



Globalization and Education

Joint Working Group of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences



The Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences are jointly sponsoring a workshop on Globalization and Education which will take place November 16-17, 2005. The focus of the workshop will be to find an educational project for an increasingly globalized world, based on our current bioanthropologic knowledge of the human being within the context of the diversity and interdependence of cultures, the interculturality and universality of ethical values, the role of communication technologies and the new migration patterns. The goal of education is to prepare young people to live well with others, knowledge being considered essential for this purpose. In every community, education has always been deeply rooted in culture, tradition and in the 'project on man' carried out by this group. From these roots will derive its detailed and complex organization. The issue of education implies an answer to the question: what can we do to improve the life of the present and future generations? Today, after globalization, we are aware that many aspects must change to improve the well being of all: climate, health, the economy, the family, social environment, national and international institutions and the democratisation of the mass media. A globalized world and its driving forces are posing new challenges to education for families, schools, universities, lifelong training. This first Workshop shall focus on school education, which should transmit knowledge, enhance justice, prepare the future and preserve the diversity of cultures. Firstly, globalization will have to be defined in its most relevant aspects. Secondly, its impact on education may be discussed along several broad lines: respect and tolerance for others, based on knowledge; understanding and preservation of cultural diversity, including languages; the economics of education, especially in the developing world; the role of science and of the social sciences as a knowledge of universal

value; the place of religions; the new tools for communication; the understanding and managing of the planet; the mixing of populations through immigration. The two-day Workshop will be organized with keynote speeches, followed by presentations and a general discussion. To better focus the Workshop, the sixteen speeches are organized along these six axes:

1. New approaches to education in the globalized world;
2. The role of communication and information technologies;
3. The effects of globalization on education;
4. Education of immigrants and their children;
5. Education and cultural diversity;
6. Anthropological bases for education and research.

The goal of the Workshop is to launch a first discussion on this vast programme and reach a statement which could help inspire and derive global models for education contents in the future.