Crossing ELT Borders: Helpdesk For Intercultural Evaluation Of Learning Materials

Education in Bulgaria needs to focus on developing young people who:

• Freely develop their complex cultural identities and are comfortable with them;

• Understand and respect cultural diversity around them;

• Possess the necessary skills and positive attitudes for effective intercultural communication and interaction;

• Become active and responsible citizens in their respective communities, in Bulgaria, Europe and the world.

INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION

Can be achieved when

• All educational policies, practices, resources are given and explicit an explicit intercultural orientation;

• Teachers, publishers, pupils, parents, textbook writers, educational policy makers commit themselves to promote its core principles.

So that eventually

• Schools, textbooks, teaching & learning methods reflect and adequately shape the reality of contemporary BG society;

• do not shy away from the challenges of potentially sensitive issues;

• take part in constructing a progressive active and civic worldview in young people.

Helpdesk activities:

✓ Train a team of evaluators (specialists in ELT, Bulgarian Language and literature, History, Geography, Philosophy, Civic Education, Psychology, Biology, and Chemistry);

✓ Create and pilot an evaluation tool (frame-work criteria);

✓ Provide new intercultural readings of existing educational documentation;

• identify problematic areas (instances of implicit and explicit discriminatory attitudes and practices;

advise and train educational practitioners on

how they can build upon the IC potential of the existing resources;

• consult and train educational practitioners on how to overcome the problematic area and open new sites for IC education.

> Helpdesk for Intercultural Learning Materials Department for information and teacher development, Office 316 224 Tsar Boris blvd, Sofia 1619 phones: ++ 359 (2) 957 13 94, ++ 359 (0) 889 71 65 71

> > website: www.helpdeskbg.org info@helpdeskbg.org

> > > Desislava Zareva, NBU