



European Forum for Freedom in Education

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EU2009.CZ

České předsednictví
Evropské unie

Czech Presidency
of the European Union

Présidence tchèque
de l'Union européenne

2009

CREATIVITY AT THE MEXIS!

How to bring creativity and innovation into education?

An innovative in-service training event for teachers, trainee teachers, educationalists and policy makers.

12-14 June 2009

Venue: Institute for Waldorf-Pedagogy
Annener Berg 15, 58454 Witten, Germany

Call for papers

"A fundamental quality underpinning creative and innovative capacity is motivation and a sense of initiative. The foundations of such qualities are laid in the early phase of personal development. Creativity occupies a significant share of the curriculum in early school years, but its share diminishes drastically in the course of pupils' education. One major challenge facing education systems is, therefore, how to keep the spark of creativity alive in children and young people. [...] The mounting pressure to develop creative, innovative and critical skills implies that traditional teaching approaches based on direct instruction or lecturing are no longer adequate."

This statement can be found in the proposal of the European Commission concerning the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009.¹

A precondition for encouraging creative approaches to teaching and learning is the preparation of future teachers in their education.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0159:FIN:EN:PDF>



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The *effe* therefore invites teacher education institutes from across Europe to share their methods for fostering creativity and innovative thinking in teaching. Your contribution should be a brief paper of 3-5 pages – in English and/or German.

Deadline for submission: 17th of May 2009

The paper should consider the following questions:

1. How do you foster in your students the promotion of creativity and innovative thinking?
2. Teacher centred instruction is generally not seen as conducive to boosting creative, innovative and critical skills.
 - What methods can, in your opinion, encourage the development of the above mentioned skills?
 - How do you mediate both theoretically and practically such methods in teacher education?
 - How do you develop the creativity of your students?
3. How do you mediate the combination of creative teaching with subjects such as mathematics, science or technology or with subjects such as history or social studies in teacher education?

Since its inception 20 years ago in 1989 the *effe* has addressed the quality of teacher education. We recognise the deep connection between the quality of teaching and creativity and innovation. This is the reason why we have chosen to adopt the theme of creativity and innovation and to invite – from 12 - 14 June in Witten, Germany - teachers, trainee teachers, teacher educators, educationalists and policy makers to a conference to further develop their own creative capacities. At the same time we want to establish how best to cultivate these capacities in teaching, in schools and in other learning environments.

The outcomes of our joint work, the experiences of participants and the contributions of the teacher education institutes will be put together in a recommendation to be sent to relevant committees and political decision makers in the EU.

The accepted contributions of teacher education institutes will be made available as working material at the conference and will be put on our website.

The program of the *effe*-conference can be found at: <http://www.effe-eu.org/effe2/index.php?colloquia>

We look forward to receiving your paper. Please send to:

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