

Separating and unifying values: trails of west-eastern values - Was uns trennt und was uns eint

Islam, Christianity and Judaism in Europe have different appearances. All three religions are perceived as political and cultural entities, with region-specific traditions. On the one hand these traditions appear in a diffuse light and on the other hand they have shaped social life in European countries. Often the scope of practices and interpretations merely allows for a diffuse picture. Education, culture, and history unify the three religions – education, culture, and history also separate the three religions in Europe. In this project, the debate on the history of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim educational tradition will be reflected upon on a theological, philosophical, social, and education-theoretical basis.

Our learning partnership intends to tackle the discussion on common values between the contradictory contexts of West and East. This discussion will represent both the central topic and the workplace of the learning partnership.

The following different directions of interaction between the participating institutions are considered to be worth to be discussed among the participating partners:

- how to turn “worn-out paths” into innovative learning experiences of non-formal and formal learning through the interaction of the project
- how to identify and to govern search for identity, identification process and personality development of participants in a mindful way within the interaction
- how to govern the sense of belonging and the cohesiveness out of the work on common values.

The main theme will be the bases of belief and education in the way they show in the relationship between the Abrahamic religions. By means of a web-based manual, texts produced in the course of the project will be collected. This manual will facilitate discussion and dissemination of the project results. The project intends to illuminate important issues, the problem of emotionally charged notions, commitment, and essential elements in Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The project will allow learners, teachers, and organisations to gain insights into conflicts but also the character and the essentials of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

Activities

Wien 26th – 29th October 2008

Kick-off meeting:

Discussion of the topic "Human rights, education, and culture"

- The European cutting edge, wars, and permanent crises
- The Christian notion of time: ante Christum natum – post christum natum
- The destination of time: time in terms of “kairos” (time of salvation)
- Anti-Semitism, Anti-Islamism, clash of cultures
- Exile as a dilemma of the modern age
- Desert wandering, the house, the set table

Tübingen 12th – 15th March 2008

Meeting of Project Team

- team building activities / agreeing on basic rules for the team work
- clearly defining roles and responsibilities
- agreeing how to handle conflict situations

- recognising and sharing individual expertise
- discussing the tasks and responsibilities stemming from the grant contracts
- discussing management and financial questions
- reviewing work programme as presented in project application and further detailed planning of work until next meeting
- closing of the cooperation contract according to the activity plan (rights, duties, and tasks of the project partners)

Łódź 11th – 14th June 2009 (or slightly later)

Topic: "Worn-out paths, religion and the meaning of life"

- Need for meaning in religion, need for meaning in life
- Life in terms of a trip
- The meaning of life
- The ‘absurd’
- Emotions as judgements

Florence 22nd – 25th October 2009

Topic: "The relationship between religion, reason, and science"

- Questions of methodology: parallels and comparison
 - At the bottom of spirituality: hope
 - Subjectivity und objectivity in religion
 - Revelation, reason, and truth in theological texts
 - The wisdom of theological texts
 - ‘Being and becoming’, law and freedom
 - Homo creatus est: the beginning of humanity
- Discussion, methods and theory

Witchford March 2010

Topic: "The influence of religions on civilisation and on human socialisation"

- Eros, bliss, death
- Death in terms of deliverance from ‘self’
- Social theories and their implementation
- Holy wars, crusades, persecutions, Dzhihad
- Myths and fantasy: darkness, longing, and hope, day and night
- From darkness to light
- Never-never land, night, awake consciousness
- Ecstasy und anti-ecstasy
- Health and illness

Exchange of experiences and planning the final development of the educational curriculum

Auvillar July 2010

Topic: "Current problems and methods of resolution"

- Religions and environment
- Human enhancement, humiliation, and overcoming of nature
- Parents and children
- Submissiveness to destiny and responsibility
- Feelings of guilt
- Modern heroes

Exchange of experiences and good/best practices

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