



Human Rights Education for Active  
Citizenship in the Western Balkans

## **Human Rights School for Youth, Kovacica**

**February 2013**

Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia held a Human Rights School for Youth between February 22 and February 28, 2013 in Kovacica.

Twenty secondary school students who were chosen from 125 applicants, came to Kovacica from secondary schools in Sremski Karlovci, Uzice, Senta, Nis, Krusevac, Zajecar, Arandjelovac, Kikinda, Vrbas, Zrenjanin, Sabac, Beograd, Pancevo and Becej.

The aim of the school is to introduce secondary school students with the theory of human rights and its ideas, principles of democracy, tolerance, solidarity, non-violent communication and to develop and improve participants' critical thinking skills. We want to encourage and empower young people (between the ages of 15 and 19) for respect of human rights and integration of human rights practices in their everyday life.

On the first day at Basic level of The School, Pavel Domonji, Chief of Staff of the Provincial Ombudsman was lecturing on human rights concept and its development, human rights and democracy, multiculturalism and freedom of the individual. The second day psychologist Tamara Tomasevic talked about Contextual relativization of identity and Stereotypes and prejudice in the service of discrimination. The third day was the European Union day, where politicologist Milos Ciric were lecturing on EU history, system and values and Serbia's integration to EU. During the forth day the lecture Denial of the reality/truth or facing with it: the responsibility of society and the individual held Nebojsa Tasic. The same day members of Helsinki Committee's Youth Groups Dasa, Tijana and Predrag presented the work of their groups and talked about youth activism in general. On the last day the lecturer Sloboban Stojanovic presented lectures on LGBT Rights: What

does is really important? (legislative framework) and Where begins understanding? (social framework).

This is an open-concept and interactive teaching where along with theoretical lectures students were introduced with other teaching methods such as various workshops, watching films and documentaries, and attended forum theater on daily basis.

One of the participants, Milica Krtinic from Senta describes her stay at School: *„I have only nice words for basic level of the Human Rights School, and so many positive impressions. The organisation was perfect, lessons were fantastic, subjects were interesting and teachers were very professional. I met many good people there and I will keep in touch with most of them, and hopefully, we will meet again, at the advanced level of the School“.*

So far, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia has organized 47 local Human Rights Schools, with more than 1100 participants. Also, 23 Regional schools were organized in cooperation with partners from region.

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