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Dear Readers,

I am pleased to present the first edition of the electronic newsletter of the Agency for Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Education for 2018. In the Agency e-newsletter, we will present the Agency work and activities for the past four months in a new different way.

Also, we are happy to announce that after the e-newsletter release, we will present our new redesigned official web site where you will find all relevant information on a daily basis.

The e-newsletter and the web site have been designed as user-friendly and they will offer daily information on Agency activities as well as the Agency documents and publications, and related material.

The Agency work is meant for the public use and wellbeing and we hope the e-newsletter will meet the needs of the readers in the best possible way in helping them find answers and required information.

In an effort to improve the quality of our services, we kindly ask you to share your experiences and opinions at info@aposo.gov.ba.

I truly hope that all readers will find valuable information in this and the following e-newsletters and that they will take a step further and participate in a newsletter creation by sharing personal views and opinions, what will give an added value to the Agency work.

> Agency Director Maja Stojkić



AGENCIJA ZA PREDŠKOLSKO, OSNOVNO I SREDNJE OBRAZOVANJE

Common Core Curricula for Physical and Health Area

The Agency for Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Education of BiH presented the document 'The Common Core Curricula for Physical and Health Area Defined on Learning Outcomes' at the conference held in Mostar on 13 March 2018.

The representatives of the professional community have learned about the document preparations, realization, contents and purpose.

At the conference, announced was also the pilot project which will be implemented in Herzegovina-Neretva Canton with the aim of creating a new and modernized curriculum for physical and health education, based on the presented document.

Methodological Training of Experts

The Agency held the fourth meeting with the working group on methodological training of experts for implementing the CCC defined on learning outcomes, on 26 and 27 March 2018 in Banja Luka.

The participants gathered to determine the goals of curricula and link the goals with the defined learning outcomes and key competences that permeate through corresponding indicators for a certain age of students.

The Agency plans two more meetings for the representatives of the ministries and institutions to be trained to use the new methodology in the process of improving the curricula based on learning outcomes.

Common Core Developmental Programs for Preschool Education

The first seminar of the working group for developing the common core comprehensive developmental programs for preschool education defined on learning outcomes will be held on May 14 and 15, 2018 in Mostar.

The Agency has already completed the development of common core curricula defined on learning outcomes for eight defined educational areas and teaching subjects within these areas correlating the indicators from the end of pre-school (5/6 years) to the end of secondary education. The development of common core comprehensive developmental programs for preschool education defined on learning outcomes is the final step in developing the complete Common Core Curricula.



PISA 2018



The Programme for International Student Assessment PISA 2018 began in Bosnia and Herzegovina on April 4, 2018. The research is carried out by the Agency for Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Education of BiH and around 7,000 students from 70 schools in Republika Srpska, 5 schools in Brčko District and 138 schools in the Federation of BiH will take the PISA 2018 test.

The Agency for Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Education is the centre for PISA 2018 assessment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The overall sample includes 236 schools across Bosnia Herzegovina while the testing will be administered in 213 schools.

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a triennial international survey which aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students in reading, mathematics, and science literacy. Apart from being very extensive, the assessment is not based on curricula and the reproduction of acquired knowledge but primarily draws on students' ability to apply knowledge and skills and to analyse, reason and communicate effectively as they examine, interpret and solve problems.

The PISA assessment has started in 2000 with the neighboring countries joining the study ever since 2006. Now, finally, Bosnia and Herzegovina has also joined PISA 2018 study, the seventh cycle of the assessment.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has launched PISA program with the aim of developing reliable and relevant indicators on student achievement with now 80 countries from all over the world participating in PISA

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2018 study.

PISA assessment is conducted in three-year cycles with the aim of assisting participating countries in making strategic decisions in the field of education based on empirical statistical data on students achievements. In other words, PISA detects weak corners of the educational systems and indicates direction to be taken towards eliminating these weaknesses and improving the education.

PISA results do not affect the assessment of the students and teachersthey identify the state of the education systems and education policy. The observed results of pupils and schools are not assessed individually- they are presented as the overall achievements of the students at the country level.

Considering that in BiH, apart from TIMSS 2007 study, there has never been conducted any comprehensive and high quality international education study, the participation in PISA 2018 assessment should provide, in a quality manner, a real picture of the education systems in BiH and pupils achievements, and offer indications to developing better education strategies.



TIMSS 2019



Bosnia and Herzegovina has already participated in the TIMSS study in 2007, not achieving high results.

In the 2007 study, 4,300 pupils from 150 schools took the test while 150 school directors and 724 teachers were evaluated indirectly. According to the results, Bosnia and Herze-govina took the 27th place out of 50 countries, and the average score was lower than the international average.

It will be interesting to track and compare the results that our students will accomplish in the second cycle of research that will be conducted in 2019.

The TIMSS 2019 research in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be carried out by the BiH Agency for Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Education in cooperation with the International Association for Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA), cantonal and entity ministries of education, and the Education Department of the Brčko District of BiH. Unlike PISA, which is not focused on school curricula and knowledge reproduction, TIMSS indirectly monitors teaching methods, its quality, as well as the ways of additional professional development of teachers.

A comprehensive analysis of the data resulting from this assessment should serve as a basis and incentive to improving the complete education systems, as well as to improving the working methodology and curriculum, as the disadvantages in these processes directly affect the results of the research.



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Meeting of Ministers of Education of FBH

The intergovernmental / cantonal meeting of education ministers of the Federation of BiH entitled "The quality of valid curricula -the needs and perspectives" was held in Medjugorje on March 25, 2018, at the initiative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The awareness of the need to change the existing curricula and use the system of competencies has matured in most of the Federation and the ministers who participated in the meeting expressed their wish to improve the existing curricula and readiness to cooperate with the Agency for Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Education of BiH when switching to the system of competencies. In addition to expressing support to the work of the Agency, the ministers also requested actual assistance in the implementation of the new methodology and learning outcomes.

The OSCE mission expressed its readiness to help their efforts and suggested holding a similar meeting with the representatives of the competent education authorities of the Brčko District of BiH and Republika Srpska.



• April 17 to 20, 2018

We participated ...

At the 6th international andragogic symposium. The main topics were the lifelong professional guidance of adult learners and the use of information technologies to improve the work of adult education institutions.

• March 6 and 7, 2018

At the regional EPALE conference, on the topic of "Research Practice in Adult Education", where proposals and suggestions for further advancement in research practice in adult education were discussed.

February 24, 2018

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At the seventh meeting / workshop of the working group for the development of standards of occupation for Catering technician occupation.

The Agency regional unit for secondary vocational education coordinates the process and work of the working group within the project 'Secondary Vocational and Technical Education in the Municipality of Tešanj - From Good to Better Practice'.

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