
DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES: INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE & EDUCATION**DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES
EUROPEAN FOUNDATION SOCIETY AND EDUCATION
2008, EUROPEAN YEAR OF INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE**

CONSIDERING that the Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on Cultural Diversity are achievements of the democratic societies, patrimony of its richness and substantial part of its tradition, EUROPE is obliged to open these liberties to people of other cultures, races and religions.

CONSIDERING that EUROPE is a community of citizens characterized by openness and diversity, specific tools are needed for creating a common project.

CONSIDERING the necessity of cooperation of public and private entities on a European scale in the impulse of a cultural debate, which is based on the exchange of ideas and best practices about citizenship, identity and difference in EUROPE,

SOCIETY AND EDUCATION, by its 12 action principles, contributes specifically to those considerations, emphasizing the strategic paper of Intercultural Dialogue and Education in the task of defining EUROPE. The Intercultural Dialogue is rooted in the politics of the European Union. It guarantees social cohesion, the democratic societies' basic principle, and equal opportunities. School is one of the most adequate settings for promoting an active vision of diversity.

ACTION PRINCIPLES 2008

INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

1. Society and Education understands Intercultural Dialogue as a mechanism for peace, common life, cooperation and mutual understanding facing functional tolerance and indifferent relativism.

2. Civil Society should include Intercultural Dialogue in the roots of its behaviour and attitude towards diversity.

3. European citizenship should agree to the meaning of the terms "culture", "race and "ethnicity" in the current socio-political context and consider the objectives followed by the member states in the accomplishment of a common Intercultural Dialogue strategy.

4. It is necessary to promote a multidisciplinary perspective of Intercultural Dialogue in order to foster that its implementation comes from a cooperation among different social, cultural and economic policies, for what Society and Education emphasises the role of local entities in this specific aim.

5. It is necessary to extend the Intercultural Dialogue strategy to the fields of Interreligious Dialogue in order to guarantee religious freedom, the cultural value of religions and to face the challenges that are implied by the diversity of living together in Europe.

6. Transversal contents must be promoted and fostered in order to design a common European strategy of Intercultural Dialogue, as those referred to equality policies, mediation mechanisms and conflict prevention in the improvement of our way of living together.

EDUCATION

1. Education based on the respect to human dignity contributes to the integral development of persons and requires the active participation of family, school and society.

2. Educational policies shall incorporate an intercultural perspective among their principles and aims, content and proposals. The contents related to Intercultural Dialogue shall require a transversal treatment although they could be also systematised in any of the subjects of the curriculum.

3. It is important to study the socio-educational conditions, environments and cultural standards of schools to value their flexibility regarding the Intercultural Dialogue. Educational systems need to be provided with accurate indicators and tools so as to assess whether they have the resources to facilitate the development of an intercultural education.

4. It is essential to promote training in intercultural education for primary and secondary education teaching staff in order to provide teachers with appropriate means to encounter this new reality in school.

5. Education in civil values based on respect for diversity and citizenship in the European dimension shall be incorporated to the curriculum for all students of any religious confession.

6. It is the task of education to develop pedagogical resources and methodologies to promote the dissemination of best practices and experiences of mutual recognition, equality between men and women, mutual respect, solidarity and tolerance.