



ECNAIS

European Council of National Associations of Independent Schools

ECNAIS Seminar/ MCM Sofia, Bulgaria

Central Park Hotel Sofia, 106 Vitosha Blvd, Sofia 1463

Thursday 19 October to Saturday 21 October 2015

New approaches to learning as keys to success

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME

The freedom of education in Europe is historically based on two pillars, which are not equally recognized in the different European countries.

The most well known is the respect for the fundamental right of minorities to raise and educate their children according to their own cultural and historical heritage.

This is strongly connected to the right of self organization and self-governance as proven concepts of strengthening the civil society.

In countries where there is also room for pedagogical entrepreneurship as expression of the other aspect of the freedom of education - the right to choose for an alternative approach in education - innovation of education can more easily open doors for new approaches to learning.

The representative associations of independent schools in each European country are working hard to convince the public opinion and the national politicians, of the added value of their schools to the national educational system.

This is not only necessary to guarantee the availability of a fair share of the public funds for private schools. It will also make the people aware of important changes which can improve the outcome of education tremendously.

One of these paradigm's changes, is the shift of the main activity from teaching to students and pupils' own learning.

In this seminar we will learn how the Bulgarian independent schools are dealing with these changes and how their politicians judge about the role of private schools in the Bulgarian society.

Representatives of associations of independent schools in neighboring countries are reflecting on the Bulgarian case, and our Norwegian key speaker contributes to highlight the ongoing transition process after the shift from teaching to learning.

The seminar will lead to a better picture of new approaches to learning as keys for success and will give you concrete examples of how your colleagues within ECNAIS are dealing with political resistance and future challenges in their own situation.

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Thursday 19 November 2015

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| 08.45 – 09.15 | Welcome and registration |
| 09.15 – 10.00 | Official opening of the seminar
Milka SLAVCHEVA , Chairman Bulgarian Association of Private Schools (BAPS)
Simon STEEN , Chairman ECNAIS
Mayor of city of Sofia |
| 10.00 – 10.45 | Bulgarian independent Education
Prof. Sergei IGNATOV – former minister of education –
“Situation in Bulgaria”
Dialogue with audience included |
| 10.45 – 11.15 | Coffee-break |
| 11.15 – 13.00 | Prof. Silvia NIKOLAEVA – Educational University of Sofia –
“Informal education in Bulgaria”
Dialogue with audience included

Prof. Mariana BANCHEVA – Institution for progressive
Education – “New changes in Education in Bulgaria”
Dialogue with audience included |

13.00- 14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 16.00	<p>Keynote speaker: “Polyphonic Classrooms”</p> <p>Prof. Olga DYSTHE - University of Bergen, Norway</p> <p>Each student in the polyphonic classrooms is seen and heard, has a voice, receive professional confidence, is committed, learn to express insight - both in writing and orally, is in dialogue with other students, is in dialogue with the teacher, is in dialogue with the text / substance.</p> <p>Dialogue with audience included</p>
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee-break
16.30 – 17.30	Presentation of the schools (which we will visit the following day)
18.30	Cocktail/aperitif
19.30	Dinner at the hotel restaurant



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Friday 20 November 2015

09.00 – 12.00	School visits (lunch included)
14.00 – 15.30	Neighbouring countries reflections and considerations with dialogue included <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)• Greece• Rumania• Ukraine
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee-break
16.00 – 17.30	Activating key issues and exchange from personal perspective in small groups
17.30	Closure of the seminar
19.30	Dinner

Saturday 21 November 2015

09.00 – 12.00	Formal Management Committee Meeting (open for members only)
12.00 -13.30	Lunch (MCM)