

**Analysis of the second session of the Working Group "Education and Culture" of
GAMCON – Gagauzian Modernization Convention**

The II. Session of working group: Education and Culture was organized by Gamcon staff led by Mr. Dimitri Furtuna. The session was set up in premises of Komrat Gallery. The II. Session was well attended by about 30 local schools, colleges and civil sector as well as Ministry of Education representatives.

The session was opened by Mr. Dimitri Furtuna. The first presentation (in Russian) had Mr. Rodion Velchev, head of local Urban Center Comrat, NGO predominantly providing non-formal education programs for 14 to 19 years old students. His interactive presentation and accompanying discussion in which many participants were involved was focused on importance of non-formal education and in what extent the Gagauzian legal codex enables to implement such programs in existing schools (both elementary and high schools). Outcome of the discussion was (my observation):

- Legal situation in Gagauzia does enable to implement non formal education programs to schools
- Representatives of a few schools expressed interest to do so although aware of mental difficulties that needs to be dealt with
- GAMCON and cooperating partners (Urban Center Comrat) are open to support emerging initiative

Rodion Velchev presentation was excellent set up for my presentation stating two questions, namely (1) what is non formal education and (2) CS Lewis bilingual High School experience with implementation of the non-formal education into formal education curricula. My presentation (both in English) followed content

1. Urgent need for modernization of schools curricula that comes from the first sector (business), ill: situation in Slovakia and dual education
2. Need for individual focus in education (tutoring, couching and/or mentoring) in contrast to mass education (formal education) for both students and teachers as well
3. Non-formal education purpose: character development (Aristotelian and J.A. Comenius concept)
4. Short overview of implementation process in CS Lewis High School

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Discussion that followed presentation (both in English and Russian) showed high interest in non-formal education and ways how the non-formal education could be realized in the Gagauzian legal and social-cultural context.

In the session assessment with Rodion Velchev (Urban Center Comrat) and Dimitri Furtuna (Gamcon) and Samuel Goda (SFPA) after the meeting it was considered that meeting was successful especially in terms that innovation of the education process is hopeful. Steps that needs to be taken are at least as follow:

1. Gamcon, Comrat, will invite and organize in-between session meeting of the working group with interested schools to articulate conditions to make non-formal education possible
2. The working group will articulate list of specific steps that need to be taken to make the implementation successful on each interested school
3. The working group will come up with theme of following Gamcon session in spring 2018.

Author: Milan Cicel

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