

## **smkt•seminar 03.30.002.06**

**Title:**           **Improving High School and Student Performance**

Structure and organization of High Schools in Central Europe. Content and syllabus of Secondary School curriculum, education and further training of teachers. A comparative study of the systems in the Czech Republik, Slovakia and Austria.

**Dates:**           12 – 21 September (Spanish)  
                  26 September – 05 October (English)  
                  17 – 26 October (English)  
                  21 – 30 November (English)

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**Participants:**   High School Directors, specialists and educational officials, educational scientists, High School principals and teachers, representatives from school boards, school authority officials, parental associations, officials from governmental school authorities.

**College:** This intensive seminar will be held at

**smkt•colleges  
Cemac Tuskulum College**

**Lukov**

**Czech Republic**

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smkt•colleges invites you to participate in this unique seminar in our Czech Campus in Zlin, Czech Republic. During the seminar you will be visiting and meeting with education officials in three European countries: Czech Republic, Slovakia and Austria.

What can we learn from the Czech Republic? In the United Nations and OECD's last global reports on high school performance ranking as well as students individual learning success results, Czech schools and students turned out third best in the entire world, only topped by Korea and Japan!

By studying their education system and analyzing the high school curriculum, we will be able to compare to our American standards. Meeting with education officials in the national ministries as well as exchanging experiences with fellow practitioners, high school principals and teachers in the different European countries we will visit, we will be able to get new ideas and adapt some of our own practices for the better of our school and students.

Don't miss participating in this professional development tour. Visit with us the important capitals Prague, Bratislava, Krakow and Vienna!

Our aim of this education delegation is to obtain a higher performance of our school and each student.

The objectives of this study tour are :

1. Analyze and understand different European education systems
2. Visit High Schools in different countries and exchange experiences and ideas with foreign colleagues.
3. Collect new ideas that may help to boost the performance of our own students and school
4. Establish links and exchange programs with schools in European countries

## **Useful Information**

Language of the seminars: The conferences are held in Czech with consecutive translation in English.

Accommodations                      The Tuskulum hotel is part of the college and of high category (\*\*\*) .

Meals:                                      All meals (breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks and dinner) are included.

Fee:    The fee for the seminar is 2.600 US\$

Not included are the flight and travel insurance.

Travel companion:                      Travel companion pay the whole price and have the right to assist all the events and visits.

Tentative program

**Day 0**  
**Thursday**

Departure from the USA

**Day 1**  
**Friday**

Around noon: arrival at the international airport of Prague, Czech Republic.

12:00 Shuttle to Tuskulum International College in Lukov

16:00 Arrival at the college's hotel and checking in

17:00 Conference Module (I):

I.1. The academic director of Tuskulum International College presents the seminar program and the following week's visits and conferences to the participants.

18:00 Creativity Module (IV)

IV.1. Icebreaker Game: the participants loosen up, get to know each other and get more familiar. The group is split into team-work groups, each group is getting an individual work.

19:00 Creativity Module (IV)

IV.2. Participants are introduced to each other in a presentation group.

21:00 Culture Module (III)

III.1. Welcoming cocktail with snacks at the college

## **Day 2**

### **Saturday**

08:00 Breakfast

09:00 Conference Module (I)

I.2. Brainstorming session.

What are the participant's expectations of the seminar? A round of definition of key words will assure comprehension of issues across language borders.

11:00 Conference Module (I)

I.3. History and development of High School education in the Czech Republic. Changes in education from era of World War II to the communist era, comparing with today's situation since fall of iron curtain.

This key note lecture will set the scene and lay the basis for the upcoming days.

Tasks for the work-groups.

13:00 Light lunch buffet at the college

14 :30 Contact Module (II)

II.1. A walk through Lukov. We tour Lukov with its 1600 inhabitants as an example in order to analyze the infrastructure of a typical Czech village.

Visit the educational institutions, the kindergarten as well as the High School and other institutions.

16:30 Creativity Module (IV)

IV.3. An effort towards team building. Equipped with questionnaire the teams go on treasure hunt.

Later, time for the teams to prepare a concept and plan for their final presentations.

19:00 Culture Module (III)

III.2. We visit a local distillery where homemade spirits are served.

Here we will try the most typical czech's dishes.

## **Day 3**

### **Sunday**

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Creativity Module (IV)

IV.4. Free Morning. Having the morning at one's disposal with the possibility to visit a local Church service at Lukov.

11:00 Conference Module (I)

I.4. Discussion with the Dean of the faculty of educational sciences of the university of Brno. How is today's school reality in the Czech Republic? What is similar to the US ways of instruction?

13:00 Light lucheon at the college

14:30 Conference Module (I)

I.5. Workshop with representatives of the Czech Parents' Association. What are students and parents worrying about? Discussion and exchange of experiences.

17:00 Conference Module (I)

I.6. Workshop with representatives of the teachers' union . What are the requirements to Czech teachers? What are the wishes of today's lecturers in the Czech Republic?

By this series of workshops we will be able to understand the Czech educational system with all its aspects and under different perspectives.

Distribution of materials of different associations and groups of teaching and instructing in the world in order to include them into the working of the groups for the final presentation.

19:00 Creativity Module (IV)

IV.5. A walk to the famous castle of Lukov, where we will enjoy a return into former times with a medieval dinner. The most courageous participants are invited to chose their weapons for the tournament.

## **Day 4**

### **Monday**

07:00 Breakfast

08:00 Leave towards Zlin

08:30 Contact Module (II)

II.2. Our first visit in Zlin will lead us to the public High School. There, the groups are distributed in several class rooms and we observe and take part in classes. Although we will not have a translation we will be able to observe and to analyze Czech's school reality in a very direct way during 45 minutes.

11:30 Culture Module (III)

III.3. Visit the city of Zlin, the world's cradle of shoe manufacturing industry. Visit the Bata museum, where we learn about this man and great inventor, to whom that country owes its industrial success in the beginning of the last century.

13:00 Light luncheon at the Bata canteen.

14:00 Leaving towards Brno

15:00 Contact Module (II)

II.3. Visit the faculty of educational sciences. Meeting with teachers and students. Exchanging experiences. How are the progresses of High School performance? How are future teachers prepared to their tasks?

What is the role of further education for teachers and how is it organized?

17:00 Return to Lukov

18:00 Contact Module (II)

II.4. An official welcome by the Mayor and Lukov's political authorities. Presentation of Lukov, visit the town hall. Discussion about the political system and the cooperation between politics and the educational system.

20:00 Creativity Module (IV)

IV.6. Dinner and tasting of Czech's wines at the college's hotes, followed by an evening to relax and consider about the past meetings and visits in the work-groups. This evening also sports attractions of the college will invite you to take part of them: the swimming pool, the tennis court and the turkish bath with sauna.

## **Day 5**

### **Tuesday**

08:00 Breakfast

09:00 Conference Module (I)

I.7. An important official of the National Educational Ministry of Prague shows us a series of ideas and concepts being a contribution to Czech school system. Together we try to find answers to questions like: What is the objective of school lesson? Which should be the contents of school curricula? What is the thematic extent in topics at high school standards? Is a co-existence of public and private schools fruitful?

The participants are developing ideas and concepts in the work-groups.

Distribution of texts and tasks to the work-groups.

12:30 Light luncheon at the college

13:30 Culture Module (III)

III.4. Visit the city of Luhacovice with its thermal waters and rehabilitation centers.

One of the most distinguished spas in Europe.

Tasting the healing waters. Informative talk about its effects on health and cure.

16:00 Contact Module (II)

II.5. Visiting Luhacovice's private school. Meeting with the director, teachers and parents, hearing about private classes in the Czech Republic. A visit of the establishment and its institutions invites to an exchange of ideas.

18:00 Return to Lukov

19.00 Culture Module (III)

III.5. At Lukov's old brewery we will expect a typical evening meal and we will taste the beer at this location that has been restaurant as well as brewery since more than 300 years. The author of the village's chronic lets us know about Lukov's history and antique stories...

## **Day 6**

### **Wednesday**

06:00 Breakfast

07:00 Leaving towards Prague, the capital of the Czech republic.

11:00 Contact Module (II)

II.6. Visit of the federal Ministry of education. Meeting with the minister and his deputies. Possibility to establish co-operation between schools in the Czech Republic and in the USA. What are the visions for instruction in the Czech Republic? What are challenges by globalization?

13:30 Culture Module (III)

III.6. We will have lunch at Plzen restaurant together with the Czech authorities. Here one eats in an exceptional and unique architectural ambient. After lunch we visit the "golden town", one of the most beautiful capitals of the world, also called the town of thousand towers.

16:30 Creativity Module (IV)

IV.7. Free time to everyone to discover this city on his own. The main square invites for souvenir shopping. Possibility to visit the famous Jewish cemetery.

19:00 (to confirm)

Official reception of the delegation by the US ambassador.

Dinner.

21.00 Return towards Lukov.

00.30 Arrival at the hotel.

## **Day 7**

### **Thursday**

08:00 Breakfast

09:00 Departure to Slovakia.

11:00 Contact Module (II)

II.7. We visit the High School at the Slovak city of Martin, where we will have the opportunity to compare the two school systems and to see how they have been changing since the separation of Czechoslovakia into today's two independent republics. Are there notable changes? What kind of co-operation between both countries does exist?

13:00 Culture Module (III)

III.7. A typical Slovak meal, prepared by a family of agriculturists on their farm, gives us the possibility to learn more about the reality of this originally agricultural country, which still is finding difficulties in incorporating themselves into a permanently changing world, 10 years after the fall of the iron curtain.

15:00 Contact Module (II)

II.8. At an assembly with the Slovak Prime Minister of Education we will ask about the objectives of High School education in this country and we will notice what are ideas for the future of Slovak education.

17:00 Leaving towards Zlin, Czech Republic

19:00 Culture Module (III)

III.8. Visit the Zlin's film studios. A lot of international films have been and still are filmed in Czech's studios. The director Stanislav Zacha invites us to take

part of a guided visit of this complex that is known for its production of children programs.

Dinner at the cinema's restaurant.

## **Day 8**

### **Friday**

07:00 Breakfast

08:00 Creativity Module (IV)

IV.9. A space of free time given to the teamwork groups to summarize their experiences and to prepare their final presentation for the next day.

09:00 Conference Module (I)

I.8. A workshop about language teaching at school. Where should the instructions begin? Should the English language be preferred as an universal language or should the neighbour's languages be preferred? Comparing the situation in other countries, comparing with the situation in the USA.

11:00 Departure towards Vienna, capital of Austria

Lunch (sandwiches) in the bus

14:00 Contact Module (II)

II.9. Visiting the university of Vienna, the educational faculties.

At an assembly with experts in education we learn details about Austria's school system and the historic influence on the neighbour countries during the era of the austro-hungarian empire. Discussion with austrian educators.

17:00 After a short visit of the city by bus we will return to Czech Republic.

19:00 Creativity Module (IV)

IV.10. On our way to Lukov we will have dinner in the village of Mikulov. This village is the Czech capital of vine-growing.

We will taste the local wines at the vine cellars.

22.00 Return to the hotel.

## **Day 9**

### **Saturday**

08:00 Breakfast

09:00 Contact Module (II)

II.10. Round table with colleagues and experts met during the seminar for discussions and further exchange of ideas, for deepen certain topics, for finding answers to certain questions and for establishing specific links.

11:00 Conference Module (I)

I.9. Our key note speaker resumes the seminar and answers any open questions. In this last discussion conclusions are drawn from the lived experiences and ideas are gathered to be taken home for an enrichment of our schools and our students in USA.

13:00 Culture Module (III)

III.9. After a light luncheon we will visit the production of sweets at Lukov, which will serve us as dessert.

16:00 Conference Module (I)

I.10. The Academic Director addresses the participants, initiating their integration into the smkt e-learning community. The study groups present their findings of their teamwork exercises.

The College Dean hands out the Certificates to the participants.

20:00 Culture Module (III)

III.10. Solemn Farewell dinner in the gala hall of Lukov.

**Day 10**

**Sunday**

08:00 Breakfast

9:00 Transfer to the airport at Prague or Vienna.

Return to the USA.