



"DEMOCRATIC AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL"

The Slovak Academy **Democratic and Inclusive School Environment for All** is an educational event organized by the National Institute for Education in cooperation with the European Wergeland Centre, the Council of Europe exclusive partner. This activity is part of the pre-defined project under the Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Roma Inclusion programme entitled "Innovative Education for Teachers to Increase Their Intercultural Competences in the Educational Process of Roma Pupils" and is funded by the Norwegian Grants and the state budget of the Slovak Republic.

OBJECTIVES OF SLOVAK ACADEMY

The **Slovak Academy** is intended for school teams from different parts of Slovakia and its objectives are:

- to enhance competences of teachers and school leaders aiming at supporting and implementing inclusive principles in school environment.
- to support schools in implementing changes in key areas of school life, such as teaching and learning, management, or community cooperation.
- to provide participants with the latest approaches and tools of the Council of Europe in the field of human rights education and democratic citizenship, including the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture and to promote their usage in education.
- to support partnerships and cooperation among schools and other partners involved.
- to provide a forum to exchange effective practices and experiences in developing inclusive school environment and democratic competences of pupils.
- to expand the network of multipliers in the field of inclusive education.

WHAT ADVANTAGES DOES INCLUSIVE AND DEMOCRATIC SCHOOL HAVE?

- A friendly school atmosphere fosters cooperation and mutual tolerance.
- Pupils feel more confident and actively listen to each other; they can express their opinion and take responsibility for what is happening at their school.
- Teachers feel more confident in using interactive methods in teaching.
- Pupils with weaker academic results are more involved in school activities.

- Relations between different actors (teacher - pupil, teacher - parent, pupil - pupil, etc.) are cooperative.
- Due to cooperation between schools and other organizations pupils get more involved in volunteering.

HOW TO PROMOTE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES IN SCHOOL

The Slovak Academy is to help schools initiate necessary steps for the development of democratic and inclusive school environment for all pupils. It includes an analysis of the school's needs, which will enable school teams to design an action plan to meet their school's challenges. Participants can focus on one/two areas of change. School teams may decide that their school will, for example:

- arrange training and/or will establish procedures to promote inclusion and non-discrimination, to prevent bullying or to address other school-related issues.
- train teachers to use participatory methods in the classroom.
- establish school/pupil parliaments and will support their active participation in school life.
- organize trainings for teachers from other schools in the region to support school partnerships in the field of education for human rights and democratic citizenship.
- encourage pupils to engage in activities of their school/ neighborhood/community they live in.
- encourage dialogue with parents and will allow them to express their views on the educational process.

SCHOOL TEAMS

Teams of primary and secondary schools with their background related to the project topic "Innovative Education for Teachers to Increase Their Intercultural Competences in the Educational Process of Roma Pupils" can apply. Each school will create a three-member team:

1. a representative of school management (a school head or a deputy or a head teacher)
2. a teacher of any educational/academic subject
3. a person chosen by the school management who closely cooperates with the school; e. g. a representative of NGO; a representative of a local government or a parent or any other representative active in the field of inclusion, human rights education and education for democratic citizenship (school teacher, school psychologist, educational consultant, university teacher)



TIMETABLE

SPRING 2021: SEND YOUR APPLICATION

- Create a school team and send us an application by 30 May 2021.
- By applying for the Slovak Academy, you undertake to complete all its phases.
- We will confirm the participation in the Slovak Academy for the selected school teams by 13 June 2021.

OCTOBER 2021: PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST PHASE OF THE SLOVAK ACADEMY

- You will participate in four-day educational event (first phase) which is planned to take place in Bratislava in the second half of October (or online, depending on the epidemiological situation with Covid-19).
- You will design an action plan based on the needs of your school under the guidance of trainers.
- The framework programme and practical information will be sent to you beforehand.

OCTOBER 2021 - MAY 2022: IMPLEMENT YOUR ACTION PLAN

- You will present the action plan to your colleagues and adjust it to the needs of your school.
- You will be implementing project activities that involve the entire school community, with the support of your trainers and coordinators from the National Institute for Education.
- For the implementation phase of your action plan, the school will be provided with financial support in the total amount of 2,500 Euros on the basis of a contract between the school and the National Institute for Education. The school will be able to use this sum of money as a financial reward for colleagues who will be involved in the implementation of the school's action plan. Detailed information will be provided under the contract.

MAY 2022 (SECOND HALF): PARTICIPATE IN THE EVALUATION PHASE OF THE SLOVAK ACADEMY

- You will take part in a two-day training, which will take place in Bratislava, or online depending on epidemiological situation with Covid-19.
- You will evaluate the implementation of your action plan and identify the changes that have taken place at your school.
- You will define the strengths and challenges of the implementation phase and present an example of good practice to other participants.
- The framework programme and practical information will be sent to you beforehand.

AFTER COMPLETING THE SLOVAK ACADEMY

- You will send a final report to the coordinator (the National Institute for Education) by 15 June 2022.
- You will further develop and multiply the acquired knowledge and competencies in your professional life, thus supporting inclusive practices and policies in the school environment.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION AND CONTACT

VENUE FOR THE SLOVAK ACADEMY

Bratislava – detailed information on the venue will be provided to the selected schools well in advance. In the event of an unfavourable epidemiological situation related to the spread of the Covid-19 virus and its related measures, the educational event will be organized online.

TRAVELLING EXPENSES

There is no participation fee for the Slovak Academy. If the situation allows on-site event, travelling expenses, accommodation, and food are provided free of charge. Further information will be provided to the selected schools beforehand.

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

Upon completion of all phases of the training and meeting the conditions, participants will receive a certificate of participation issued by the National Institute for Education.



CONTACT

- You can register by **30 May 2021 (inclusive)** by sending a scan of your signed application form to the following email address: zuzana.licha@statpedu.sk
- Should you have any questions or need more information, please, send an email to:
Mgr. Zuzana Lichá, Coordinator of the Slovak Academy: zuzana.licha@statpedu.sk
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