



*International Network of Productive
Learning Schools and Projects*

Congress office:
Ivan Vazov High School
8000 Burgas,
42 Hristo Botev – STR.

2nd December 2016

1st announcement

29th Congress of the INEPS *Productive Learning* as a means to prevent early school leaving

**24th to 28th April 2017
Burgas, Bulgaria**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The 29th INEPS Congress will take place from **24th to 28th April 2017 in Burgas** and we are very happy and proud to welcome you next year in Bulgaria.

Education has always been highly valued in Bulgaria. Nevertheless, there is a high rate of young people who drop out of the school system before completing any formal qualifications or credentials. Children with difficulties in their family and or social environment are particularly vulnerable and need our help.

Although the situation differs a lot in the regions of Europe, early school leaving is a wide spread and urgent problem. It affects the individual child as well as the society, resulting in lost potential for not only economic productivity but also in self-realization, health, social and civic participation.

Early school leaving presents challenges for educators, schools, and the educational system. The INEPS Congress offers the opportunity to exchange experiences and ideas on international level and to discuss questions which are of high interest all over Europe such as:

1. How can we meet the demands of all children?
2. What educational settings, curriculum structures, and learning methods are likely to prevent students from dropping out of school?
3. What has *Productive Learning* to offer regarding the “motivation to stay in school” – especially for students with frustrating school careers?
4. How can we benefit from the diversity in our school classes?

5. How can we integrate activity-based learning, individual curricula and national standards?
6. How can we build a fruitful cooperation with the world of work?
7. How can we facilitate the transition to further education and training for all students?

In August 2016, a new Bulgarian educational law came into force that facilitates the introduction of innovative educational approaches and methods. We are committed to build on this movement and to further develop *Productive Learning* in our country.

The congress will offer key speeches addressing important aspects of the topic as well as workshops and discussion groups to deepen selected topics. Four schools in Burgas interested in *Productive Learning* and in international cooperation will open their doors for the participants of the congress.

Preliminary Congress Program

Monday, 24.04.17	
18:00 20:00	Arrival of participants AC meeting "Welcome" Opening Session of the Conference, Group building activities
Tuesday, 25.04.17	
09:00 – 10:00 10:00 – 11:00 11:00 – 13:00 13:00 – 14:00 14:00 – 15:00 15:00 – 17:00 19:00	Place: Culture center "Morsko Casino" Registration, coming together Opening, "Education in Bulgaria – Opportunities and Challenges", Key speech "The Needs of Education in a Globalized World" Workshops "Productive Learning in the USA and in Europe – different approaches in different countries" Lunch (provided) 1 st General Assembly Presentation Market Free evening, meeting in Burgas for a one hour city walk
Wednesday, 26.04.17	
09:00 – 11:00 11:00 – 13:00 13:00 – 14:00 14:00 – 20:00	Place: Four schools in Burgas School visits Workshops in the schools focusing on PL methods (e.g. Individual Curricula, Work-based learning, Connecting practice and school lessons, Working with students with different difficulties etc.) Lunch (provided) Excursion, Sightseeing Tour
Thursday, 27.04.17	
09:00 – 12:00 12:00 – 13:00 14:00 – 15:00 16:00 – 17:00 20:00	Place: Hotel Aqua Open Space, Discussion groups Lunch (provided) Walk around: Results of the discussion groups General Assembly, Elections Farewell Dinner
Friday, 28.04.17	
	Departure of the participants

Accommodation

We are still in the process to check hotels at reasonable prices. We will send you soon some recommendations (standard single ensuite room starts from 40 € per night).

Congress fee

For INEPS members: 250 €

For non-members: 280 €

This congress fee includes congress facilities as well as coffee, tea and snacks during the breaks, organization and administration costs, transport to the workshops, three lunches, the welcome and the farewell dinner and a sightseeing tour.

If you have questions, please contact Russin Borislavov, Congress co-ordinator:
+359888659357,
e-mail: russinb@hotmail.com

We are looking forward to seeing you in Burgas for the 29th INEPS Congress and we send you our kindest regards!

On behalf of Ivan Vazov High School and the AC of INEPS

Viktor Grigorov
Principal of "Ivan Vazov" School

Russin Borislavov
Congress co-ordinator

Congress team in cooperation with the AC:
Viktor Grigorov – principal(Ivan Vazov High School)
Russin Borislavov – Congress co –ordinator (Ivan Vazov High School)
Ivanka Veleva – co-ordinator(Hristo Botev, Primary School)
Maria Vasileva – co-ordinator ("Zahari Stoyanov" Evening School)
Stanislava Dimitrova – co-ordinator (St.St.Cyril and Methodius, High School)

The Administration Council (AC) of INEPS:

Heike Borkenhagen (Germany, president)
Angela Passa (Greece, vice-president)
Egbert Jahn (Germany, treasurer)
Simona Plienaityte (Lithuania, secretary)
Alan Cheng (USA)
Juha Lahtinen (Finland)
Sabah Lameche (France)
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