Regional EFP Training in BiH
EFP Training Events in Cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina

From March 22nd to 30th 2010, EFP-International and EFP-Balkans, in a collaborative effort with all 13 Education Ministries in Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH) and all nine BiH Pedagogical Institutes, held nine Regional EFP Training Events in seven cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina: Banja Luka, Bihac, Brcko, Mostar, Sarajevo, Tuzla, and Zenica. The training sessions involved representatives from all primary and secondary schools in each respective region.

Each school delegation included the pedagogue and two teachers from different subject areas. A total of approximately 2,100 participants were involved in these events. In order to ensure that all schools across the country are involved in the process, more Regional Events will be held in May and September 2010.

As of the 2010–2011 scholastic year, all primary and secondary schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina in both Entities (BiH Federation and Republica Srpska), all Cantons and the Brcko District, are given the mandate through the 13 Ministries of Education and the nine Pedagogical Institutes to formally integrate the Education for Peace (EFP) Program in their respective school curriculum. This initiative aims at integrating the study and application of the principles and methodologies of the Education for Peace (EFP) program into every subject of study, in every classroom, in every semester, in all BiH primary and secondary schools.

EFP Principles and Methodologies

The EFP program is a cross-curricular pedagogical approach and uses advanced tools of interactive learning. It involves all members of the school community in reflection on and study of the concept of unity-based worldview and its application to all areas of study and every aspect of human relationships in our highly diverse global society.

Within the EFP framework, teachers creatively introduce in their existing curriculum opportunities for their students to learn, explore, critically think about and reflect on the nature and dynamics of an all-inclusive civilization of peace as they apply...
to every subject of study—from biology and geography to sports and music, from physics and economics to history and psychology, etc. Since in their very nature, the principles of peace are relevant to every area of knowledge and every aspect of society, no subject area can be excluded.

As a formal component of the EFP Program in every school, the 3rd week of May is designated as “Peace Week’ in all BiH schools. During “Peace Week,” every classroom is given the opportunity to share creative and artistic presentations demonstrating their reflections on and understanding of various concepts and practices of peace as discussed in the EFP Program.

**EFP Training Events**

These Regional EFP Training Events provided an excellent opportunity for the school delegations to receive concrete guidelines on the conceptual framework and classroom instruction methodology of the EFP model of teaching and learning. At each event, the Advisors of the Pedagogical Institutes in various subject areas presented EFP-oriented Lesson Design samples and introduced the EFP model of integration. Brief EFP materials, in written and CD-format, were provided. EFP Senior Faculty also joined with the Pedagogical Institutes to provide an overview of the concepts discussed within the EFP framework.

These events were marked by an outstanding demonstration of dedicated joint commitment by all BiH education institutions, across all ethnic lines, to take joint unprecedented and historic steps of a massive scale to integrate the peace-based education concepts and methodologies of the EFP Program in all schools across this country.

*The challenge before all involved in this process is to sustain and build on the critical and initial steps taken during these events.*

The Facebook group is simply called Education for Peace and can be found by following this link: [http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=277595883192](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=277595883192)

Visitors will enjoy access to information about Education for Peace programs and initiatives as well as a growing number of resources for fostering a culture of peace.

In addition to downloadable articles we are developing a library of video and rich media content to further enhance how peace education can be explored, learned, and applied.

We have also created a group on Facebook to create a forum for sharing information, resources, and discussions on peace education.

We look forward to your feedback, contributions, questions, and suggestions.

**New EFP-Website!**

Launch of New Website

After much anticipation, a freshly designed EFP website has been developed and launched. The content of the new website is now being systematically reviewed and updated.

The new site is aimed at facilitating an online community of people collaborating on education for peace initiatives around the world.
New EFP-Partnership
EFP Receives Funding in Canada

Education for Peace and TM New Media, a multimedia and online learning company in Victoria, BC, are now partners in the implementation of a significant project for the Government of British Columbia.

EmbraceBC—a government-led initiative that provides funding opportunities for community-based anti-racism and multiculturalism projects—has awarded TM New Media and the International Education for Peace Institute funding to create education resources that help strengthen ethnic and cultural diversity and overcome racism.

The International Education for Peace Institute has developed the content of this new project—Embracing our Humanity—specifically responding to the needs of communities facing the challenges and opportunities of ethnic and cultural diversity. The two components of Embracing Our Humanity project—“online learning programs” and the “facilitated training sessions”—will be made freely available to all.

The following is an excerpt from official press release.

VICTORIA – A Victoria company has been selected to receive $80,000 from EmbraceBC with the support of federal funding to develop public education materials, Minister of Citizens’ Services Ben Stewart announced today.

TM NewMedia will develop face-to-face and online media components to address multiculturalism and anti-racism education. The company is partnering with the International Education for Peace Institute to develop the project.

“This project will incorporate some new technologies that are unique to this type of multicultural public education effort,” said Stewart. “It’s a great way to use innovative tools to educate the public on multiculturalism and the elimination of racial discrimination.”

“The Government of Canada is proud to provide support for innovative initiatives such as this,” said Dr. Alice Wong, Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism. “Through the use of new media, we can help youth better understand our shared values and our shared obligations to one another.”

The funding will assist TM NewMedia in developing online resources, student workshops, training sessions and assessment tools. The project will have a focus on proactive education content that builds both the understanding and the skills children and youth need to build patterns of respect, harmony and collaboration.

“We’re excited to begin this project, because it allows us to use new tools to challenge the way people think,” said Timothy Mock, president of TM NewMedia. “By cultivating patterns of behaviour that value diversity and promote unity, we can confront intolerance at its roots.”

A link to the online resource will be made available through the EFP website upon completion.

Send us your comments

EFP-International invites readers to send us your stories suggestions, comments, and questions.

Please send all submissions to: info@efpinternational.org
New Grant for EFP-Balkans

Integration of the EFP Program in the Education System of Bosnia and Herzegovina EFP-Balkans, in collaboration with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has secured a 2.5 year grant from the Government of Norway for the period July 2009–December 2012. This multi-year project is designed to ensure that the Education for Peace program, which has been developed and implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina over the last ten years in 112 school communities, will be formally integrated in the education system of Bosnia and Herzegovina and embedded into all subjects of the curriculum and all aspects of school life in all 2,200+ BiH primary and secondary schools.

Since 2008, EFP-Balkans along with its parent institution, EFP-International, has engaged all advisors, inspectors, and administrators of these Pedagogical Institutes in a series of advanced training seminars in the concepts and methodologies of Education for peace and review of the comprehensive EFP Curriculum, a process that will continue until the end of current phase in 2012.

The main objective is formal integration of the EFP Program in all BiH schools, a task that will begin in September 2010. It should be noted that the unanimous and voluntary support for EFP by all BiH Ministries of Education and Pedagogical Institutes, and their coordinated involvement in the introduction of EFP concepts into their respective school curricula, are both unique and, to our knowledge, have no parallel for any similar program in BiH.

The current 30-month phase will ensure the completion of the work of formal integration of EFP into the education curricula in all BiH schools. It includes building the pre-service and in-service competencies of all BiH educational institutions through crucial training of all staff of senior advisors from the BiH Pedagogical Institutes and selected pre-service teacher trainers within most, probably all, BiH universities. The project links the classroom to the community in a spirit of unity in diversity and inter-ethnic harmony, and links both to the in-service and pre-service institutions that train and support present and future teachers. This relationship will ensure that Education for Peace will become a permanent feature of the education landscape in BiH. In brief:

“This invaluable project triggers the desire amongst the participants to become authentic peace-makers, and precisely provides them with the necessary tools to achieve this goal.”

—Claude Kieffer
Director, Education Dept.
The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (BiHMission)

ABOUT EFP

Education for Peace (EFP) is a comprehensive community development program dedicated to the establishment of an all-inclusive civilization of peace. EFP assists whole communities to prevent conflict, strengthen inter-group cooperation, and apply the principles of unity-in-diversity, equality and justice within sustainable community-building processes.
One of the great features of the new website is the Online Bookstore where you can purchase texts from the Education for Peace Curriculum.

If the above link doesn’t work, paste the link below into your web browser:


The Education for Peace Integrative Curriculum comprises the three major areas of focus necessary for the creation of a civilization of Peace:

- *peace-based education,
- *peace-based leadership, and
- *peace-based conflict resolution.

**Education for Peace Curriculum Manual**

Currently being integrated into more than 2,000 schools, the Manual is designed as a conceptual and practical guide for educators and policy makers at primary, secondary, and higher education levels.

**Education for Peace Student Manual** (BOOK 1 & 2)

Aimed primarily at secondary school students, the two volumes of the Education for Peace Student Manual present a total of nine units on concepts that are integral to a creating a culture of peace, a culture of healing, and a culture of excellence in our school communities.
YPN in Bermuda
Youth Peace-builder Network

In the fall of 2009, an international group of youth leaders from Canada, the United States, and Bosnia-Herzegovina traveled to Bermuda to assist in the establishment of a Youth Peace-Builder’s chapter (YPN). Presenting at multiple public and private high schools throughout the country, YPN youth leaders recruited a diverse group of high school students to participate in a full-day training session. Through questionnaires, role-plays, skits, activities, dialogues, and presentations, Bermudian youth were engaged in a learning process on how to become peace-builders in their own communities. Working together to build a culture of support and honesty, high school students of different socio-economic and racial backgrounds opened up about the issues of racial tensions, gang violence, and bullying taking place within their country and in their schools. The YPN training secession concluded with “open spaces”—time allotted for Bermudian students to design their own peace projects to be carried out in the future. Friends were made, and all left inspired to work together. YPN will continue to lend support and work with schools in Bermuda throughout the future.

from Desiree Mitton

EFP INSTITUTE

The International Education for Peace Institute and its sister agencies offer systematic and sustained programs of training and engage in research, consultancy, and academic collaboration worldwide.

EFP projects are currently serving almost one hundred thousand students, teachers, school administrators, parents, and civic and academic leaders in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, and the United States.

Subscription
To subscribe to the EFP Newsletter send an email to info@efpinternational.org

International
Education for Peace Institute (Canada)
20-1875 Lansdowne Rd.
Victoria, BC V8P1A9
Canada
Tel/Fax: +1-250-370-9419
www.efpinternational.org