

For the first time in Bradford, in the UK professionals from educational background had a chance to take a part in the International Conference about diversity, organized by professionals from three countries: United Kingdom, Slovakia and Poland. The event and the project are founded by Erasmus, and the concept and idea has been incorporated by organizations working in partnership i.e. UK Butterflies and Catolica Universitas Ruzomberok. An event hosted by UK-Butterflies LTD was attended by over 70 people.



The event was given an honour of Patronage by prof. Arkady Rzegocki, The Ambassador of the Polish Republic in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Embassy in London. In this one day conference over 70 professionals representatives of education participated from local and regional educational; head teachers, teachers and young people, including 8 experts form Poland and Slovakia came to the United Kingdom because of the special invitation of

UK Butterflies.





Invited guests and speakers shared their expertise on the theme of “Multiculturalism in terms of preserving identity, Equality and diversity in education”. At the beginning, after a big welcome to Janusz Wolosz, Counsellor (Science and Education), the representative of the Polish Embassy of Poland in London, he introduced his role and the important aspects of diversity and its impact on education considered by the international system. He pressed on some valuable points and achievements of free movement in terms of immigrants developing a sense of global inclusion along with the appreciation of locality and its unique conditions of life.



Dr Anton Lisnik from Slovakia introduced Alena Dankova. They both represented the University in Slovakia and arrived to the conference to present the characteristic of Multiculturalism in Eastern Europe. They revealed a historical background of the diversity tension starting to develop in the age of scientific efforts admitted by political needs in this matter. Alena Dankowa referred to some obstacles and barriers

encountered in Slovakia during the course of tackling diversity issues. As a professor of Educational Department of Catholic University in Ruzomberk city in Slovakia, she is a manager of Department of Management in Popradzie. Over 30 years experiences in work with youth and students equipped her in skills that enabled her to coordinate many projects on national and international scale. She is publishing her work and lectures in her own country and abroad.



Ewa Witkowska the director of Technology and Co-founder of Eduexpert – Multimedia and Education the leader of an international project, presented a brief insight to the shape of multimedia tools which as a final result of the project would be available for use for every school or teacher to implement to official curriculum.





Aleksandra Marcinkowska, a co-founder and international project manager at UK-Butterflies , mentioned during her presentation about the objectives of the project and answered the question of why there is a need for this project not only for youth but for the whole society . She indicated on the changing situation in Europe, the development of multicultural society and rising demands for cohesion. By giving examples of existing solutions she started to create a list of good practices and gaps in the system. The project she introduced is a chance to address diversity issues on large scale by wide adaptation in schools in Poland, Slovakia and United Kingdom. The plan is to implement it in two stages, starting from consultations, development and test of modern methods of learning for children age 15 to 18 going through evaluation to be validated.



All of these steps would be taken with consideration and extra support for students whose English is not their first language. Aleksandra Scibich – Kopiec, Deputy Director General, Foundation Development of Education System, as a representative of Programme Erasmus+ talked about her role and the role that Erasmus' programmes try to achieve by funding international projects within Europe. She listed all types of beneficiaries the programme can support and she mentioned the requirements for the application process.





After a short break the conference moved on to the panel of experts. During which Mr Saeed Younas, founder of charity Homes4Living, Ameena Mirza, Bradford Women's Aid Resettlement and Floating Support Manager and Dorota Kordecka, Diversity Champion for Bradford LifeLine and community development expert, shared experiences about their work with local, diverse communities. Thanks to these services, Bradford is recognized as one of the best city in terms of tackling barriers and the challenges of mixed communities. The achievements of these communities are based services contributing to a cohesive and respectful picture of the environment which the society lives in. These efforts create a positive image of this city and are the guide to the matter of tackling issues of multiculturalism. Next was an occasion for the guests to ask questions for the part of expert's panel representing Grange Technology College Bradford, the high school with a high experience of multiculturalism . Children from this school already had an opportunity to take a part in the pilot project about diversity during the workshops

delivered by UK Butterflies. Nazmin Din Community Development Manager, Shouthfield Grange Campus and Grange Technology College, together with Julius Budo, The Roma Community Officer at Southfield Grange Campus and Grange Technology College Bradford, were explaining the role and importance of properly address issues developed within students by differences in culture and education on the early stage, by working and engaging youth in conversation about diversity. Amongst many challenges, some could be solve by applying consistent programme of workshops. Nazmin referred to some practices from decades ago, when different groups of immigrants were coming to United Kingdome - pointing out the similarity in the battle for equality.



This part of the conference was summed up by Alena Dankova from University of Ruzemberk in the Education Department. Her work around research and science are focusing on functioning of small and middle size business and enterprises in the



European Union. As a coordinator of international projects she gained experience on how to work within a wide range of communities, therefore her input in to the project would be to share experiences and the best practice during implementation of the tools.



All the guests – after a short break - had a chance to familiarize themselves with the scenario of some the workshops and to share written comments about the subject. Overall the guests expressed support for this initiative and interest in further development of the project. The input of every person involved / assistance is crucial for the wider outcome and the impact in everyone's life.



Thank you every one for attending this conference and I hope to see you again in the world in which differences are tolerate, valued and appreciated.