

Training in the use of the Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters¹

A tool for designed by the Council of Europe to develop intercultural awareness and competences

This seminar is co-organised by the Council of Europe (Unit for Capacity building, Intercultural Education and Exchanges and the Language Policy Division) and AHA Moments

Dates: 18-20 October 2010

Place: Sofia, Bulgaria

Working Language: English

Places available: 30

Target group: Teachers of all age groups to whom the *Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters* and education for intercultural dialogue more generally is of interest; and also teachers who have responsibilities for teacher development and disseminating innovative practices.

Deadline for applications: 9 September 2010

Brief description

Participants explore the rationale and pedagogical practices related to the *Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters*. This is a tool designed by the Council of Europe to encourage people to think about and learn from intercultural encounters that have made a strong impression or had a long-lasting effect on them. In discovering what underlies these encounters users become more aware of their experience and their reactions, thereby developing their intercultural competences.

The *Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters* has been developed in relation to the Council of Europe's *White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue "Living together as equals in dignity"* (www.coe.int/dialogue), and in particular in application of Section 5.3 Learning and teaching intercultural competences (page 25, paragraph 152): "Complementary tools should be developed to encourage students to exercise independent critical faculties including to reflect critically on their own responses and attitudes to experiences of other cultures."

Participants focus on the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to implement the *Autobiography* in their day-to-day work with their learners. They are invited to

¹ www.coe.int/t/DG4/Autobiography

- Share their own intercultural experiences with and learn from fellow teachers;
- Explore the potential of the *Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters* for the development of the competencies and identities of intercultural citizens;
- Experience the impact of working with the *Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters*;
- Take part in collaborative work facilitated by experienced and recognised trainers in the field; and
- Make plans to implement strategies for their classrooms and teacher development sessions.

Expected results

After the seminar the participants will have

- developed further their understanding of the work of the Council of Europe in the field of education for social cohesion and intercultural dialogue;
- mastered the craft of using the *Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters* and considered the theory of intercultural communicative competence which underpins it;
- appreciated the value of the *Autobiography* for their own teaching practices; and
- established beneficial co-operation and prospects for exchange in a thematic professional network.

How to participate

If you wish to participate in this training please contact the organisers directly and fill in the **application form** which you can download from here:

AHA moments, Centre of Intercultural learning www.ahamoments.eu

phone: ++ 359 898 60 46 41; ++ 359 2 967 1063; ++359 899 96 36 23;

e-mail: leah.ahamoments.eu; and yananoel@gmail.com

They will also provide you with practical information and the draft programme of the training in due course. Travel and subsistence expenses for the selected participants will be paid for by the Council of Europe.

Pre-paid tickets will be provided by the organisers.