

SHORT PRESENTATION OF HUNGARY'S BIGGEST EDUCATION CENTRE

The largest institution of Hungary, having the education of young people as their main task, has been functioning since 1979 in the Southern part of the country, in Pecs. This institution is to answer the demands of a district with 75 - 80 thousand population. It offers services for babies, toddlers, young and adult population in the range of education, culture, entertainment and sport. In the 16 educational departments of the Centre 630 staff work to care for more than 4490 children.

Departments of the Institution:

Kindergarden
3 Nursery schools
2 Elementary schools
Grammar and Vocational school
Art school
Sports centre
Students Hostel
Young Intervention and Physical Therapy Centre
"Martyn Ferenc" Free Art school
Education Advisory Centre
Library
Cultural Centre
Post Graduate Training Group
Restaurant

Although all the departments are professionally independent their pedagogical programmes are not contradictory to the central project, incorporating all the programmes. In this complex institution, at the very start of the project there were experts who started research and were open to innovation.

One of these areas was the Montessori method, towards which our colleagues expressed great interest.

In six of the kindergarden groups Montessori ideology and method has been incorporated. As a result of research, visits to twin schools and study trips it became obvious that our pedagogy in upper schools is very closely related to Franz Hammerer and Dr. Leopold Kratochwil's theory on independent learning. Moreover, this is one of the learning methods that is suitable to be integrated in the scheme of our school without having to change the system. This is why we could successfully incorporate some elements of the free learning style.

According to our experience and results it is not the quantity of information that these students gained compared with those following the regular scheme, it is rather in the depth of the individuality acquired and practiced skills and knowledge that we experienced quality changes in. In our work we get strong support from our colleagues from Vienna and from the Montessori Association coordinated by Dr. Herbert Haberl. We would like to extend our thanks towards them via this channel too.

Our work, started in 1992, got a new impulse through the generous donation of Montessori materials from Prof. Dr. Hildegard Holstiege. It is one of our major concerns that all colleagues get up to date in service or other trainings. This year the Educational Centre could finance the training of 4 elementary school teachers to get the Montessori qualification. We established a joint team of nursery and elementary school teachers to coordinate and organize meetings and professional discussions involving Montessori pedagogy too. Our Post Graduate Training Team is ready and willing to take active part in Montessori trainings.

Should you be interested in our Institution, unique in Hungary and have any questions we are more willing to answer them. SO please do not hesitate to contact us:

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We wish you effective discussions and a good time during your Dublin conference.

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