

CZECH REPUBLIC

Good practices and success stories on mainstreaming gender equality in education and/or ESD

1. Name of country

Czech Republic

2. Name of organization/project/programme

Faculty of Education, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic

Open Society, o.p.s.

3. Good practice (title)

Systemic integration of gender issues in curricula (civic education), school counselling and school management

4. Target group

Primary and secondary schools, teachers and students

5. Brief description of good practice

Under the supervision of Associate Professor PhDr. Irena Smetáčková, Ph.D., (the lead author of the team) five publications concerning gender were published which are intended to help teachers provide a gender perspective in education and also support a number of pedagogical faculty students to write bachelor's and master's theses on the topic of gender. All of the publications concern gender equality, and less specifically women's rights. These are discussed most in the first publication which offers new (gender specific) approaches that can be integrated into the teaching of civic education at the elementary / secondary level of education.

Publications are listed as follows:

"Gender at School: A handbook for teaching civic education, civics and the principles of social science at elementary and secondary schools", 2005. ([Gender ve škole - příručka pro vyučující předmětů občanská výchova, občanská nauka a základy společenských věd na základních a středních školách \(2005\)](#))

The first publication contains chapters with different themes that should be taught according to the Framework Educational Program for Basic Education (the main curricular document in the Czech Republic which ensures that the curriculum is composed not only from individual subjects but also incorporates cross-cutting

themes). The chapters then provide insight on the theme as well as knowledge from a gender perspective. Thus they do not introduce a new topic (schools are already overloaded), but existing themes could be modified to reinforce an awareness of gender stereotypes in children. However, the information is already 7 years old and should therefore be updated (there is currently a lack of money for this).

The guide's practicality is then supported with 50 activities that might be used for work in class. Each theme may therefore be supplemented with some activity. All activities have been tested in practice (three schools).

"Gender at school: A Guide for Future and Current Teachers", 2006 ([Gender ve škole - příručka pro budoucí i současné učitelky a učitele \(2006\)](#))

"A handbook of gender-sensitive educational counselling", 2007

"A handbook of gender-sensitive school management", 2007

"On the way to his/her own family. Selected chapters of family education", 2008

All of the publications were distributed to schools in printed form (in an edition of 1000 copies) and the link to the electronic version also went to the all of the schools via the mailing list. In the case of the first handbook, the Institute of Pedagogical and Psychological Counselling and the National Institute of Education (formerly the Research Institute of Education) directly managed by the Ministry were used to disseminate them; the accompanying letter was signed by the Minister of Education who explicitly recommended their use in schools – thus their credibility was ensured.

The number of downloads and reactions from users are very good. The manuals were also presented at international forums, for example within Project Gender Equality Education (2011) or Good Practice for Gender Equality Promotion (EU, 2010).

6. Useful links

All the publications are available in an electronic form at the website of the Open Society, together with a brief description. They can be downloaded here:

<http://www.otevrenaspolecnost.cz/knihovna#prosazovani-genderove-rovnosti> – to be selected from the list of gender related publications.

There is also a "Manual for Reflection of Gender Issues and Related Activities in Education to Support Equal Opportunities in the Choice of Profession" (Jitka Kolářová, ed., 2014):

http://aa.ecn.cz/img_upload/8b47a03bf445e4c3031ce326c68558ae/gender_povolani_online.pdf

7. Useful contacts

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8. Comments