



# ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES IN EDUCATION

International Step by Step Association 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
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Education for Social  
Justice in the Step by  
Step Network: A Case  
Study





## Presenters:

Sarah Klaus (OSF, UK)

Sanja Handzar (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Eva Koncokova (Slovakia)

Jelena Vranjesevic (Serbia)

## Case Study Researchers:

Jelena Vranjesevic (Serbia)

Linda E. Lee (Canada)



# Background

- **Step by Step Case Studies**

- The case study completes the set of case studies done to document the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Step by Step Program, launched in 1994 by the Open Society Institute (OSI)
- Intended to document best practices within the Step by Step network
- One important area not addressed > Education for Social Justice (ESJ)

- **Case Study**

- Two researchers, one from Serbia and one from Canada
- Support from a Coordinating Committee



# Education for Social Justice (ESJ)

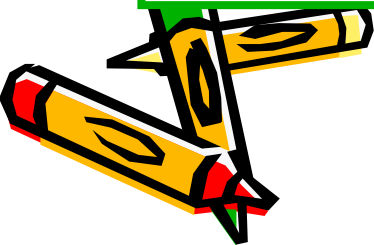


- What is ESJ?
  - ✓ Adult anti-bias (ESJ) program (*developed by OSI and currently implemented by ISSA*)
  - ✓ Educating for Diversity: ESJ Activities for Classrooms
  - ✓ Second language acquisition program
  - ✓ Related ISSA initiatives



# The Step by Step Program and Equity Issues

The Step by Step program promotes and supports equal access to quality education for minorities. Teachers in Central Asia incorporate minority cultures into classrooms. Programs in Southern Europe address the needs of refugee children and the fallout from war.



# ESJ CASE STUDY



- **Focus Questions**

- ✓ What personal or professional issues motivate people to participate in ESJ?
- ✓ What challenges are faced by those involved in ESJ?
- ✓ What is the impact of ESJ on those participating in ESJ activities?



# Methodology

- Approach
  - ✓ In-depth understanding of a situation through people's stories
  - ✓ Reflective in nature
  - ✓ Primarily qualitative
  - ✓ Emergent



# Methodology

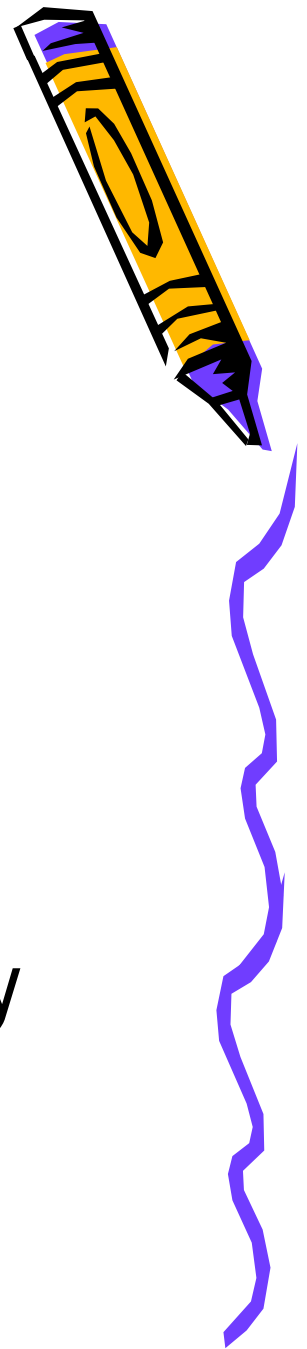
- Interviews
  - ✓ 16 Country Directors
- Interviews and Written Responses
  - ✓ 17 ESJ Trainers



Interviews Identify Two Places for Site Visits



# Site Visits – Many Voices!

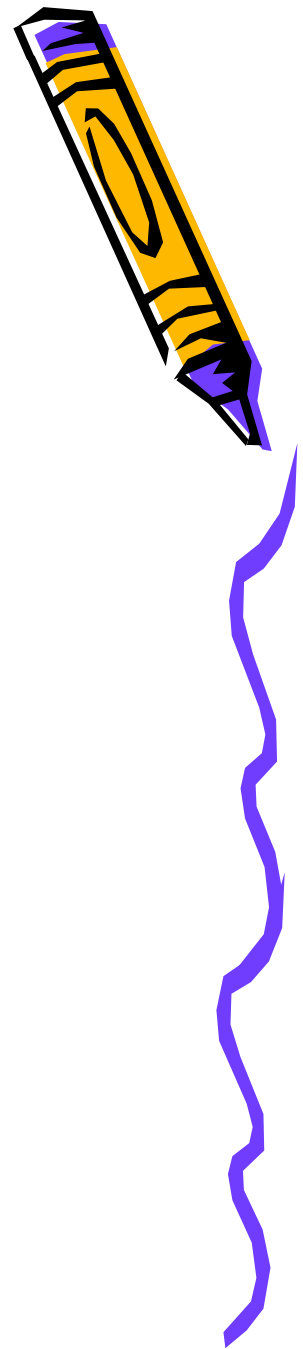
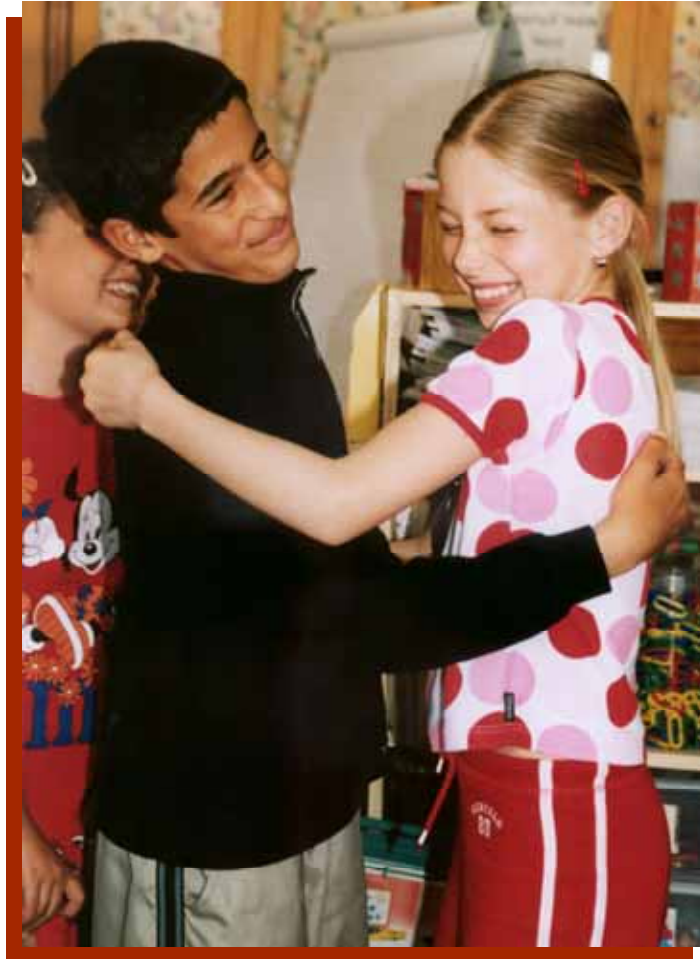


- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
  - ✓ Elementary School, Sarajevo
- **Slovakia**
  - ✓ School and Community, Smizany



# What's next?

1. Site Visits
2. Emerging Themes
3. Questions and Discussion



# Thank you!

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