

ECNAIS CONFERENCE

Sofia, Bulgaria

Thursday 23rd to Saturday 25th April 2009

Benchmarks and Values.

The Educational Systems in Europe are challenged by globalization.

In Europe there is an increasing tendency to collect, publish and compare the statistical data produced by the measurable outcome of National educational systems, or indeed, of individual schools. This is the result of academic testing such as PISA and National age-based tests.

These results are being used by politicians and the public as the basis on which to compare the success or failure of the systems or the schools.

At the same time, there is a growing awareness throughout Europe, of the need for Values within societies and communities and a desire to preserve national cultural identities.

Independent schools have been dedicated to the promotion of values and the concept of the “whole child” as an essential part of an education.

This conference will consider the conflict between education to benchmarks or values, and how the Independent schools may achieve a balance between them within the framework of modern society and the demands of democracy and human rights conventions.

Thursday 23rd April 2009

09.00 – 12.00 **Management Committee Meeting,
and
Formal ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
(open for members only)

12.00 – 13.30 **Lunch**

13.30 – 16.00 **Pre-conference: The National School Association – objectives and
challenges**

Opening of the conference 2009

- 16.30 -** CONFERENCE, opening
Music
Welcome by the Chairman of ECNAIS
Welcome by the President of Bulgarian Association of Private Schools
- Bulgarian history and educational system: two invited Bulgarian speakers**
- 20.00 –** Dinner at Shipka Hotel

Friday 24th April 2009

- 09.00 – 12.30** School visits incl. lunch at the school
- 14.30** On “*Benchmarks*”
Mr. Anders Hingel
Head of Unit - Analysis and Studies
EU Commission
- Debate
- 16.15** Coffee break
- 16.45** On “*Values*” invited speaker
- Debate
- 18.15** Closure of the meeting
- 20.00** Official dinner

Saturday 25th April 2009

- 09.30** On “*Pedagogical approach to values in education*” invited speaker
- 10.30** Coffee break
- 11.00** Working groups: Reflections on the theme of the Conference
- 12.30** Conclusion and closure of conference
- 13.00** Lunch

14.30 **Departure to National Museum (optional)**

17.30 **Return to Shipka hotel**