



*Crna Gora*

*Ministarstvo prosvjete i nauke*



МИНИСТАРСТВО ПРОСВЕТЕ

Република Србија

JOINT DECLARATION  
BETWEEN  
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF MONTENEGRO  
AND  
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
ON  
JOINT COOPERATION AND COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS  
IN THE FIELD OF PEACE EDUCATION

*BEARING IN MIND that both Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia endorsed and ratified a range of significant international documents promoting values of peace and human rights, in particular the "Copenhagen Convention" of the European Ministers of Education and the European Commission, Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, United Nations Convention against Discrimination in Education, and in this way, accepted to work strategically, within the framework of curricula and methodologies, on promotion of values of the culture of peace and non-violence in education;*

*RECALLING the European Commission's recommendations for improvement of cooperation between state institutions and civil society, as well as the previous cooperation of the two ministries of education with non-governmental organisations, which has proved, on the basis of programme quality assessment, that joint action is a very efficient approach in fulfilment of a demanding task of great responsibility, such as education system reform;*

*CONVINCED that adoption of the culture of peace and tolerance is only efficient and sustainable if it is based on strategic planning and targeted activities on adoption of Peace Education values within the education system, including all the stakeholders in education process; and convinced that this approach is giving best results in decreasing levels of violence among the school children and youth, thus building a more human and democratic society,  
the conference participants adopted the following*

## RECOMMENDATIONS

for the state institutions, civil society organisations and other interested parties involved in the education process in Montenegro and in the Republic of Serbia:

- 1) to initiate and support activities aimed at **standardisation** of the contents and methods of Peace Education, through policies designed by the ministries, strategic documents and laws, including those regarding professional training of teachers and improvement of the system of stimulation of teachers based on fulfilment of standards in promotion and respect for the values of Peace Education;
- 2) to work continuously on evaluation and improvement of **curricula and textbooks** in accordance with Peace Education objectives, in particular through the subjects dealing with specific topics within Peace Education (School Mediation, Civic Education, Human Rights, etc.), by means of available mechanisms, such as proportion of free activities within subjects, experimental programmes in schools, new subjects in faculties of education and alike;
- 3) to promote **Whole School Approach**, enabling contribution by all actors in education process to the sustainable adoption of Peace Education values, with a special focus on introduction of **mediation** as a priority method of conflict resolution in schools;
- 4) as an initial step for introduction of mediation in schools, Ministries of Education should send an official letter to schools, with recommendation that *school mediation* should be used as one of the tools for conflict resolution;
- 5) to give active contribution to **building of partnerships** at all levels, from cooperation between schools to the bilateral cooperation of Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia, as well as partnerships with European Union institutions, in order to achieve better results in Peace Education through exchange of knowledge and good practices, networking and pooling of resources (regional teams of trainers, mediation handbooks, etc.);
- 6) to work actively on enhancing cooperation between state institutions, in particular the Ministry of Education and Science of Montenegro and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia, Institute for Education, Institute for Education Advancement and the civil society organisations, in order to provide **sustainability** of the high quality programmes in the field of Peace Education;
- 7) to pay special attention and give support to the Peace Education programmes in **multiethnic** regions and local communities, and to work on strengthening of cooperation among the students and teachers following curricula in different languages;
- 8) to support activities aimed at education of the representatives of media and preparation of media materials in accordance with the values of Peace Education.

Adopted and signed in Belgrade, on 4th December 2009.

For the Ministry of Education  
and Science of Montenegro

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MINISTER

Prof. PhD  
Sreten Škuletić

For the Ministry of education  
of the Republic of Serbia

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for the MINISTER

Bogoljub Lazarević, Deputy Minister