



E-FoR – Education for Remembrance

Conference in (London) Derry (Northern Ireland, UK)

Date: September 17th, 2010

Venue: Everglades Hotel, (London) Derry

The local event in Derry/Londonderry was organised in the form of a conference of multipliers and simple citizens by “The Junction – Towards Healing and Understanding”.

It united around forty guests around the topic of “Shared and Ethical Remembering”. Participants came from nongovernmental and governmental community organisations, but also included older and young citizens who were interested in the topic of remembrance in the specific context of the conflict in Northern Ireland.

Several speakers contributed to the conference, describing methods of non-biased remembrance education and ways to encourage active citizen by teaching them about their common, if contentious past.

Mr Eamonn Baker (Towards Healing and Understanding) spoke on the topic of how individual remembering forms societal remembering and how to influence this progress. Rev. Dr. Johnston McMaster of the Irish School of Ecumenics (Education for Reconciliation Programme) presented parts of his work on shared remembrance, insisting on the ethical questions arising from the situation of conflict in Northern Ireland, but generally in all countries having experienced conflicts in the past.

Participants then got together for a group work, thinking about ways to link remembrance education with education to peace and active citizenship. The methods elaborated during the seminar in Jasenovac were discussed in these groups, whose participants attempted to integrate them into their organisational backgrounds. This encouraged everybody to rethink their approach to remembrance education, resulting in adapted methods and raised hopes concerning the importance of appropriate historical education for peace building.

Nevertheless, participants stated that it would be difficult to get Catholics and Protestants to visit courses together or just to accept the point of view of the other party. This is where the methods from Jasenovac were considered interesting.

The conference was concluded by a presentation of the possibilities to build a shared and ethical society and a short presentation of the project E-FoR.

The conference informed a large number of multipliers about the stakes and methods of remembrance education and will have a large impact on citizens in Northern Ireland.