



vzdělávací program
VARIANTY

Člověk v tísni, o. p. s.



Education in Africa

(26 November 2008 – Prague)



Symposium Report

Report prepared by Eva Latalova



The project „Akce pro Afriku“ is supported by the European union

About the awareness raising campaign across Europe

The Symposium took part in the Europe-wide Karamoja campaign that approaches, in an interdisciplinary way, issues of development and sustainability. The project aims to introduce the European public the complexity of development issues and to the interrelatedness of the different economic, political, social and environmental challenges facing populations in crisis regions in the context of globalization.

The overall objective of the action is to create public awareness in Europe and advocate for a more sensible relation between Europe and developing countries for a sustainable development.

The Karamoja campaign is supported by the European Commission, coordinated by the French NGO ACTED together with the Institute for Theory and Research on Cultures and the Arts (IKKK) at Leuphana University Lüneburg in Germany and the Czech NGO People in Need (PIN) and includes seminars and events at universities and schools in 5 European cities (Bordeaux, Geneva, Groningen, Lüneburg, Prague). Awareness raising events and meetings at the EU Commission and Parliament will take place in January 2009 in Brussels.

About the Prague Symposium

The Prague Symposium followed conference that took place in Lüneburg in Germany and took place one day before another conference in Groningen.

The Czech part of the international project is devoted to the situation in Ethiopia and provides the project with a comparative analysis to the situation in Karamoja and to the whole specific region. People in Need, the Czech partner organization, has been actively working in Ethiopia since 2003 and concentrates its activities most of all on the educational field. This was therefore one of the main reasons why also the topic chosen for this Symposium was „Education in Africa“. The Symposium showed the Czech perspective and experience in this field and the activities that are being carried out.

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our gratitude to all the guests and participants and supporters of the Symposium.

First of all, to the financial supporters of this project – to the European Commission and to ACTED as the leading organization of the project. Our thanks also to the Goethe Institute in Prague, for enabling us to organize the Symposium at their premises and with their technical support.

Our special thanks belong to all students who have participated in preparation of this Symposium (namely Monika, Edita, Misa, Martina, Jana and Michala) and also to Petra Skalicka, for leading and moderating the Symposium.

Education in Africa – Programme of Symposium

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9:30 – 10:00 – Registration

10:00 – 10:15 – Introduction speech

10:15 – 10:45 – Educational projects within the Foreign Development Cooperation of the Czech Republic in Africa

Jana Korbelová (Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of Ministry of Foreign affairs CR)

10:45-11:15– Millenium Development Goal nb.2 and modern educational technologies in education in Africa

Michal Broža (Information centre of United Nations Prague)

11:15 – 11:45 – Panel discussion

11:45 – 12:15 – Coffee Break

12:15– 12:45 – Current situation of south african educational system and its problems

Otakar Hulec (Friends of Africa Association)

12:45 – 13:15 – Education in Africa and development of the rural communities

Jiří Plecítý – (People in Need)

13:15 – 13:45 – Panel discussion

13:45 – 14:30 - Lunch break

14:30 – 15:45 – Film projection „Education in Etiopia“
and open discussion

„Experience from the work on the educational projects in Ethiopia“

(panelists: Jiří Plecítý, Irena Konečná, Daniel Messele, Petra Skalická)

15:45 – 16:00 – Closure speech

Jana Korbelová (Ministry of Foreign Affairs CR)

Educational projects supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Jana Korbelová from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented the topic of education in Africa from the position of a government body, its priorities and goals that the state aims to reach. She introduced the typology of the projects that are supported by the Ministry in the educational field in Africa and talked about the ways they being carried out but also supervised and evaluated.

Michal Broža (Information centre of United Nations)

Millenium Development Goal nb.2 and modern educational technologies in education in Africa

Michal Broža presented the overall situation in education in Africa with regards to the Millenium Development Goals –specifically the MDG n.2, which aims to *achieve universal primary education*. He stressed out the current achievements and the still needed improvements in the area. The second half of his presentation has been devoted to the impact that modern technologies on the educational sector and generally on literacy and information access in African countries.

Otakar Hulec (Friends of Africa Association)

Current situation of south african educational system and its problems

Otakar Hulec is an Africanist who has spent a long part of his life in various African countries and publicated books about their history and describition of their government systems. His presentation was dedicated to the educational system of southern african countries and to the comparism of their development, benefits and threats, their past and future perspectives.

Jiri Plecity (PIN)

Education in Africa and the development of rural communities

Jiří Plecítý has introduced the situation and functioning of a traditional rural school in southern Ethiopia, has talked about the long-term goals (for example the increase in number of girls that are being educated etc.) but also about the importance and side effects the attendace of school (improvements in the hygienic situation and community involvement in public matters). He also stressed out the role of the community during the whole process of school selection and its further participation (assistance with building the school, taking care of the functioning of the school) but also the necessary cooperation with teachers and their further education. The specifically addressed the situation of the rural regions and the importance of continuing effort to improve their situation.

Conclusion

The Symposium presented this topic from different views. The presentations and discussions not only described the situation and problems that the current educational systems in Africa face, but it also provided the audience with concrete solutions that can improve the situation with respect to the conditions of each region. The Symposium offered possibility to find out more information about activities that are being carried out in Africa in education from representatives of different stakeholders – the government body, the UN representation, NGOs position and opinions of the people living in the area themselves. The audience had the possibility to lead open discussion with the speakers and the panel discussions have provided a comparative view of their opinions. The afternoon session was devoted to the screening of a shortfilm about Education in Ethiopia, which has been produced by PIN within this project. The screening was followed by - a very lively and from the audience very appreciated - discussion about the experience from the work on the educational projects in Ethiopia, which was attended by current or past project managers of PIN projects.