

The Second CIS Community of Practices Seminar, Minsk, December 11-12, 2006

The Second CIS Community of Practices Seminar and the International Scientific and Practical Conference “Profile Education: Current State, Problems and Perspectives” were held in Minsk on the 11th to 12th of December 2006 through support of the UNESCO Participation Fund and UNESCO International Bureau of Education.

Along with over 100 educational experts from Belarus the meeting gathered high-level educators and curriculum specialists from 6 more CIS countries – Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine , also representatives of Latvian Ministry of Education, Danish University of Education and the Belarus National UNESCO Commission. Latvia participation was promoted by Ms.Tatjana Koke, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Latvian Ministry of Education and Science and Vice President for the European Sector of the IBE Council. It was highly relevant for the continuity and the consolidation of the COP, that the curriculum specialists from the CIS countries that had attended the first CIS COP meeting (10-11 December 2005, Minsk), were also participating in this one.

The participants reviewed the activities that were carried out during 2006, agreed on the activities for 2007 and discussed around the theme curricular diversification and profile education in Secondary Education. In general terms, this group of CIS countries, coming from a tradition of a highly centralized curricula very much founded on the academic ethos of each discipline, are advancing towards a basic compulsory education of nine to ten years mainly based on the approaches by competencies as well as providing opportunities and conditions for schools, principally at the upper secondary level, to partially define the curriculum and for students to elect subjects based on their interests and abilities.

According to the participants the balance is highly positive for what has been done and achieved under the COP in 2006 – the set up of the Russian section in IBE website, IBE Newsletter numbers 119 and 120-121 translated into Russian, carry out a dissemination workshop on the Asia-Pacific curriculum resource pack (Kazakhstan), the elaboration of a regional comparative matrix on processes of curriculum development, the translation of IBE documents into Russian principally linked to the approaches by competencies and the dilemmas around Secondary Education and finally, the implementation of the 2nd. meeting of the CIS COP-.

In overall terms, the CIS COP in Curriculum Development has achieved good results in its first year work and moreover the type and scope of activities planned for 2007 are clearly indicative of the members’ willingness to further deepen the usage of the COP as an setting and an instrument to contribute to the improvement of the processes of curriculum change currently taken place in the region, principally related to the issues of Secondary Education, profile education and the approaches by competencies.