

## **Definition of "European-supranational curriculum" (Elżbieta Mach)**

In the works over the creation of this curriculum there appeared the necessity to define its scope and form. The idea of a 'curriculum' as a didactic element was understood in a slightly different way in each of the partner countries. It was caused by the sovereignty of the national educational systems as well as varied educational needs of students, teachers, and the whole academic environment. As far as this project was concerned, it was necessary to unify the view and work out one common model for the supranational – European curriculum.

The consortium of partners have agreed that the 'European (supranational) curriculum' means the following:

- a unified (as far as the goals, content and general aims in respect to the development of student's competences and skills) curriculum;
- spanning all European countries – not just the EU member states;
- promoting common European heritage and peaceful conflict resolution;
- indicating the cultural diversity of European countries and nations and treating this diversity as a value in itself;
- created thanks to international cooperation of the partner institutions involved in the project.

The name 'European (supranational) curriculum has been created because this curriculum:

- is created by a European, supranational consortium;
- contains universal aims and contents, not characteristic for just one country and one educational system, but crossing the national borders;
- creates common European ground for cooperation of teachers and schools, with respect to the sovereignty of national educational systems when it comes to the structure, aims, and contents of teaching specific for each country;
- the target group comprises children with varied educational starting point, who have grown up or are just beginning their education in various (national) educational systems, or in "surrogate systems" e.g. children of people permanently travelling across Europe – on barges, in a circus, etc.;
- this project shall be used also by non – migrating children learning in local schools across Europe.

International and supranational character of this project should be pointed out and stressed. The national educational policies of the European nation states have

treated the crucial problems (education for freedom, respect for human dignity, tolerance, actions against racism, multicultural character of Europe, common Christian roots, etc.) in various ways when it comes to content, methods, etc. And although all of them have been aimed at common goals, the actions have not been coordinated in any way on international level.

The suggested curriculum gives the opportunity to create a common educational basis across Europe when it comes to aims and contents which are not characteristic of one just one country: they are supranational, they do not depend on time or politics.