Dear readers,

At the end of 2016 we bring you a special double issue of the Newsletter of Global Development Education. You can find out what happened during this year’s Global Education Week and see how many schools are competing for the title Global Action School. In early December a group of teachers from Bosnia and Herzegovina visited the Czech Republic. You can find below a short report from the La Ngonpo seminar that we prepared for them. You can also read two articles by teachers Ms. Lenka Dvořáková from the Brno Tyršova primary school, and Ms. Martina Matějů from the primary school Nový Rychnov, about their current involvement in the project La Ngonpo.

We hope that the coming year will be inspirational for you, and that you would like to explore further new areas of global development education.

We wish you a successful start to the New Year!
A MINI-CONFERENCE

„GLOBAL ISSUES IN CZECH SCHOOLS?“

On 3rd November 2016 the Multicultural Center Prague successfully organized the first Global Development Education mini conference titled „Global issues in Czech schools?“. The aim of the event was to share various approaches and good practice in incorporating global issues into school lessons. In the first part of the conference the following guest-speakers presented on the development, the current situation, and their experience with the integration of global issues into Czech schools: PhDr. Ondřej Andrys, MAE, deputy chief school inspector; Mgr. Michal Broža, director of the UN Information Center in Prague; Mgr. Ing. Lenka Pánková, Director of Olomouc educational organization ARPOK, and Mgr. Petra Skalická of The Variancy Educational Program, People in Need.

In the second part of the conference three parallel workshops were carried out. During the workshops the possibilities to introduce global themes into schools were presented through the example of specific projects. Workshops focused mainly on sharing experience and participation opportunities. The workshop on the Active Citizens project was led by Mgr. Ivo Helebrant (1st International School of Ostrava) and Mgr. Petra Skalická (The Variancy Educational Program, People in Need). The workshop about the educational approach, Global Storylines, was led Mgr. Kristýna Hrubanová (NaZemi) and Mgr. Jitka Kadrmasová (Parochial Primary School Borohrádek). The third workshop on the Global Action Schools project focused on sharing experiences with this project, its advantages and drawbacks. The workshop was led by two experienced teachers Mgr. Ing. Andrea Tláskalová (Primary School Zbiroh) and Mgr. Jiří Vymětal (Primary and Nursery School Olomouc-Nemilany). The event was attended by a total of 40 teaching staff from primary and secondary schools and other educational institutions.

LA NGONPO SEMINAR FOR TEACHERS FROM BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

At the beginning of December a study group of teachers from Bosnia and Herzegovina came to the Czech Republic. As a part of their study program we organized an afternoon seminar focused on the methodology of La Ngonpo and the overall structure of the project. The seminar began with a short presentation about the project, its history and objectives. In the next part of the seminar, the teachers could participate in some activities from a position of a student. Later on, they discussed and reflected on the activities, including meta-reflection, e.g. on how the activities could be used in class, how the activities could be adjusted, etc. The group was very dynamic and a lot of time was devoted to debates and discussions on themes and activities that the methodology of La Ngonpo offers. In the final part of the seminar we shared other experiences and insights to the project.

We hope that some of the participants will join in the project with their school. We would be very happy to welcome new schools interested in the La Ngonpo project.
Global Education Week is a pan-European initiative organized annually since 1999 by the North South Centre of the Council of Europe, which is focused on educational activities in the field of global development education. It deals with ways to approach through education the topics of equality, diversity and justice for people at a local and global level. The Global Education Week is looking at ways to enhance respect and understanding between different cultures. It supports educational activities that lead to change in deep-rooted attitudes and help us to feel responsible for the quality of life, not only in our area, but also in a wider global context. The aim is to teach people to act with consideration and in full awareness of responsibility for activities that benefit others.

The event has a different theme every year: the first GEW, launched by the North-South Centre in 1999, focused on how to overcome poverty and social exclusion. Since then, and on the basis of very positive feedback from the 1999 edition, the NSC has invited all Member States of the Council of Europe to participate in the GEW every year, through the active collaboration of the GEW Network.

The GEW’s aim is to encourage educators and learners to explore educational activities for global citizenship. The GEW addresses issues related to diversity and inequality at local and global levels, and tries to foster:

- Awareness of the wider world and of our own role as world citizens.
- Attitudes of respect for diversity and intercultural communication skills.
- Responsibility for our own actions.
- The ability to take action to make the world a more equitable and sustainable place.

The topic of this year was “Acting Together for a World of Peace”. The choice of this topic resulted from a discussion between GEW Network co-coordinators, choosing Peace as a priority issue, considering the international context. This theme is also in line with the NSC’s mandate with regard to raising awareness on North-South and global interdependence issues. It is linked to the nature of the GEW and its relation to Sustainable Development Goals.

The Czech public was able to join this European event for the third time, through the activities of nonprofit organizations which were involved in organizing the Global Education Week. During the Global Education Week, discussions, screenings, exhibitions, workshops for schools, seminars for teachers, and many other events took place throughout the country.

During the Global Education Week, Multicultural Center Prague held several public debates within the regular lecture series Migration School for Public. One of the successful events, the Arabic Peace Poetry Evening, took place on November 20th. The reading of Arabic Peace Poetry was organized in the framework of Poetry Day 2016 and the GEW. We followed up on the event from last year - „An Evening of anti-colonial poetry“. During the evening poems by Iraqi, Syrian and Palestinian writers were read (Abd az-Zahra Zaki, Fu’ád Muhammad Fu’ad, Júsuf Bú Jahjá, Ašraf Fajjád, Mahmúd Darwíš). Most of the poems had not yet been translated into Czech. Graduate students of Arabic studies at Charles University worked on the translations and the poems were presented by a professional actor and a native speaker of Arabic. The recitation of poems was followed by a lecture by Georges Yaku, a Syrian refugee, on the topic: „Woman in modern Syrian poetry.“ The event, which was attended by about 35 people, was also a fundraiser. The proceeds from voluntary admission were donated to support the Doctors Without Borders projects.
17 sustainable development goals were approved by all UN Member States in the autumn of last year. The sustainable development goals were created by all UN Member States, civil society representatives, business leaders, academics and citizens from all continents.

Do not forget to look at them at this link: http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/
seven years ago, when our school was offered to take part in the La Ngonpo project, we did not anticipate that in the coming years it would become a permanent part of our lessons. A colleague from Civics got me acquainted with the project when I started teaching at the school. The project inspired me not only because of the idea of multicultural cooperation with foreign countries, but also through a different approach to teaching, connected with the English language and the ability to communicate with pupils from very different cultures. So I started to teach according to the methodology and continued editing the thematic plan exactly as suggested in the modules in the La Ngonpo.

I thought from the very beginning that the project was very interesting and attractive for pupils mainly because they had the opportunity to write to students in foreign countries, mostly from India and Nepal, using a simple and intuitive website for the project. I would especially emphasize the user-friendly operation of the website, where as a teacher, I can easily check whether pupils signed up, or what task they completed. It is also easy to look up the portfolios of pupils, including their individual materials for different modules. Some students were writing a lot and became very involved in conversations with others. Pupils had to write in English, of course, which meant that I had to refresh my English vocabulary. This was also an opportunity for pupils to expand their own vocabulary and become more confident in English conversation with other students from abroad, they became more confident while working on tasks.

Thanks to the project I also learned to work differently in the class. The methodology is done in an unconventional way as pupils work in groups a lot, discuss and read. Therefore, reading literacy is also part of the learning, which could be welcomed by Czech language teachers. Pupils learn to reflect, to cooperate with each other, they learn a lot of interesting things, and not just by copying from the board, but in an active way, by creating content in groups. Every year, pupils are very glad to get to know other children, their way of thinking and seeing the world. It is not a problem in our school to use computers and other technology, so pupils are always surprised that this is not the case everywhere, that not everyone has the same opportunities and facilities as we do. Often pupils are also surprised by life-stories they encounter during the project. I am glad that this leads them to a deeper reflection on life and what really is important.

Among the topics discussed, I personally think that Hero and Migration are the most important. In the module Hero pupils work with the notion of heroism on a deeper level. I'm always excited when ordinary people who have helped someone, saved someone's life, achieved something, are able to win over comics and other supernatural superheroes. Thanks to the tasks in the module, pupils begin to understand the importance of the „ordinariness” of a person, which is sometimes more important than being rich and famous.
STEUDENTS FOUND A SHARED INTEREST

I would like to take this opportunity to share my experience and involvement in the project La Ngonpo at the primary school Nový Rychnov.

To begin with, it is necessary to state some facts about our school. The Nový Rychnov primary school is a smaller school with an average of 120 pupils. The teaching staff consists of eleven teachers, and school management is quite friendly and open to new projects.

I came across the La Ngonpo project completely by chance one winter evening when browsing the Internet. An advert from the movement Brontosaurus in the Himalayas jumped out at me from my computer screen. They were looking for volunteers for a summer job in a school in Indian Ladakh. The ad intrigued me. As a teacher with small practical experience I wanted...
I insisted that we discuss everything in English, but pupils had only limited vocabulary for some tasks, so they took longer and became less interesting for the children. The group dynamic is the main criterion in which a lot depends. In the English classes, the project was an obligation for pupils and some of them also approached it this way. Students showed greater enthusiasm in the voluntary after-class activity. If I’m lucky enough to become part of the project again, I definitely will attempt to run another after-class activity.

Each year our school was involved in the project La Ngonpo, I organized a special sleep-over for students at the school, during which we worked on tasks from the methodology with enough time and space provided. For instance, with one of the groups we studied the Water module which focuses on the issues of waste. It was very helpful that we could sit down and watch all sorts of documentaries on the Internet on this subject and vividly discuss possible solutions. To this day, when I meet former students from this group, they remember that special night with nostalgia.

Although I am now fully absorbed in motherhood and the related responsibilities, at the back of my head I secretly plan to return to school, and if possible join the project La Ngonpo once again.

Martina MATĚJŮ
primary school teacher
Czech kindergartens, primary and secondary schools and nearly two hundred other schools from Europe can currently boast to hold the title Global Action School. The Global Action Schools project aims at integrating global issues into teaching and overall school life. It promotes the activity and initiative of the students and their interest in what is happening around them through the motto: Think globally, act locally.

The philosophy of the project supports the education and preparation of students for real life in a globalized world and relies on a simple three-step methodology: 

**Learn - Identify - Act**

The basis for winning the title are active learners supported by educators. The certificate is awarded by the nonprofit organization People in Need (The Variancy Educational Program), in cooperation with the Multicultural Center Prague and ARPOK organization in Olomouc.

In the academic year 2015/2016 the main topics which the students worked with included: local food, family, poverty, environment or prejudices. Pupils organized a fair and a fashion show, which drew attention to the risks associated with the production of waste and the benefits of recycling. They also focused on smokers and drew public attention to problems associated with cigarette butt littering.

This year a total of 11 schools from different parts of the Czech Republic are competing for the title. We are looking forward to interesting topics students will work with this year.
ue to the choice of the topic „cigarette butts“ the initial school team was narrowed down to only 5 students. The Evangelical Academy, however, is a relatively small school and in the school year 2015/2016 the total number of students was only 89. Students came up with the topic gradually by considering waste sorting, recycling, food, and ecology. One of the students involved, Jan Lebeda, describes the choice of the topic: „The idea came quite last minute and it was actually by the end of a two-hour meeting. Someone said, „Hey, how about „butts“?“ And at that moment a cycle of events unrolled that led us to the certificate. We agreed that we would not fight against smoking as such, we let everyone decide that for themselves. However, what is left from smokers everywhere are cigarette butts.“ The very first impulse for choosing this topic was more aesthetic. During the research and deeper analysis of the topic, students, however, found out very interesting and not very positive information about other impacts of cigarette butt littering in the

STUDENTS FROM THE EVANGELICAL ACADEMY PRAGUE DREW PUBLIC ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH CIGARETTE BUTT LITTERING

With their project „A cigarette butt, what one can do with it, or cigarette butts belong in the trash,” students opened up the controversial topic of smoking and its impacts. The project was not, however, related to health risks, but the impact of cigarette butt litter on the environment.
countryside, at beaches, in water, and so on. Jan Lebeda says: „In Mexico City birds started to build nests out of cigarette butts. Is it OK? Definitely not. By throwing away a cigarette butt we cause an environmental footprint similar to throwing a lithium battery on the ground. A cigarette butt decomposes for 15 years, contains hundreds of carcinogenic substances that harm not only human health, but also nature.“

The students set two objectives: to get rid of cigarette butts scattered in their immediate area and around the school, and at the same time to inform the public about the effects of cigarette butt littering and encourage responsible smoking.

As a part of a public campaign, the students created a nature trail and a presentation in which they talked about the consequences of throwing away a single cigarette butt. However, billions of tons of cigarette butts are thrown away every year and they constitute, for instance, up to 2/3 of all beach waste. Wild animals often confuse cigarette butts with food, but they are not able to digest. The cigarette filter is made of cellulose acetate, which is a type of plastic.

The students tried to solve the second goal - getting rid of discarded cigarette butts - creatively. They made several wooden ashtrays, which they named „cigarette butt containers“ and placed them around the school, at the nearby bus stop, etc. Next year, the students plan to deepen cooperation with the Prague 4 district, particularly with the Department of the Environment. Jan Lebeda adds: „I am glad that Prague 4 authorities started to notice us and are aware of our presence, the presence of the EA school which is indeed the smallest, but can do a lot. Hopefully next year we can get information about the effects of cigarette butt littering to more people, so that they realize that we only have one planet and if we destroy it, nobody will give us a second one.“

Students preparing nature trail around their school.

Wooden ashtrays named „cigarette butt containers“
Do you know what SDGs are? Check out the website of the UN:

Would you like to share your thoughts about the project? Do you have any recommendations for us? Write to us, we will welcome your comments!

You’ve heard about us for the first time and you are interested in more information? Contact us at global.edu@mkc.cz

Do you lack an important topic in the newsletter? Do you know of any events within the GDE that you would like to share with other schools? Do you have any other comments? Contact us at: global.edu@mkc.cz