

Проект за преиздаване на трудовете на доктор Лозанов,
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Source: „Proceedings from the International Conference on Suggestopedia“,
Salzburg, 1990
pages 257-259

ON SOME URGENT PROBLEMS OF THE SUGGESTOPEDIC CENTRES

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It is my sincere belief that the problems confronting us today are of vital importance. I am reminded of the situation in 1978, when a UNESCO-sponsored international conference was held in Sofia from 11 to 16 of December. Then, as now, some of the problems of organization and decisions were topical. The impossibility so far to maintain direct contacts or normal correspondence with our colleagues resulted in setbacks in the development of suggestology and suggestopedia. Allow me to start my presentation with excerpts from the UNESCO conference protocol published in USA:

J. of Suggestive-Accelerative Learning & Teaching, 1978 (3) 3

“Minutes of Conference for Suggestology

Dec.. 11-16, 1978, Sofia, Bulgaria

Prepared by

Donald H. Schuster, Chairman

Iowa State University

And

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New York Institute of Technology

Abstract

These are the minutes and recommendations of the working group of international experts at a meeting on Suggestology as a learning methodology held in Sofia, Bulgaria, December 11-17, 1978. UNESCO and the Bulgarian Ministry of Education jointly sponsored the conference. The invited participants presented their research findings and made recommendations to UNESCO concerning further large scale implementation of suggestopedia in the areas of research and experimentation, teacher training and suggestopedic centres. Complete proceedings are to be published later.“

“UNESCO“ is requested to give its support to all these proposed activities by all possible means and under the existing international regulations.“

These ideas for the future organization of the suggestopedic activities can be further developed in the following way: I feel that in certain cases trade activities, instead of assisting and promoting scientific research and implementing the latest scientific developments in suggestology and

suggestopedia are often far from the scientific findings. It would be worthwhile to try to bind science and trade through a bond of mutual help. This will encourage the setting up of an International Suggestopedic Association to do research on, and recommend the practical application of, individual resources. This Association can incorporate an international research centre, an international centre for training of experts in methods applied in suggestology and suggestopedia, and information and publishing centre, a department of university coordination of research programmes etc. The societies can be invited to participate in the Association which in turn may assist and promote their activities.

The participants can be asked to organize periodic sessions to discuss and coordinate their programmes. Research, for example, can be internationally planned, with each experimental group undertaking the study of a certain aspect of the suggestopedical resources so that eventually a complete picture can be formed. The general research can be done holistically, according to the suggestopedic principles, while the separate elements or countries will be studied as part of the whole.

If we succeed in uniting all colleagues and societies under this internationally coordinated programme, each will have to be self-supporting.

Irrespective of what we shall decide here and of who is going to participate, on an individual or society basis, we are prepared to start immediately with the education of the teachers from different countries. These will be given a certificate, as well as the necessary consultations or other assistance. I hope that this will meet our common interests.

We shall be expecting your comments and recommendations.