



Hatespeech: A "Non-issue" in Education

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Preamble: The Mission of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-University Education (RAQAPE / ARACIP):

- The external evaluation of the quality of education offered by accredited educational organizations.
- The external evaluation for authorization and accreditation of all educational organizations at pre-university level.











Preamble: The quality of education – the "legal" Romanian definition:

The totality of characteristics belonging to a study program and to its provider, by which there are fulfilled all the **beneficiaries expectations** as well as the **quality standards**.











Consequences:

To deal with hate speech, the topic must be part of:

- Quality standards in education.
- Beneficiaries' expectations.
- Evaluation proceedings.











Facts:

- As such, prevention of hate speech and intervention in such cases are not part of standards, of beneficiaries' expectations, of evaluation proceedings.
- Nevertheless: correlated issues are dealt with.
 - Examples: non-discrimination, equity and equal opportunities, learning the minorities mother-tongues, history and traditions, representation in decision making bodies, affirmative measures for at-risk / marginalized groups / individuals, intercultural education, education for diversity etc.
- There is no systematic data collection regarding hate speech (only anecdotic and "outside" information).











What to do next (types of interventions):

- Regulations and standards development defining and "measuring" hate speech – NGOs input needed!
- Evaluation instruments development and data collection: e.g. possible correlation between hate speech and bullying, violence and vandalism in schools.
- Awareness raising information, mass media campaigns etc. – parents as the main target group; "humanizing" the possible target groups.











What to do next (types of interventions):

- Specific training of teachers, community mediators, inspectors, evaluators etc.
- Public and multisided support for hate speech victims
- Public interventions: e.g. very public "pilot trials", initiated by / with support of NGOs. (There are regulations – are they applied?)
- Surveys (online / offline) and public reports NGOs input needed!











A possible survey: "Hate speech and education"

Possible targets:

- Ethnic groups / minorities: Roma, Jews, Hungarians, Romanians.
- Sexual minorities GLBT.
- Migrants.
- Religions.
- Disabled persons or other so called "ab-normal" / marginalized groups / individuals (e.g. institutionalized, HIV positive children etc.).

Data sources:

- Textbooks, teaching aids and official documents.
- Official statements and other public documents.
- Complaints.
- Reports.
- Media surveys.
- Best / worst practice collection.











For a better school!

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