



Angela Passa

## NEW YEARS GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Inepsers,

Due to a fertile dialogue concerning the present political situation between the President of INEPS and the Publisher of the Newsletter the New Year's message for the INEPS members was transferred to the February's issue but it hasn't lost its value.\*

The year 2008 had been very important for INEPS. The fruits of the intensive attempts of the AC members, IPLE and many committed members from different countries to reconstruct INEPS and to redevelop its structure during the last 3 years, started growing results which were obvious in Bourgas and later on also in IPLE's seminar in Vilafranca.

We welcome 2009 full of energy and optimism against the backdrop of misery brought on by the economic crisis that started "knocking on our doors", not because we are flying in the clouds but because we had been receiving messages that give us hopes for the future. Who knows, maybe this economic crisis will make people STOP.... THINK...and TAKE ACTION.

1) "City as School" from New York is coming back to INEPS bringing its history, experience, new ideas and a fresh wind (see INEPS Newsletter January 2009). We welcome Principal Antoniette Scarpinato and Assistant Principal Michael Edwards and we await you and your colleagues with our precious "veteran" Bret Schlesinger to Helsinki.

2) The 21st INEPS Congress in Helsinki 4-9/5/2009 is beckoning us with a very promising program "To explore innovative environments for Productive Learning". Petri Hanninen, Kari Rajaorko, Hely Salmi and their colleagues have prepared this Congress with much concern and responsibility.

3) The EUROPLE project obtained a new web-page <http://www.pede.net/veraja/opeko/europle> and you can get the booklet, texts, pictures etc, from there. For more information see Jussi Kahara

4) During the IPLE Seminar in Vilafranca Petri and Angela were invited to offer two workshops. They had a very good chance to meet, apart from the old friends, some new educators from the Netherlands, Lithuania, Romania and Germany. Of course we invited them to join INEPS and attend the Congress in Helsinki. At the same time they had the pleasure to visit new PL projects in Vilafranca and talk with students and teachers.

5) Dolores Roberts and her colleagues from Ireland promised to examine the possibility to host the next Youth Congress in Ireland.

6) Wolfgang Molitor from Paris is rejoining INEPS. He and another person from the education board in charge of innovation and alternatives are interested in participating in the INEPS Congress in Helsinki.

We are sure that there are a lot more things going on concerning PL and INEPS which haven't come to us as information. We hope that during this year we'll come closer as members within a wide and live network. This big and live network is one of our major goals for this year.

The AC will be available to all of you and your friends to provide information support and disseminate the results of your work.

We wish PEACE all over the world.

On behalf of the AC

Angela Passa

Patras - Greece

5/2/2009

\* EDITORS NOTE: The "political situation" was over a differing interpretation of the crisis in Gaza. We are going to resolve our differences over a lot of wine in Helsinki.