

## **Evens Prize for Peace Education 2011**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **New Evens Prize for Peace Education won by the Escola de Cultura de Pau.**

**The *Escola de Cultura de Pau* (ECP), Barcelona has won the first Evens Prize for Peace Education (€25,000) which involved 26 projects from 10 EU countries.**

**The ECP was awarded the prize for its teacher training in conflict management, organized in the framework of its peace-education program.**

**On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2011, the ECP was selected as the prize laureate by an independent jury of experts, from a shortlist of 10 organizations. The prize money will be shared between the award-winner and dissemination of the winning training program. The award ceremony will take place in Barcelona on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011, the eve of the International Day of Peace.**

The Evens Foundation established an independent European jury to select the laureate. First a shortlist was drawn up based on the formal criteria for the award, the target group and the general content of the organizations' programs. The selected organizations were then visited to discuss the details of each program and to attend a training session.

In the next stage, the jury selected the overall winner, based on the application forms filed by the organizations and the site visit reports.

The members of the jury were highly impressed by the overall quality of the training programs.

#### **The 2011 prize-winner**

The *Escola de Cultura de Pau* was established in 1999 with the aim of organizing academic activities, research and interventions related to the culture of peace, the analysis, prevention and transformation of conflict, peace education, disarmament, and the promotion of human rights. Born as a UNESCO Chair in Peace and Human Rights, it has developed into a Peace Research Centre attached to the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

Its objectives are: to promote understanding and the implementation of a culture of peace; to investigate and intervene in areas related to conflict, peace processes, post-war rehabilitation, human rights, Track II (informal) diplomacy, arts and peace, and education for peace; and to give training to people who wish to disseminate the message and practice of a culture of peace.

The main work of the Peace Education Program consists of setting up educational activities and producing teaching and outreach material. All of this work is aimed at promoting

strategies and skills needed for the non-violent resolution of conflict and peacebuilding, and the spread of tools and activities for peace education.

The winning training program, *Education for conflict, a path for coexistence*, takes an in-school approach to train teacher teams and school management in the basics of conflict management. It places high importance on ensuring coherence between contents (knowledge, skills, and attitudes), the methodologies applied (participative, involving feelings, and inviting to action), and evaluation.

Although the in-school approach the organization takes can be problematic, it is considered very valuable. The focus is on getting a process going and on sowing seeds. The program is also clearly linked to society; during the training, participants are asked to analyze the structural violence inherent in their school and to propose an action plan to transform the school's policies and rules.

The program encourages participants to think critically and to question existing structures and procedures. In this way, the organization awakens teachers and principals to their own power and responsibility to contribute to a culture of peace. It is also apparent that the organization 'walks the talk' by fostering a reflective culture internally.

#### **The 2011 Prize jury**

**Tomas Baum** (Belgium), Director, Flemish Peace Institute, jury chair

**Peter Adriaenssens** (Belgium), Child psychiatrist and senior lecturer, Catholic University, Leuven (KUL)

**Nadia Bellaoui** (France), National Secretary of *La Ligue de l'Enseignement*

**Magdalena Boguslawska** (Poland), Director, Centre for Development of Polish Education abroad

**Maria Carme Boqué Torremorel** (Spain), Lecturer at the Department of Education, Ramon Llull University, Barcelona

**Ilse Hakvoort** (Sweden), Lecturer at the Department of Education, Gothenburg University

**Philippe Vienne** (Belgium), Professor at the Department of Sociology, UMONS (University of Mons)

#### **About the Evens Prize for Peace Education 2011**

Through this prize, the Evens Foundation wishes to honor an organization, association or institution that offers training programs to (future) teachers on learning how to manage interpersonal and/or intergroup conflict in a positive and constructive way. In this respect, learning is considered to be a process of personal change, in the sense that how we learn is as important as the content of that learning.

*The Evens Foundation is a European public benefit foundation based in Antwerp, Belgium and with offices in Paris and Warsaw. It initiates and supports sustainable projects that contribute to respect for the cultural and social diversity of Europe, in the fields of peace education, media and European citizenship. It also awards biennial prizes in the fields of peace education, media education, visual arts and science.*

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For more information about the Foundation, please visit <http://www.evensfoundation.be>

For more information about the ECP, please visit <http://escolapau.uab.cat/>