



REPORT

9th UNESCO Summer School 2015

Re-adaptation and Reintegration as Problems of Refugee Children

Between 14 and 24 September 2015 the 9th International Summer School (ISS) of the UNESCO / Janusz Korczak Chair on Interdisciplinary Studies on Child Development and Well-being was held at the Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw. The title of this year's school: **Re-adaptation and Reintegration as Problems of Refugee Children** was written with the current problems related to the growing flux of refugees and migrants in mind, not only in the European Union, but also in the countries of the Caucasus, Africa, or Central Asia. The subject of the ISS refers to the socio-psychological entanglement of children in the contemporary armed conflicts and wars of the adult world, as well as the consequences of the aforementioned processes as related to the psychological and pedagogical support for children during social reintegration and integration. As such, this issue seems particularly important in the contemporary world. In fact, it is vital considering that children constitute an enormous percentage of today's migrants and refugees – the witnesses, victims, and perpetrators of violence in contemporary conflicts and wars, functioning in literature as “invisible children”, “children out of place”, children without access to children's and human rights.

The summer school was realised in cooperation with the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, the CEEPUS Programme – Bureau for Academic Recognition and International Exchange, and within the project: The Children's Rights Erasmus Academic Network (CREAN). Among the partners of the event were: the Foundation for Somalia, Ocalenie Foundation, Polish Migration Forum, and The Children's Rights Erasmus Academic Network (CREAN). The patronage of this year's school was assumed by: UNIC Warsaw, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNHCR, the International Janusz Korczak Association (IKA), the Cultural Pedagogy and Intercultural Education Workgroup of the Committee on Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN).

Among the participants of this edition of the school were academics, doctoral students, students and NGO activists – specialists in the area of psychology and pedagogy as well as social and human sciences hailing from Georgia, Kazakhstan, Romania, Germany, Italy, Croatia, Ukraine and Poland. They represented the following universities and non-governmental organisations:

- Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- Civic Integration Foundation, Georgia and Youth Work by World Vision International, Tbilisi, Georgia
- Youth Center For Alternative Education, Tbilisi, Georgia

- Cherkasy National University, Cherkasy, Ukraine
- J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek, Osijek, Croatia
- Dimitrie Cantemir University, Bucharest, Romania
- National Pedagogical University Mykhailo Drahomanov, Kiev, Ukraine
- Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany
- Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia
- Red Sea University (remotest participant), Port Sudan, Sudan
- University of Pisa, Italy
- Taraz State Pedagogical Institute, Kazakhstan

The participants from Poland were students, doctoral students and academics (of the Academy of Special Education (ASP), the Institute of Slavic Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), and the Jagiellonian University) who deal with various disciplines of psychology, pedagogy and sociology and are involved in academic work and prosocial activities.

The summer school programme included lectures, workshops, discussions, study visits and discussion meetings relevant to the participants' research work. Individual meetings with academics from the ASP were also planned and carried out, including a meeting with Dr. Urszula Markowska-Manista (ASP) concerning her research on minority children and their education in East Africa and the South Caucasus.

The activities began after the official International Summer School opening ceremony headed by the UNESCO Chair curator, Prof. Adam Frączek. The following guests participated in the ceremony: His Magnificence Prof. Jan Łaszczuk, Rector of the MGU; Prof. Sławomir Ratajski (Polish Committee for UNESCO); Ms. Anna-Carin Öst, Representative of the UNHCR Office in Poland; Ms. Agata Jaształ, Representative of the Polish Ombudsman for Children's Office; Mr. Abdulcadir Gabeire Farah* (R.I.P), president of the Foundation for Somalia; and Dr. Beata Machul-Telus from the National and Ethnic Minorities Committee (MNE) of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland. The second part of the opening ceremony presented the UNESCO Chair activity and individual presentations of the participants were headed by Dr. Urszula Markowska-Manista, scientific secretary of the UNESCO Chair.

The theoretical introduction to the subject of refugee children's trauma was presented by Prof. Halina Grzymała-Moszczyńska from the Jagiellonian University within her introductory lecture "Sequential Trauma of Refugee Children". In the ensuing days of the summer school, the activities were held in accordance to the programme:

http://www.aps.edu.pl/media/695910/2015_09_10_program.pdf

Dr. Edyta Januszewska (MGU) discussed the problem of Chechen refugee children in Poland in her lecture "Refugee Children in Poland: Wounded Childhood – Based on the Example of Refugees from Chechnya". Dr. Magdalena Stefańska (Polish Red Cross) delivered a lecture and conducted a discussion on the subjects of problems connected with humanitarian aid entitled: "Children and Humanitarian Aid in Wars, Crises and Disasters". Dr. Katarzyna Górak-Sosnowska (Warsaw School of Economics) and Dr. Magdalena Nowaczek-Walczak presented the problems related to the Arab Spring and forms of its representation as well as the representation of children in the media in the lecture: "The Arab Spring and Beyond: Impact on Children and Youth in the Region". In her lecture "Risk Behaviours among Socially Excluded Adolescent: Behavioural Addiction", Dr. Magdalena Rowicka (MGU) concentrated on the problem of behavioural addictions and their models in refugee communities. Dr. Urszula Markowska-Manista (MGU) delivered the lecture: "Refugee

Children in a Threat Situation as Children ‘Out of Place’’. Tomasz Polkowski from the Child and Family Foundation conducted a workshop entitled: “The Impact of Loss on the Emotional Development of the Child”. Jan Świerszcz from The Foundation for Social Diversity (FSD) discussed the situation of refugee children in Polish schools during the workshop “Exclusion and Integration of Migrant Children in Schools in Poland with a Particular Emphasis on Refugee Children: Results of Research Done by FSD”.

The international school participants also met the participants of the 29th Polish Summer School of Young Pedagogues organised by the Committee on Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) and the Pedagogical Sciences Faculty of the MGU.

The lectures and presentations were supplemented with discussions and individual research presentations referring to academic interests and practical activities of the summer school participants.

A greater depth of discussion on the main subject; familiarization of the participants with the problems connected with the specific situation of refugee children, i.e., their trauma, legal situation, and ways of dealing with adaptation; and methods of working with the children and their families was possible by fusing theory and praxis: study visits and individual programmes – meetings of the Summer School participants with academics, specialists from the Maria Grzegorzewska University.

The participants received brochures referring to children’s rights provided by the Polish Ombudsman for Children’s Office as well as books in English: “Children and Non-discrimination. An Interdisciplinary Textbook”, which were published within the international project The Children’s Rights Erasmus Academic Network (CREAN)¹.

Within study visits the participants visited:

Non-governmental organisations and institutions working with refugees:

- the Foundation for Somalia (president of the foundation, Mr. Abdulcadir Gabeire Farah (R.I.P), foundation employee Mr. Elmi Abdi)
- the Ocalenie Foundation (president of the foundation, Mr. Piotr Bystrianin with the team)
- the Polish Migration Forum (president of the foundation, Ms. Agnieszka Kosowicz)
- Społeczne Gimnazjum nr 20 (Gymnasium Raszynska), ul. Raszynska, Warsaw (former head teacher of the school, Krystyna Starczewska, head teacher Sławomir Sikora, teachers and students)

Official institutions dealing with the problem of refugees:

- UN Information Centre (Mariola Ratschka, director the UN Information Centre)
- UNHCR (Ms. Anna-Carin Öst, representative of the UNHCR Office in Poland, Ms. Katarzyna Oyrzanowska)

In their free time the participants had the opportunity to visit the Museum of Maria Grzegorzewska and the History of the Maria Grzegorzewska University, the Library of Warsaw University and the National Library of Poland, the Old Town in Warsaw, the Royal Castle, The Royal Łazienki Museum, Wilanów, the Warsaw Uprising Museum, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish

¹ <http://www.crean-home.net/>

Jews and to participate in the Festival of Cultures.

The official closing of the 9th International Summer School was headed by His Magnificence Prof. Jan Łaszczyk, Rector of the MGU and the UNESCO / Janusz Korczak Chair curator, Prof. Adam Frączek.

In a two-part evaluation questionnaire, oral and written, the activities realised within the school programme were very highly evaluated by the participants of the 9th International Summer School.

The consecutive International UNESCO Summer School will be held in September of 2016. You are cordially invited to cooperate.

Prepared by:

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