the congress are directed towards professional training, exchange of views and practices inside and outside of the field of education. The topics covered should help the educators strengthen the professional identity as well.

With the intention to broaden and enrich our knowledge with practices and from other socio-cultural environments, the experts from other countries are also invited to take part at the congress.

Due to positive responses at the last congress, most sections were kept in place and have expanded the contents so they include up-to date topics as listed below:

1. Integrity, competence and autonomy in educational work
2. Directions for the future - education as support for sustainable development
3. Leadership and management in education and schooling
4. Culture, sport and other leisure/free time activities
5. Ways in which young people deal with the challenges of the modern society
6. Youth section

A brief overview of the individual sections:

1. Integrity, competence and autonomy in educational work

Within this section we would like to explore the integrity and competence of educators in different areas within the education field. These areas include; communication, relationships, teaching, logistics/organization skills, leadership and management, etc.

We will be focusing on the concept and questions:

- The autonomy of an educator
- The autonomy of different educational institutions within education system and how does it reflect in practice?
- How does the autonomy reflect in the education culture and climate?
- Who is responsible to ensure the integrity, competence and autonomy within the education?
- How successful are we and how can we improve in the mentioned areas? (theories, practical experiences, propositions and new ideas...)

2. Directions for the future - education as support for sustainable development

We will be focusing on the directions in which education should be explored and practiced in order to support sustainable development.

- With the thought of our joined future and the responsibility towards future generation in mind, we will be discovering ways in which we are tackling the challenges of current and upcoming environmental and social circumstances.
- To which extent do we consider the principles of sustainable development in our current and future educational theories practices (examples of principles; forming values, development and use of modern communication technologies, developmental and lifelong learning, creativity, etc)

Through the topics in this section we will be looking for answers to questions that adolescents are faced with today. We will be discussing, brainstorming, presenting cases of good practices and examples of activities which are aimed at sustainable development and emphasize the 'joined future'.

3. Leadership and management in education and schooling

Management of educational institutions is a very complex and responsible task that has to take into consideration the social, professional and organizational dimensions. In order for the principles of modern, innovative and achievement focused society to come to life it is very important for all the professionals in education to accept and internalize them.

A modern and creative model of permanent professional training for headmasters and other educational professionals has been established in Slovenia. Some of the objectives of these model are;

- constant reflection and evaluation of one owns work
- implementation of good practices
- adoption of new concepts of leadership
- organizational and operational changes in educational institutions

All areas and factors of leadership and management in education can be considered in this section.

4. Culture, sport and other leisure/free time activities

Arts, crafts and sports activities have always played an important role in education. Most educational institutions and especially boarding schools pay a lot of attention to such activities as part of their educational program. We will focus on the question: How to improve the quality of leisure activities and simultaneously strengthen interpersonal bonds/ties?

We would like to invite educators who are implementing inventive activities, projects or have cases of good practice to share them with other participants. We would like to open the space for questions on effects, implementation, logistics and development of these activities.

5. Ways in which young people deal with the challenges of the modern society

Through our work, educators come across many different individuals. While some are very agile in executing the developmental and working tasks, others can have a great amount of problems in that process. The question is, how do we respond in that situation as professionals? How do we see and experience the struggling adolescents? Are we able to recognize the nonconstructive behavior and its consequences? What are the methods and practices we use to effectively tackle these issues? What are the prejudices that prevent us from providing good support for struggling young people? How can we improve our flexibility, versatility and range of our problem solving skills? What are the active roles we can play in developing education that copes with the changes in global society?

This section opens the space for discussion about the problems we see adolescents facing up to today. They represent challenges for professionals in education. We would like to hear your viewpoints, experiences and visions you have on how to help support our youth on the way to successfully overcoming their challenges of living as active participants of global society.

6. Youth section

Could educators and teachers learn something from adolescents?

This is a section devoted to presentations by our adolescents. Young people/students, who stay at boarding schools, will present the different leisure activities they participate in, like: sports, arts, humanitarian campaigns, volunteer work, etc.

We invite students, who live in our boarding schools, to put together unique and fresh presentations of the leisure activities they are involved in within their schools or boarding schools. We would invite the students to try to answer the following questions:

- How students in our school/boarding school can constructively spent their free time?
- How can these experiences be useful in life?

This section is designed for students living in boarding schools. The presentation can be the work of one or maximum three students. They prepare a written article, which meets the general guidelines for articles at the congress. The presentation can be in a form of a poster (100x70cm), e-presentation / power point presentation or their unique way. The time frame to present their article is 10 minutes.

The students get a written certificate of participation at the congress.

Mentors should play an active role in the process of constructing and presenting the articles. They should support and motivate the students to develop the initial idea to the final product that reaches the criteria of a congress article.

According to past reflections of participating students, this is a very useful experience for the students. Mentors also get a certificate of participations.

GENERAL CONDITIONS AND DEADLINES

Active participants

- Official language at the conference is Slovene, working languages are also English, Croatian and Serbian language.
- Active participants (the ones with written paper or workshop and an article in the Information Publication of Subjects) apply for participation, the title and summary of their article through the web site: <http://www.dvdds.si>
- The latest date for application for active participants is 6th of November 2017. Please, stick to the deadlines, because only this way can we ensure that your article can be part of the conference program.
- The Application is final and valid after you have paid the participation fee.
- Articles will be published in the native languages of the presenters, summaries in the native and English language.
- Every author can present with maximum two articles, but always pays just one participation fee.
- The article can only be presented by the author or co-author.

Other participants (with no articles)

- Apply for participation through the web site: <http://www.dvdds.si>
- The latest date for application is 17th of March 2018

All current information about the conference will be available on the web site: <http://www.dvdds.si>

For any extra information you can contact us on the e-mail address: kongressdvdds2018@gmail.com

Important dates

Due date for application of active participants , including article title and summary	6.11.2017
Notice of confirmation to active participants about their application	17.11.2017
Due date for submission of the complete written article	30.11.2017
Notice to active participants about the results of the review procedure of the articles	20.12.2017
Due date for amended articles	15.1.2018
Due date for payment of participation fee for active participants (with an article)	21.1.2018
Due date for early participation application and payment of participation fee for other participants (without an article)	21.1.2018
Due date for participation application for other participants (without an article)	17.3.2018
Due date for payment of participation fee for other participants (without an article)	17.3.2018

Participation fee and discounts

Type of participant	Regular price	Early application – active participants	Early application- other participants
Member of the SDDS	150	135	135
Other participants	170	153	153
Retirees, full time students and unemployed	70	63	63
Other participants, who are members of SDDS – one day participation	90	/	81
Other participants – one day participation	110	/	99
High school students	free	free	free

For every second participant from the same institution, the price of participation fee is reduced from the relevant price in the table above.

Participation fee is paid at the application with reference 'za kongres' including name and surname of the participant for whom the participation fee is being paid

The bill will be issued after the fee is paid

Retirees, full time students and unemployed individuals claim the discounts with appropriate proof of your status.

In case you have already applied and paid the fees and you are not able to attend the congress, you can inform us of a substitute individual, that will be filling your place but no later than 48h before congress (valid for participants without article).

Participation fee covers: all lectures and workshops, Information Publication of Subjects and Information Publication of Abstracts (in electronic form), drinks and snacks, dinner on the first day, promotional material, confirmation of participation.