

UNESCO CHAIR ON CULTURE OF PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
BOURGAS FREE UNIVERSITY, BOURGAS, **BULGARIA**

**Endeavours in Civic, intercultural and human rights education**

The UNESCO Chair was established in **1998** as a sign of recognition of Bulgaria's efforts in spreading the ideas of a culture of peace and promoting human rights in the Black Sea Region and South-East Europe.

**Goals of the Chair's activities**

- ◆ Conducting educational programmes on Culture of Peace, Democracy and Human Rights in the Bourgas Free University
- ◆ Organizing international events for the countries in the region and supporting the efforts made by the International Centre for Human Rights, Democracy and Culture of Peace established in Primorsko in 1997
- ◆ Organizing an up-to-date system of interaction between the University and the Municipality in solving problems of youth' social adaptation to the territorial conditions of the region.

**50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UDHR**

In **1998** the newly established Chair on Human Rights and Culture of Peace at Bourgas Free University organized various events to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

□ In May, two seminars were organized by the Chair and the Open Education Centre within the exchange programme of the Council of Europe on

- "*Debating Skills: A way to young people's mutual understanding*", attended by 15 teachers from all over Europe and

- "*Intercultural education in the light of the UDHR*", with the participation of 30 teachers from 15 European countries.

□ From 8 to 12 June, an International Balkan Meeting on "*The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Counteracting Violence at Schools*" was held attended by 50 participants from 5 Balkan countries.

□ In July a ten-days *International Summer University on Civic Education* was organized for 100 students from Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Albania and Macedonia.

□ In June, the UNESCO Chair co-organized the Balkan Conference at Primorsko on Human Rights issues for high school and university students and lecturers.

□ In September, in Primorsko again, the Fourth Regional UNESCO Conference was held on "*The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and School Democracy*", with the participation of 50 students and lecturers from Russia, Georgia, Macedonia, Romania, Albania, Algeria, and the Ukraine.

**Mediterranean and Black Sea Countries Network for Tolerance and Non-Violence**

From 17 to 21 June 1999, the Second UNESCO Meeting of the Tolerance and Non-Violence Network of Mediterranean and Black Sea Countries took place in **Primorsko**, organized by the UNESCO Chair on Culture of Peace and Human Rights in co-operation with UNESCO.

Among the great number of participants from nearly all countries of the region there were, *inter alia*, the following representatives: Stojan Ralev, General-Secretary of the Bulgarian National

Commission for UNESCO; Prof. Petko Chobanow, Rector of Bourgas Free University; Sergey Lazarev, UNESCO, Head of Tolerance and Non-Violence Unit; Constantino Longares, UNDP, Programme Officer.

Most contributions might be obtainable by UNESCO Chairs from Prof. Valchev's Office.

The participants adopted the **PRIMORSKO APPEAL** (Annex 1) and a number of **DECISIONS** (Annex 2 and 3). A selective **survey of contributions** made by the participants, among them several representatives of UNESCO Chairs, is also presented (Annex 3).

### **Civic education and human rights**

The Chairholder, Ass. Prof. Roumen Valchev, directs the national project for **developing a civic education system in Bulgarian schools**.

This is connected with

a civic education curriculum for university students of the Bourgas Free University in the academic year 1999/2000;

a postgraduate course on "Education for Democratic Citizenship" for teachers and university graduates (**Ann. 1**)

Council of Europe's project for setting up Citizenship Zones, that is a South-East European Network of Intercultural Citizenship, in which 10 Balkan countries are represented. In this context, the Chair is co-ordinating the organization of such a zone on the territory of Bourgas region, in close co-operation with the Council of Europe, the Bourgas Open Education Centre as well as the Bourgas Municipality and some regional NGOs.

In concrete terms, these activities include, *inter alia*,

conducting three teacher seminars on civic education, intercultural education and promoting a culture of peace, within the Council of Europe's exchange programme;

organizing a summer university on human rights and civic education together with the Open Education Centre.

### **Education for a Culture of Peace and Tolerance**

The following activities have also been on the Chair's working programme in 1999:

- organizing the traditional Fifth Regional UNESCO Conference on Youth' Rights in the 21 Century (September);
- conducting the Regional UNESCO Conference on Tolerance (June);
- meeting of youth representatives of the Black Sea Region: Building a Culture of Peace;
- promoting the "UNESCO Project Youth and the Image of the other" in the Balkan Region, in co-operation with the State Committee on Youth and Sports;
- establishing a university centre at Bourgas Free University for students' and lecturers' social skills training;
- holding a Black Sea regional youth conference on building a Culture of Peace.

Ass. Prof. Roumen Valchev,  
Chairholder

## ANNEX 1

### **THE PRIMORSKO APPEAL**

*We, the participants to the Second Meeting of the Mediterranean/Black Sea Network for Tolerance and Non-Violence, having met in Primorsko, Bulgaria, from 17 to 21 June 1999;*

Reminding the dispositions of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance unanimously adopted by UNESCO Member States on 16 November 1995, as well as the Plan of Action to Follow-up the United Nations Year of Tolerance;

Reminding the Resolutions 47/124, 48/126, 49/213, 51/95 and 53/15 of the United Nations General Assembly conferring to UNESCO the role of leading agency within the UN system for the promotion of tolerance and non-violence;

Reminding also that the UN Charter affirms in its Preamble that tolerance is one of the principles to apply in order to avoid war and maintain peace;

*Declare, after having concluded our work, the following:*

1. Tolerance constitutes the sound foundation of any civil society as well as of peace.
2. At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, on the eve of the International Year for the Culture of Peace to be celebrated in the Year 2000, of the International Year of the Dialogue of Civilizations, 2001, and of the International Decade for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, and taking into consideration the development of the international situation especially in the Balkans, we affirm with strength that the promotion of tolerance and non-violence is an irreplaceable means for the constitution of peace.
3. The force of reason must definitely replace the reason of force.
4. As affirmed in the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Carthage Charter on Pedagogy of Tolerance in the Mediterranean Region, education is the main tool for inculcating the values of tolerance, dialogue, non-violence and mutual appreciation. Education should be multilingual and multicultural in order to develop tolerance and comprehension among citizens free of prejudices.
5. We call upon our colleagues of the Networks for Tolerance, Non-Violence and Solidarity created in Asia/Pacific, Africa and Latin America, to multiply their efforts in promoting values in which we believe, by using the means of education, culture and communication that are at their disposal.
6. We express our full support to the United Nations system – the only universal organization able to put people together in their quest for peace and liberty – and to UNESCO that, by the voice of its Director-General, firmly condemns war and violence and continues to work in order to “construct the defence of peace in the minds of men”.
7. We are supporting the “Manifesto 2000” for the International Year for the Culture of Peace, and we want our names to join the list that will be sent to the United Nations General Assembly.

## ANNEX 2

### **DECISIONS OF THE SECOND UNESCO MEETING: TOLERANCE AND NON-VIOLENCE NETWORK OF MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA COUNTRIES**

**PRIMORSKO, JUNE 17-21, 1999**

---

---

We, the participants in the Second UNESCO Meeting on Tolerance and Non-Violence Network of Mediterranean and Black Sea Countries, having met in Primorsko:

After having discussed the Problems concerning Conflict Resolution in critical regions of the contemporary world, as Kosovo, the Caucasus Region, etc., we launch an Appeal to all people for a peaceful solution of the accumulated problems in an atmosphere of Dialogue, Tolerance and Non-Violence.

After having defined the tasks concerning further strengthening the activities of Educational Institutions, of the Educators themselves, we urge all of them to pursuing Education in the spirit of Peace, Consensus and Friendship.

After having stressed the necessity of activating the role of intellectuals – professors and lecturers, academic youth in the countries of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Region – we encourage all involved in the process of implementing the principles of Tolerance and Non-Violence in politics, culture and everyday life to intensify their endeavours to this end.

After having pointed out the important role of UNESCO in the establishment of UNESCO Chairs and Centres for Human Rights, Associated Schools and UNESCO Clubs we acknowledge the necessity of an enlargement of the UNESCO Chairs' Network in the world; of popularizing the experiences accumulated by the UNESCO related educational structures during last years and of providing UNESCO's organizational, methodological and financial support for their activities

We support the Bulgarian proposal for the creation of an Regional Youth Centre for Peace and Tolerance in Primorsko as an opportunity for young people of training and sharing experiences.

The Centre run by the representatives of the UNESCO Chairs will become a venue for the meetings of young people, for starting Tolerance Campaigns and joint actions in the field of Peace, Tolerance and Human Rights.

Best use should be made of the potential of the UNESCO Associated Schools and possible support from the other relevant UN agencies in this field.

After having appraised the opportunities in the development of the educational programmes aiming at the promotion of pre-school children, youth and women, we appeal to UNESCO to promote new programmes in this respect for the Region.

We shared the experience of creating the attitude of Tolerance toward each other, mutual respect among peoples in multinational states and in states containing ethnic minorities.

We support the proposal of Azerbaijan's representative for the establishment of so-called "Houses of Culture of Peace" which will serve the objective of easing the existing tensions and conflicts and creating a climate of Tolerance and Non-Violence.

We are supporting Moldova's proposal for creating a 'Sub-regional Network for the Dissemination of Ideas of Tolerance, Non-Violence and Peace'.

After having discussed the problems connected with Tolerance in the relationship between the sexes, confessions and different age groups, and having appreciated the experience of multinational families, mixed marriages, intercultural education at schools and in families, we approve the idea advanced by the Israeli representative, of the establishment of an International Association of inter-ethnic married couples.

We approve the activities of the Educational Camps for children of refugees, from conflicts zones and emigrants, in order to resolve inter-ethnic conflicts and to facilitate the social adaptation of such categories of the population.

In order to popularize the ideas and proposals shared at the Meeting, we appeal to the organizers to publish the papers delivered at the Meeting.

UNESCO should disseminate these materials via Internet.

We express our support for the “Manifesto 2000”, the Initiative of the Director-General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor, and for the International Year for the Culture of Peace.

---

### **ANNEX 3**

#### **Selective Survey of Contributors/Contributions to the Primorsko Meeting**

Prof. Rumen Valchev, Chairholder: “Social Reconstruction of the Black Sea Region - Problems and Dilemmas of Tolerance”;

Prof. Lidia Denkova, Sofia University: “Tolerance in the History of Ideas”;

Prof. Michael Bibikov, Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of History, Moscow: “New Trends in Russian Education Towards Tolerance and Non-Violence”;

Lea Datcheva, British Council, Sofia: “Bulgarian Intercultural Project for English Language Schools”;

Prof. Emil Micu, Rector, Baja Mare North University: “Inter-ethnic and Inter-confessional Values of Civilization and Humanitarianism”;

Lidia Topuzovska, Secretary-General, National Commission for UNESCO of Macedonia: “Implementation of Tolerance and Democracy in Macedonia”;

Alexander Shatilov, Russian State University for Humanities, Moscow: “Democratic Transition in Russia and Post-Communist States - and Tolerance”;

Prof. Valeri Mikhaillenko, UNESCO Chair at Ural University: “Problems of Tolerance , Non-Violence and Human Rights in the Transition to the New World Order Period”;

Prof. Valentin Gusiev, Deputy Director, National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy”: “UNESCO Chair’s Work in the Field of Tolerance”;

Gular Achmedova, NAYORA/ARCO: “Azerbaijan’s Regional Conflicts and the Youth Movement for Tolerance”;

Krassimira Damjanova, Open Education Centre: “Summer Camp for the Kids from Conflict Zones”;

Astrid Dautaj, Institute of Pedagogical Research, Tirana: “Problems of Tolerance in Albanian Education”.