



REPORT: Demo Debate and Debate Education „Public Debate in Local Community“ – SREDNJA ELEKTROTEHNIČKA ŠKOLA MOSTAR

Name of event: Demo Debate and Debate Education „Public Debate in Local Community“

Date(s) of event: October 21st 2013

Location of event: Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Activities (training, seminar, tournament, etc):

Number of participants: 27

Background of participants (type of school, age, ethnic background (if relevant) etc):

- students from Srednja elektrotehnička škola Mostar
- teachers from Srednja elektrotehnička škola Mostar
- CCD representative

Motions/topics/focus: BiH should repeat the census by European standards.

Describe what happened/what the participants did in a bit more detail:

Demond Đonko, teacher and debate coach of Srednja elektrotehnička škola Mostar introduced the students to the debate flow and topic. He pointed out that there will be analysis after the debate, which will include affirmative and negative argumentation line, with special reflection to upholding the rules of the debate format. Debaters made several deliberate errors in KPP debate format during the debate. Affirmative team started the debate with two members, and the third joined the team after the second speech, stating that he wants to help the team. Negative team gave information for which they did not provide sources. After the debate, Mr. Đonko asked the question if the audience recognized the errors during the debate. Most of the members of the audience said they think that joining of the third member of the affirmative team was a mistake, and the rest of the mistakes were not noticed. Debate coach said that there were errors which were hard to spot if one does not write flow sheet, which is an obligation for both debaters and judges. It was stated that each team must provide sources for any given information. If there is no source, the opponent team can easily refute the offered argument. Argument ad hominem (argument against the personality) was also presented to the present audience, even though the teams did not use it during the debate. The use of this argument in BiH debate program is sanctioned with disqualification of the debater from further competition. Argument ad hominem is an argument where the person who uses it directly offends the personality of the opponent (Example: „You are stupid!“) and in that way tries to refute the arguments of the opponent team. The students who were present stated that through public debate and lectures given by Mr. Đonko they have been able to learn that the debate is not a mere discussion, but a clearly organized argued discussion with set rules which have to be obeyed. They especially emphasized the sanctioning of ad hominem argument as a positive practice.

Remarkable things (quotes, publicity of the event, impact on participants or public, reception, etc): After the debate and education were held, the participants continued the discussion about the arguments and evidence offered through informal discussion. Also present at the event was a former student of Srednja elektrotehnička škola Mostar, Armin Böhm, who said: „I am happy to stay in touch with debate through this event. Debate helped me to gain additional knowledge during my high school education, and helped me to understand and apply critical thinking and analysis of the social and political situation in BiH. This is why it is much easier for me to analyze any event, than it is for my colleagues who aren't included in the debate program.“

Lessons learned (if any): Participants were introduced to basics of KKP debate format with special emphasis on the proper course of the debate.

Please add 1-3 pictures of the event to the email.

Please provide a link to any video material or photo albums of the event.

<https://plus.google.com/photos/113541358515683056572/albums/5938393681891281825?authkey=CO--4Kix1cyl0gE>