

Research on Religion and Education in Europe The REDCo Project



The REDCo (**R**eligion, **E**ducation, **D**ialogue, **C**onflict) project is funded by the European Commission Framework 6 initiative. The project's website is at <http://www.redco.uni-hamburg.de/web/3480/3481/index.html>

REDCo is a 3 year project (2006-9) involving universities from 8 European countries (England, Germany the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Estonia, France and Spain).

The English contribution comes from Warwick Religions and Education Research Unit at the University of Warwick.
<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/WRERU>

The project is co-ordinated by Professor Wolfram Weisse of the University of Hamburg.

The English team is co-ordinated by Professor Robert Jackson of the University of Warwick.

The project aims to establish whether studies of religions in schools can help to promote dialogue and reduce conflict in school and society.

The main research is focused on young people in the 14-16 age group, but there are also some studies of teachers and of religion in different educational systems.

Core studies include:

- a mapping exercise of religion and education in Europe (Jackson, Miedema, Weisse & Willaime 2007)
- a qualitative study of teenagers' views on religion in schools (Knauth *et al* 2008)
- a cross national quantitative survey of young people's views in the 8 countries (to appear early in 2009)
- studies of classroom interaction (to appear early in 2009)
- a study of teachers of religious education (to appear early in 2009)

A variety of individual studies has also been undertaken in the different countries.

The English team has produced an evaluation of a project on inter faith dialogue by email in primary schools (McKenna, Ipgrave & Jackson 2008)

In addition, a group of practitioners from the English team (teachers plus teacher training and CPD providers) have been working as a 'community of practice', conducting action and practitioner research studies using the key concepts from the interpretive approach to design ways of improving practice in religious education. A book based on these studies will appear in 2009 (Ipgrave, Jackson & O'Grady forthcoming).

The project's books are published in paperback in English in the series 'Religious Diversity and Education in Europe' by the German publisher Waxmann (<http://www.waxmann.de/index-e.html>)

The full European project team will be working at the University of Warwick in late November.

On Thursday November 27th the project team will be putting on a public event at Warwick, with some short presentations by the project team, an exhibition of materials and information about the project and a display of the project's publications. The event will take place at 4pm in the Lecture Theatre, Westwood campus, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL. If you would like an invitation to this event please contact Ursula McKenna on u.mckenna@warwick.ac.uk

Publications

Jackson, R. Miedema, S. Weisse, W. & Willaime, J.-P. (Eds.) (2007) *Religion and Education in Europe: Developments, Contexts and Debates*, Münster, Waxmann.

Knauth, T., Jozsa, D.-P., Bertram-Troost, G. & Ipgrave, J. (Eds) (2008) *Encountering Religious Pluralism in School and Society: A Qualitative Study of Teenage Perspectives in Europe*, Münster, Waxmann

McKenna, U. Ipgrave, J. & Jackson, R. (2008) *Inter Faith Dialogue by Email in Primary Schools: An Evaluation of the Building E-Bridges Project*, Münster, Waxmann.

Ipgrave, J., Jackson, R. & O'Grady, K. (Eds) (forthcoming) *Religious Education Research through a Community of Practice: Action Research and the Interpretive Approach*, Münster, Waxmann.