

Welcome Letter

Dear Participant,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the Multicultural Education: Policy, Planning and Sharing Conference in Dobogóko, Hungary, May 6-8, 1999. We hope that the conference will be a rewarding and useful experience for you, and your foundation's work.

We also hope that the conference will help us learn about and work with some new directions in which the network will be moving. To help us with this, our conference objectives are:

1. **To introduce the draft network policy paper, "Multicultural Education and the Education of Minority Pupils," and to begin to discuss and answer the question - What are the implications for foundations;**
2. **To support the process of strategy development in order to create an effective strategy and programme portfolio relating to the draft policy;**
3. **To share information about effective foundation programmes, including good methods and techniques particularly related to the successful schooling of Roma children.**

Presenters...We are pleased to have many distinguished presenters, both from outside and inside the Soros Foundation Network.

Bird Stasz has been the Director of Elementary Education, Wells College, in Aurora New York since 1993. Besides her duties as director, she teaches courses in Education, as well as Ethnography, Educational Psychology, Children's literature and First Year Experience. She has written extensively on subjects such as literacy, volunteerism, oral history and process writing, children's literature, critical thinking and problem solving. She has previously worked in Romania as a consultant to the network on writing the oral history of Roma.

Charles Temple is professor of Education and Hobart Williams-Smith College in Geneva, New York. Charles is the author of many textbooks, scholarly articles as well as children's books. He has worked in the Dominican Republic and has also worked extensively with the Soros Foundation Network in numerous countries, especially in connection with the Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking Network Program.

Stephen Heyneman is the Vice President for International Operations of the International Management and Development Group Limited (IM&D Ltd.) in Washington, D.C. IM&D helps education clients expand into international markets, acquire new partners, provide public and private education and training services of higher quality and competitive costs, and restructure and retrain workforces in transition economies. Prior to joining IM&D in September 1998, he was the Lead Education Specialist for the Europe and Central Asia Region of the World Bank where he contributed to analytic justifications for lending and policy work on education, training and labor markets for countries in Eastern and Central Europe, the Baltics, the Caucuses, the Russian Federation and Central Asia. Spanning two decades, his responsibilities in the World Bank included managing programs of education research, training design, operations policy and evaluation. His areas of expertise include, among others, education finance and education quality, economic choices of education technology, cognitive skills and economic productivity and the contribution of education to social cohesion and social stability.

In addition to these guests, we are honored to include presenters from our own Network.

Péter Radó, IEP Fellow and former State Secretary for Minorities at the Hungarian Ministry of Culture and Education and a previous Roma Educational Board Member for the Soros Foundation. **Susan Rona**, former Director of the Education Program Support Unit is currently Senior Advisor in Education for OSI-New York.

Practical Notes...

Please use the free time available to explore the environment around Dobogóko. If you need any special services, **Eva Badar**, Logistics Coordinator, or any member of the IEP team will be pleased to assist you. Note that any phone calls or other additional charges to your room must be paid by you at check-out.

We look forward to working with you over these three days. Please do not hesitate to provide us feedback or suggestions on any aspects of the program.

Sincerely,
Christina McDonald
Conference Coordinator