THE MULTIETHNIC AND THE REFLECTIONS ON THE EDUCATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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- Current educational practices in the Republic of Macedonia speak that a lot of significant efforts have been made and are still being made by all social and state segments for complete integration of all members of ethnical communities at the educational system of the Republic of Macedonia.

- The educational legislation in the Republic of Macedonia has created optimal conditions for education of ethnical communities in their own mother tongue and nourishment of their personal cultural identity.

- According to our opinion building confidence between all ethnical communities should primarily start with a greater mutual communication in all segments of social living, but before all and above all, in educational institutions from the lowest to the highest level.

The schools are becoming multicultural

- According to a number of estimates by the year 2010 more than 70 % of classes in the USA and Europe will consist of children belonging to different ethnic communities and races, and practically all schools will be multilingual and multicultural.

- According to different opinions there is no alternative in intercultural education. This is the subject of discussion and thinking in Macedonia in the last 10 years, and in the last 20-30 years in the world.

- According to C. Ridley and D. Mendosa there are three categories of defining the term multiculturalism:

- 1. Broad determinations ;

- 2. One-sided determinations ;

- 3. National or international determinations .

- The political approach to multiculturalism is characterized by three approaches to cultural and ethnic diversity in national proportions with many inner variations:

- 1. Integration approach is mostly characteristic for France.

- 2. Ethnic (blood) approach is characteristic for Germany and Japan.

- 3. Multicultural approach as a systematic and many sided response to cultural and ethnic diversity with its educational, linguistic, economic and social components is the determinant mechanism and an example of the principle of establishment in Australia and Canada.

- Multiculturalism rejects the concept of assimilation- complete social integration of nations into society, identification with the dominant culture and institutions, disappearance of an ethnic group as an isolated and differentiated person, and a sum of characteristics that make it different from other entireties.
- It rejects the idea of cultural equity and cultural separatism.

- If we take into consideration the multiethnic and multicultural character of the Republic of Macedonia:

- the multiethnic and multicultural education should enable acquiring knowledge about ethno-cultural and historical heritage of one's own as well as of other communities, i.e. knowledge about the majority community and other ethnic communities in Macedonia.

- Such educational practice does not exist in the Republic of Macedonia yet, but the fact whether it is possible and attainable should be the topic of a very empirical analysis and thinking over that should also bear in mind the possible consequences of such an education, either positive or negative in relation to the building of confidence among different communities.

Thank you,