

Abstract

Nadire Mustafi

Islam and Citizenship Education

The growing number of Muslim children in Austria is a particular challenge for the Austrian education system. Quite often children with migrant background- especially Muslim children and youth - are excluded or even isolate themselves, which makes it difficult for children to identify themselves with the country they live in and its norms and values. Often teachers are overwhelmed because they are not very familiar with the children's cultural and religious backgrounds.

To avoid potential disadvantage many parents choose Islamic private schools for their children. Once more children are isolated from the greater part of society and have no access to the pluralistic and democratic values of the indigenous society.

Thus it is crucial to create offers within the education system, enabling the Muslim youth to participate in shaping the future.

The main objective of the project *Islam and Citizenship Education* is to show the Muslim youths ways to participate individually within the Austrian society without it affecting their religious beliefs.

Not only would the Muslim children be prepared for an equal, social and political participation, but so would their teachers and educators. Fear of contact should be eliminated and meet democracy as a lifestyle.

Values such as ability to self- and codetermination, ability for solidarity, ability to cooperate, fairness and tolerance are the core principles of the project.

In three steps, project partners will be searched in private and public schools and will receive education in teaching according to a comprehensive curriculum created by specialists.