

DEMO DUO, the summer educational program of the Barankovics István Foundation has started



Demo Duo teacher staff in teacher in-service training module 10/19/2019

DEMO DUO is a brand new summer educational project of the Barankovics István Foundation. DEMO because it focuses on democracy, DUO because it is a collaboration of educators who are committed to education of a social view and students who are interested in social issues. The first part of the project will be 30 hours in-service teacher training on citizenship and competence development, while the second module will be a joint socio-camp with students in Gyula in the second half of July.

Barankovics's school of democracy

After 1945, the eponymous István Barankovics and so many other fellow-men, saw a chance for Hungarian society to make a turn and for the millions who had been restricted to exercise their political rights take control of their destiny. The model of democracy in his mind was based on the idea of personalism, and the prerequisite of good social organization was the guarantee of human dignity. He repeatedly stated that democracy was "true self-government of the people", a form of co-existence based on the principle of subsidiarity. In order for this to work, he saw the need to raise political literacy and prepare people to exercise their political rights. Today, 30 years after the change of regime, a sense of political indifference and incompetence can still be detected in Hungarian political culture, and we feel that the tasks of shaping the mentality of public culture outlined by Barankovics are still relevant.

For seven years, the Foundation's Teachers' Roundtable has been doing its utmost to support, through its educational means, the preparation of post-transition generations for social and public roles. Our self-developed educational social study competition, Online Democracy Activity, operated for over four years. Nearly 500 students, including high school students from the Hungarian diaspora, participated in the four rounds of the ODA - more popularly known as “teddoda”.



Demo Duo teaching staff during in-service training

DEMO DUO = collaborative knowledge building for a sustainable community

In our brand new pedagogical program, DEMO DUO, which we are debuting here, we will first share our experience of developing social literacy competencies with our teachers, then work with them to jointly evolve our socio-camp development goals and assign the appropriate methodological tools to achieve them.

The project' themes are democracy, issues of community co-existence and opportunities for social and public roles. Its aim is to contribute, through the means of pedagogy, to the development of a culture of civic mentality and to the strengthening of the values of subsidiarity. In our view, citizenship is not only a legal status that gives rise to rights and obligations, but also a set of values, specific attitudes and roles. When it comes to preparing new generations for adult roles, in addition to traditional school knowledge and cognitive content, we also include skills-development and demonstration of opportunities for active citizenship.

An integral part of our training philosophy is the learning outcomes approach, the foundation of actionable knowledge. We are not training social scientists, but want to develop skills that will equip young people for successful community roles, and also support them in shaping their successful individual lives. In our view, this requires going beyond traditional learning scenes and conventional teaching methods. Situations have to be created in which young people can try to play themselves in their future adult roles. In the socio-camp in Gyula, the DEMO DUO program guides young people along a path through the use of experiential learning tools and helps them to gain insights into democratic community life.



Lecture by Dr. András Krémer (SZTE), a sociologist on active citizenship.

In addition to face-to-face meetings, participants in our program stay in touch with each other virtually for four weeks through the DEMO DUO online cooperative space developed by Foundation staff. Teachers will be able to study theoretical and methodological materials on

the development of civic competences from the beginning of July, and students will be involved in communication from mid-July.

A specialty of DEMO DUO is that the teachers receive a certificate for completing the training, issued jointly by the University of Szeged, founder of the teacher in-service training program's first module, and the Barankovics István Foundation who organize the program.