

Report of the mission of the Secretariat of the project Educa in Belo Horizonte



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From 19th to 25th August 2012 the mission of the International Secretariat of the Educa project took place in Belo Horizonte. The Secretariat was represented by Deanna Margini, educationalist of the Institution of city crèches and schools for childhood, and by Mitia Davoli, educationalist of the Educational Workshop of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia.



In Brazil is the Municipalities' province in first place to play an active role in the field of compulsory and infant education.

The Municipal Councillorship for State Education (Secretariat of Municipal Education of Belo Horizonte) (SMED), is the body responsible for the education management within the municipality. The SMED distributes, executes, controls and evaluates the Educational Policy, with the participation of the people. The Family-School Forum, the school boards and the school assemblies, as well as the Town Council for State Education are organs that watch and take care of the social participation in education.

The Municipality of Belo Horizonte (BH) invests about 30% of the city accounts in educational policies. The purpose of BH, pilot city at national level as for the educational policies and the experimentation of new school programs, is the progressive growth of the resources set aside for education in order to attain the national average predicted by the Index of growth of the basic education (IDEB).

Considering the two subjects of Portuguese Language and Mathematics, which are evaluated according to the IDEB Index, BH places itself in third position at national level with a remarkable rate of growth in the last 3 years, thanks to the Integrated School Program and the Family School Program.

The Municipality's purposes are: to rise at 9 hours the frequency in all the schools of the city for the children from 6 to 14 years old, through the Integrated School Program, that is now activated only in some schools.; to generate favourable conditions for the inclusion of students with special rights within the ordinary school system; to invest for qualifying the professors' training and for the enhancement of the teaching within the public network.

The Municipality of Belo Horizonte has been committed for years to guarantee the quality of the education on the babyhood and in primary and secondary schools all over the local territory, both by opening since 2004 new buildings for the municipal Union of Infantile Education (MUIE), that reproduces and spreads over the city an architectural project and a pedagogic program that have been already tested, and by defining the conventions with private schools in order to involve them as resources for the Infantile Education and the Integrated School program.

Purposes of the mission of the Secretariat:

- To have the opportunity to collect elements and data for a direct knowledge of the reality of the schools and of the educational and social services in the West Region of the city of BH. This area has been chosen to be involved in the pilot actions arranged by the Educa project.
- To take part in the Forum on shared education, as educationalist of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia. It will be a week of training and mutual presentation on how the educational policies of the cities of Pemba and BH implement themselves as regards the services for the children, youth and families.
- To listen to the proposals of pilot actions that could be realized within the realities of BH and to elaborate together considerations and foreshadowing, keeping in mind the political aims of the project, the parameter of quality and the procedures with whom the pilot actions have to be defined, and finally to cast one's mind into the next international seminary that will take place in BH by 2013.

Program and course of the Mission of the International Secretariat of the Educa project

Monday 20th August

In the morning:

Meeting at SMED, brief meeting with the assessor Afonso Celso Renan Barbosa, who is currently in office. Presentation of the program Family-School by the project manager Flavia Juliao.

In the afternoon:

Opening of the Forum on shared education, presentation of the Educa project and pilot actions of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia at the Hugo Werneck school (attended by 633 students divided by 23, with 29 teachers). On this occasion has spoken Rosa Vani Pereira, the leader of the Educational Policy administration.



The office of the SMED



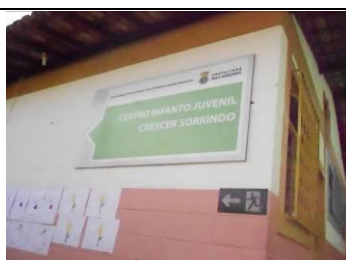
Rosa Vani Pereira, capo dell'articolazione delle politiche educative



Scuola Hugo Wernek



Apertura del Forum



Some images of the Infanto Juvenil "Crescer Sorrindo" Centre



Tuesday 21st August

In the morning:

Visit of the Infanto Juvenil Crescer Sorrindo Centre, daily frequented by 145 children who attend the School for childhood, and by 129 children who take part into the Integrated School program.

In the afternoon:

Forum on shared education - Cris Zelmanovists' report on the theme of communication between school and family.

Wednesday 22nd August

In the morning:

Visit of the UMEI Silvia Lobo, which hosts about 300 children from 1 to 5 years old, divided in 18 sections and coordinated by 29 teachers.

In the afternoon:

Forum on shared education- presentation of "Reggio Emilia as an educational society" and of the participated educational project towards the event "Reggio Narra" 2012.

In the evening:

Presentation of ideas for Pilot Actions in BH (restricted group).



Some images of the UMEI Silvia Lobo



Thursday 23rd August

In the morning:

Visit of the UMEI Grajau (attended by 55 children and coordinated by 5 teachers) and visit of the school Hugo Werneck (attended by 633 students, divided by 23 with 29 teachers).

In the afternoon:

Forum on shared education-
Presentation of the Experience of the UMEI Aguas Claras "Relation School, Family and Community" by Vania Michel, the directress, and Mária Cabral, former Pedagogic coordinator;
Presentation by Reggio Emilia "opportunities and educational services of the city of Reggio Emilia";
presentation of the Program "Integrated School" of the city of Belo Horizonte by Neuza Macedo; Presentation Experience "Integrated School Program" of the Hugo Werneck school by its responsible- Isa Miriam de Lima, community teacher.



Hugo Werneck school



UMEI Grajau



Forum on shared education
Presentation by Deanna Margini and Mitia Davoli
" Opportunities and educational services
of the city of Reggio Emilia."



UMEI Grajau

Friday 24th August

In the morning:

Visit of the Quilombo; visit of the CRAS (Centro de referencia da Assidstencia Social); visit of the Drumond school, that hosts 395 children divided in 15 classes.

In the afternoon:

Participation in the dance show for children and teenagers at the Palace of arts realized by the Grupo Corpo.

In the evening:

Return and evaluation, visit of the International Secretariat at the UMEI Timbiras.



UMEI Timbiras



Drumond Primary school



Social Centre CRAS



Palace of Arts

After the meeting of the coordinators of the EDUCA project, which took place in Reggio Emilia in December 2011, a group of work has developed in BH, which is dedicated to the project itself. The group is made of:

- Isa Terezinha Ferreira Rodrigues da Silva: leader of special projects "Educating City" and coordinator of the EDUCA/SMED project;
- Mayrce T.da S. Freitas: leader of the coordination of Infantile Education/SMED;
- Lilia Tupinà: person in charge of the program Integrated School/SMED;
- Cristina Castilho: member of the direction Infantile Education (SMED) and person in charge of the pedagogic accompanying in the West;
- Leila Maria Ribeiro Pinheiro: person in charge of the Conventions squad as for the Schools for infantile education and Communitary socio educational Institutions/SMED;
- Rosalia Diogo: member of the Ratial and gender relations squad/SMED;
- Flávia Julião: person in charge of the Family-School program/SMED;
- Aciléia do Carmo Sayde – Directress of the Education management of the West Quarter;
- Marília de Dirceu Salles Dias – Pedagogic Directress of the Education management of the West quarter;
- Lê Thị Bích Hương: person in charge of the EDUCA project – GVC Brazil

This group has worked in order to write the Assessment of BH, to visit and evaluate the schools and social centres in the West area, to present the EDUCA project to the West Region Management.



The welcome on the part of Le Thị Bích Hường, Isa Rodriguez da Silva and the whole group of work, who have followed the Secretariat during the days of the mission, has been great.

The program has been respected completely and it has been articulated during the mornings devoted to the visit at the Infant, primary and secondary schools and at the Centre for Social assistance (CRAS), as well as in the afternoons in which has taken place the forum on shared education, and in those dedicated to education and mutual presentation of services and projects. The people who are in charge of the Integrated school programs, Family-School programs, and Infant Education programs, have attended the course for the whole week, both of the SMED, both of the West Region.

The attendance of the forums that took place in the afternoons can be positively highlighted, since they have allowed the Secretariat to meet the people who work at the SMED and in those schools that will be involved in the EDUCA project, people consequently meet even directly during the visit in the schools or services in which they operate.

Moreover, the range and the quantity of the schools in which the Secretariat have had the possibility to enter, they have given the possibility to take and collect elements of knowledge of the territory of the West Region of the City and in particular of some quarters (the West Region has 285.000 inhabitants). Above all it was important to know how the programs of the Federal and State Minister and the city councillorship are translated and implemented within the school.



The forum that took place in the week of August and the visits, on the part of the secretariat, of the schools of which it has been supposed a self-promotion in the pilot actions were occasions in which the EDUCA project was presented to the referents of the schools, as well as an occasion of direct knowledge of the formal educational agencies in the West Region, on the part of the local coordination of the project.

During the last afternoon of the mission it was finally communicated and shared the calendar of the firsts appointments, that will take place in September and October, devoted to the arrangement and the development of the pilot actions.

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Within the hypothesis that will be proposed, the pilot actions will have purposes related to the city educational policies and they can be realized on two different levels:

- On a general level with the collection of elements in the field for the analysis and evaluation of the integrated school program, which has been started within some schools and that will be extended to all the schools of the city, as well as presented and spread at the federal state level
- On the level of some UMEI and primary schools in the West region, involved in the strengthening and defining consciously several activities which have been already activated, that led children and teenagers (and families in a future perspective) to frequent occasions and sites of the city which are devoted to education, thanks to the collaboration with groups of artists and the sponsorship on the part of the municipality.