

Constitutional protocol of a Permanent International Interuniversity Group of Comparative Research in Politics and History and Theory of Education.

Constitution and Research Aims of the Group – The undersigned professors, reunited at the University of Ferrara (Italy), on February 24, 2014, agree to constitute themselves in a Permanent International Interuniversity Group of Comparative Research in Politics and History and Theory of Education. The Group assumes the following denomination: Society of Politics, Education and Comparative Inquiry in European States (SPECIES, a Latin word for “beauty”).

The aims of the Group are:

A) To promote research in Politics and Comparative History of Education in the European Countries with the aim of contributing and stimulating comprehension amongst the different cultures, which historically were part of the European territory and amongst those with which European countries had relations.

B) Potentiate, with particular attention to Comparative Research in Politics and History of School, as a formative institution of the different nationalities, the study of the aspects concerning the European dimension of education.

C) To spread the results of researches through congresses, scientific meetings, publications and all other possible means.

D) To establish international relations amongst universities of the participant members with other national and international institutions, with particular regard to those within Europe.

E) To plan research interventions and the utilization of the scientific competences of the SPECIES to set up international programs for Ph.D. students and formative courses on Politics and History of Education.

F) To constitute working groups on common topics in order to prepare the biennial/triennial meeting of the Group.

I) Scientific aspects – The research field of SPECIES is fully devoted to the European general context and will relate with cultures with which European context has maintained historical links.

The SPECIES will pay special attention to the studies on Modern and Contemporary History, i.e. from Enlightenment until the present time.

The comparative analyses could be carried out amongst countries, regions of the same country or of different countries between Europe and cultural extra European areas.

SPECIES will study both formal education and underlying political choices and non-formal and informal aspects of education. In the domain of the first sector, the SPECIES will mainly analyze school politics, the system institutional nets, the introduction of educational systems in pedagogical innovations and the social and cultural consequences of the above aspects. Moreover, the contributions of the

different national educational systems will be studied for setting-up an image of European realities, as well as the other influences, both educational and pedagogical amongst the different countries, which compound the context that is the object of research.

SPECIES will take particular care in the historical perspectives, which at present involve gender role. Attention will be also appointed on intercultural exchanges, migratory phenomenon, on linguistic and ethnic minorities and environmental education and others.

In research programming, the objectives and the comparative theoretical and methodological criteria will be rigorously settled, on the ground of a permanent epistemological approach.

II) Organizational aspects – Each country will be represented in the constitution of SPECIES by a maximum of six members. If a country has not six members can associate with another or more countries in the same condition and to build up a mixed group. The members present at the meeting in Ferrara are considered by all respects founding members of the permanent research SPECIES. Other researchers could be invited or accepted under request, until the maximum pre-established number of components will be reached.

When necessary, namely in the case of meetings or congresses, the SPECIES could take advantage in inviting other scholars, as long as each national team remains of no more than six members. SPECIES is then structured in various national teams.

SPECIES is open to other European interested countries and their presence is hoped for and appreciated.

Inside SPECIES a Coordinating Committee will be elected. It will be composed by one Member for each of the countries. That same Member will also act, as the Coordinator of his National Group. A General Coordinator, elected by the Group, will represent the Group itself in the relations with the various institutions and will be the executor of the agreed proposals. The office of General Coordinator will be renewable every three years, in the occasion of the scientific meeting of the Group. A turnover of scientists, belonging to the participant countries and in a circulatory manner, will be applied in the case of the election of the Group General Coordinator.

Consequently each national Group can autonomously manage its activities, looking for financial resources, obviously with respect to the general, cultural orientation of the Society. At least every three years, a scientific meeting will be organized on a topic of common interest. Date and topic of the meeting will be decided with sufficient advance. In the name of SPECIES a national group organizes a biennial / triennial meeting, with the charge of its organization. In that meeting, participation of top level experts in the chosen topic could give their contributions, within the limits established by the Group. On behalf of SPECIES, a National Group will be charged for the organization of the biennial/triennial meeting. Without a specific periodicity, the Group is allowed to organize congresses, or symposia, opened to all researchers interested to Politics and Comparative History of Education. The academic organization of those events will

be always on charge of SPECIES. The Group could invite, as speakers, scientists outside the Group. The results of the researches carried out will be the object of monographic publications, in accordance with the Group's most advisable decisions.

The Group will submit research projects to the European Cultural Offices and to other international organizations. Research projects, however, could be also submitted to other national organisms, as universities, cultural foundations, etc.

French and English will be the languages for the internal management of SPECIES. These languages will also be used in all respects: in publications as well as in the scientific exchanges amongst the Groups.

Full agreement on this Protocol is expressed by the undersigned professors:

Prof. José Antonio Afonso, University of Minho;

Prof. Alessandra Avanzini, University of Milan

Prof. Luciana Bellatalla, University of Ferrara

Prof. Giovanni Genovesi, University of Ferrara

Prof. Piergiovanni Genovesi, University of Parma

Prof. Antonio Gomes Ferreira, University of Coimbra

Prof. Edwin Keiner, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg

Prof. Iveta Kestere, University of Latvia

Prof. Margarida Louro Felgueiras, University of Porto

Prof. Elena Marescotti, University of Ferrara

Dott. Damiano Matasci, University of Génève

Prof. Maria João Mogarro, University of Lisbon

Prof. Luís Mota, School of Education of Coimbra

Prof. Joaquim Pintassilgo, University of Lisbon

Prof. Paolo Russo, University of Cassino

Prof. Philip Simon, University La Sorbonne – Paris IV

February, 24th, 2014