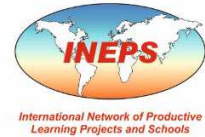




Productive Learning as a means to prevent early school leaving



Report 29th Congress of the International Network of Productive Learning Projects and Schools (INEPS) “Productive Learning as a means to prevent early school leaving”

24.-28.04.2017, Burgas, Bulgaria

Programme

<p><u>Monday, 24th April</u> 12:00 18:00 20:00</p>	<p>Place: Hotel Aqua Bus transfer from airport Sofia (terminal 2) AC Meeting “Welcome” Opening Session of the Conference</p>
<p><u>Tuesday, 25th April</u> 08:45 09:00 – 10:00 10:00 – 11:30 11:30 – 13:00 13:00 – 14:00</p>	<p>Place: Culture center “Morsko Casino” Departure from Hotel Aqua Registration, coming together Opening of the Congress Welcome from INEPS (Heike Borkenhagen, president of INEPS) The School system in Bulgaria Mrs Milka Harizanova, Senior Expert at Regional department of education - Burgas. Diversity in Productive Learning (Holger Mirow, Institute for Productive Learning in Europe - IPLE) Workshops (WS) “Productive Learning – different approaches in different countries” WS 1: The philosophy of PL as a base for youth work in Greece (Angela Passa, PROTASI movement for another lifestyle, Greece) WS 2: Practices and methods of PL in France (Ekram Bondue France) WS 3: PL in Germany – differences between the federal states (Egbert Jahn, Germany) WS 4: New school-related design in Lithuania: from stand-alone to community-based schools (Aukse Petruškevičiūtė, Lithuania) Lunch (provided)</p>

14:00 – 15:00	1 st General Assembly: Activities of INEPS from 2016 to 2017, The Youth Congress in Paris – a video documentation
15:00 – 17:00	Presentation market: The countries present their work
19:00	Free evening, meeting in Burgas for a one hour city walk
<u>Wednesday, 26th April</u>	Place: Four schools in Burgas
08:30	Departure to the school visits
09:00 – 11:00	Workshops (WS): Methods in Productive Learning
11:00 – 13:00	WS 1: Chances and challenges of diversity in PL learning groups (Holger Mirow, IPLE, Germany) WS 2: Defining individual learning tasks (Egbert Jahn, Germany) WS 3: Smart ways of using smart phones in PL - Sharing good practices and innovating new ones (Petri Hänninen, OMNIA, Finland) WS 4: Connecting “learning in practice” and learning in school (Heike Borkenhagen, IPLE, Germany)
13:00 – 13:45	Lunch (provided)
14:00 – 20:00	Excursion, Sightseeing Tour
<u>Thursday, 27th April</u>	Place: Hotel Aqua
09:00 – 12:00	Open Space discussion groups
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch (provided)
13:00 – 14:00	Walk around: Results of the discussion groups
14:00 – 16:00	General Assembly, Elections
19:00	Farewell Dinner, end of the congress
	<u>Friday, 28.04.17</u>
	Departure

Aims of the congress:

- to exchange experiences, methods and materials,
- to initiate and prepare activities among the members (and non-members), especially between different European countries, e.g. international Youth congress, youth exchanges etc.,
- to prepare and make decisions concerning the future of INEPS,
- to integrate new members into the network,
- to work together on topics, which are relevant for the development of *PL*,

- to deepen the participants understanding and knowledge of PL and active learning methods in general,
- to offer the participants a possibility to present their own work relevant to the topic of the congress,
- to strengthen the interaction among the network.

24.04.2017

Congress opening

The registration and the opening of the congress took place at Aqua Hotel, Burgas. 53 participants from Germany, Finland, Greece, Spain, Japan, Lithuania, France and Bulgaria took part in the congress.

The opening began at 8 pm sharp with a welcome dinner and ice- breaking ice games presented by the representatives of INEPS Heike Borkenhagen and Holger Mirow.

The participants were greeted by Russin Borislavov – the coordinator of the congress. All the participants were given gift bags with souvenirs, maps and brochures from the Municipality of Burgas.



25.04.2017

The official opening of the congress took place in the modern hall of the cultural centre “Sea Casino”, Burgas. In an old Bulgarian custom the participants were welcomed with bread and salt from children dressed in traditional Bulgarian costumes. The delegates and guests of the congress were greeted by the little, talented singer Plamena, who raised the mood and the looks of everyone presented.

Greetings to the participants in the congress were given by Victor Grigorov, principal of Ivan Vazov High school in Burgas, Heike Borkenhagen, president of INEPS and Mrs. Milka Harizanova, Senior Expert at Regional department of education - Bourgas.

A brief speech was delivered by the President of INEPS, Mrs. Heike Borkenhagen from Berlin, Germany, who presented the members of the international organization and outlined the goals of the congress.

Mrs. Milka Harizanova presented a short presentation about the state of the educational system in Bulgaria.

Mr. Holger Mirow (IPLE) held a key speech addressing the topic “Diversity in Productive Learning” including some evaluation results with regard to cultural diversity in PL learning groups in 25 Schools in Berlin.

After the solemn part, the participants went to the building of Business Incubator Burgas, where the first workshops were held.



Four working groups were proposed:

WS 1: The philosophy of the PL as a basis for youth activity in Greece (Angela Pasha, Movement for another way of life - Protasi, Greece)

WS 2: Practices and Methods of PL in France (Ekram Bondue- France)

WS 3: PL in Germany - the differences between federal states (Egbert Jan - Germany)

PA 4: New school-related project in Lithuania: from independent schools to community-based schools (Aukse Petruskeviciute, Lithuania)

The purpose of the individual workshops was to provide more information on the different practices of Productive Learning in different countries, to exchange experiences and to serve as an introduction to the work of the congress.



After noon the congress continued with the first General Assembly of INEPS members. In it, the French group presented a video with the results of the youth congress held two months earlier.

Egbert Jahn, Treasurer of INEPS, presented the balance sheet last year. Also the activity of INEPS was presented, prepared by Simona Plienaityte.

The next INEPS Congress was decided to be held in Saxony, Germany.

The next Youth Congress was proposed to take place in Patra, Greece.

After the closing of the meeting the traditional presentation market for the INEPS congresses was opened. Extremely excited and enthusiastic were the students from the four Bourgas schools (Ivan Vazov, Zahari Stoyanov VSU, Hristo Botev School, Dolno Ezerovo and St. Cyril and Methodius High School), co-organizers of the Congress.

All countries participated in the presentation stands, which helped to bring together and create a friendly atmosphere among the participants.





26.04.2017

The third day of the congress was dedicated to the visit to the four schools, co-organizers of the congress (Ivan Vazov High School, Zahari Stoyanov Vocational School, Hristo Botev School, Dolno Ezerovo, and St. Cyril and Methodius High School). .

The delegates were divided into four groups and visited four workshops held in each school.

The purpose of the individual workshops was to discuss separate methods in Productive Learning and to exchange good practices.

Workshops (WS): Methods in Productive Learning

WS 1: Chances and challenges of diversity in PL learning groups (Holger Mirow, IPLE)

The workshop was held at "Hristo Botev" school, Dolno Ezerovo. After a warm welcome by the headmaster, Mrs Zhelezova some results of the students, their prizes and a part of the history of the school, which this year has a 120th anniversary, was presented. Questions of the guests about the Bulgarian educational system were answered.

In the first part of the workshop the congress participants were offered the opportunity to discuss in small groups with seventh grade students. They were impressed by the open climate and the communication skills of the students in English. They learned from the students about the dealing with cultural diversity (e.g. different mother tongue, ancestors from different countries/regions) in school. The participants of the congress also told about the situation in their countries and schools.

In the second part of the workshop the participants reported from the discussion with the students and discussed the chances and challenges of cultural diversity in their countries and educational work. One focus was the specific methodology of PL and its "impact" on the topic. Although the situation differs a lot in different countries the educators agreed, that individualized education, a climate of acceptance and the opportunity to be successful in "real life situations" can contribute significantly to intercultural learning and help to avoid processes of stigmatization and segregation.

WS 2: Defining Individual Learning Tasks (Egbert Jahn - Germany)

The workshop was held at Ivan Vazov High School - Burgas. The session began with a presentation of the school and a visit to the emblematic ceramics school, where the participants had the opportunity to try the clay and potter wheel. They then met with some of the students, visiting them in the classrooms, which was very exciting for both parties. During the second session of the participants was presented in practice how the process of selecting and determining the individual tasks of the student in a group of productive training was done. Participants were challenged to discuss the issue and participate in practical decisions. The WS is also attended by a student from 11th grade, who shared his satisfaction with the introduction of this method of training and his participation in the workplace.



WS 3: "Smart" ways to use smart phones in PL- Sharing good practices and introducing new ones (Petri Hanninen, OMNIA, Finland)

On April 26, 2017, a Workshop on Smart Ways to Use Smart Phones in Productive Training was held - sharing good practices and introducing new ones "at Zahari Stoyanov Evening School, Burgas, which was a host school and partner of the project " Productive learning as a means of preventing early school leaving " under the INEPS program. Leader of the training was Mr. Petri Hanninen from Finland.

The workshop was also attended by teachers from the school. The facilitator started with a presentation of his school and introduced the topic with training practices in his school. A demonstration of applications and sites available through the Internet for smart phones was made. There were practical tasks for the participants. Then a discussion was held on whether these practices could be applied in other countries where there is productive learning. Participants from France said that the use of mobile devices in the learning process is not allowed. Students perform their assignments only on computers. The Germans said that

because of social inequality in their country, not all students have such devices and would be difficult to apply. In conclusion, it can be said that the presented practice is interesting and in the future it can find a wider application in the training.

WS 4: Linking "Learning in practice" and learning at school (Heike Borkenhagen, IPLE, Germany)

At the St. Cyril and St. Methodius School the participants visited the atelier for fine and applied arts, where students from the 11th grade presented the specifics of their preparation in the arts. Guests asked questions and exchanged information.

After the coffee-break program, the seminar started. The difference was the participation of three students: Beatrice Ilcheva and Anton Dimitrov from the 11th grade and Ivan-Alexander from the 8th grade. Pupils showed great interest in the topic of the seminar and asked for permission to participate. At the end of the event the facilitator expressed their satisfaction with their presence and stressed that they contributed with many fresh ideas.

The first part of the seminar had to answer the question " From practice to school " or " from school bench to practice". The participants were divided into 4 teams, each of them had to choose its own example and develop it in details. There was a creative work that resulted in four truly original conceptual products: a link between the school subjects and bakery and horticulture, the relationship between trainers and learners, the specificity of work in a supermarket.

After the four teams prepared their presentation boards, a summary of the results followed.

The work went to the second stage of the seminar, namely to formulate the positive and negative effects of the inclusion of children at risk of dropping out of school in productive practices

The third and final part of the seminar consisted of a game model in which each participant shared his idea of the school interaction - production practice consistently with another participant. In a natural and at the same time entertaining way, all participants exchanged their knowledge, new ideas and solutions.



After lunch, an excursion to Beglik Tash and Sozopol was held, and the participants had the opportunity to enjoy both the wonderful Bulgarian nature and the informal conversations.



27.04.2017

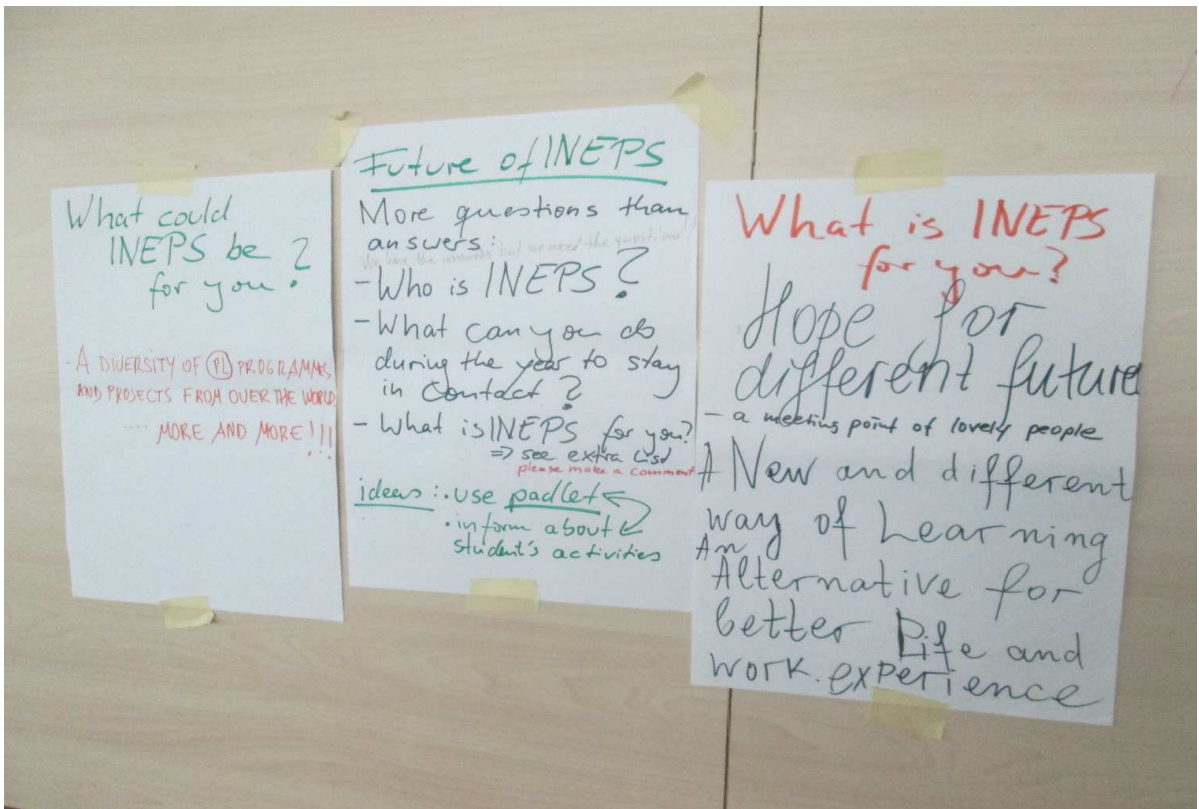
The last working day of the Congress went into intensive work and discussions on the Open Space method.

At the beginning, the delegates were congratulated by Mrs. Violeta Ilieva, Head of the Regional education council, Bourgas, who stated her firm support for the realization of the Productive Learning at Bourgas schools. She also expressed her joy that it would be from Bourgas that this innovative method would be used in favor of the drop-outs of the educational system.



The participants then split into groups of interest. The following discussion groups were proposed:

1. Introduction of the PL in the Bulgarian schools
2. Organizing of the youth congress
3. Joint projects and exchanges between participating countries
4. The future of INEPS



What could INEPS be for you?

- A DIVERSITY OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FROM OVER THE WORLD
.... MORE AND MORE!!!

Future of INEPS

More questions than answers:
you have the answers but we need the questions!

- Who is INEPS?
- What can you do during the year to stay in contact?
- What is INEPS for you?
⇒ see extra list please make a comment

ideas: use padlet
• inform about student's activities

What is INEPS for you?

Hope for different future

- a meeting point of lovely people

A New and different way of Learning
An Alternative for better life and work experience

The official General Conference of the Congress was completed with the second General Assembly of INEPS.

Elections of a new Management Board were held and the new challenges and initiatives of INEPS were discussed.

The new AC took the following form:

1. Holger Mirow - President
2. Merce Marce – responsible for the web page
3. Angela Passa – vice president
4. Egbert Jahn - treasurer
5. Ekram Bondou
6. Saba Lamech
7. Simona Plienaityte – General Secretary



Summary

The 29th International Congress of INEPS has been in great interest not only on the part of the participants but also on the part of the Bulgarian public and the Bulgarian media. The work of each group is turned into a beneficial exchange among the participants, as well as a kind of qualification for the beginner

pedagogues from different countries. The planned program and the objectives of the congress were fully completed and the goals for the next contact group actions for realization of the project "Productive Learning in Bourgas Schools" was set out. As a first initiative, it was proposed to present the project to the principals of other schools in the Bourgas region who are willing to participate in the project. The congress was attended by representatives of a total of 7 schools, and there will certainly be other interested colleagues involved.

On 22.06.2017 Rusin Borislavov will present the Productive Learning at an educational forum organized by the Thracian University in Stara Zagora.

Opinions on the implementation of Productive Learning themes in a European project on Erasmus + were held.

The idea of a youth congress and exchange among the participating countries were the other two topics, which were discussed intensively at the final stage of the congress.

A very important discussion was also about the future of the International Organization INEPS and the general opinion was that its initiatives and values are an important component in the staging of Productive Learning as a means of preventing early school leaving and giving all young people the chance to find their individual path to the benefit of society.

On the last day the participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with the possibilities for cooperation with the regional craft chamber, Burgas, without its support it would not be possible to realize the productive learning. Potential places for practical education of students were proposed:

- A car factory
- Pastry shop
- Photographic workshop
- Restoration Object
- Plastics factory
- Ethnographic complex "Gengera"



Finally, it can be mentioned that the 29th INESP Congress, with its concept and structure, has become a powerful generator of ideas and enriched all the participants.

Rusin Borislavov