

Report on
Workshop
“Introduction to Economics and Interactive Methods of
Teaching Economics”
for pre-university teachers.

Prepared for:

National Council on Economic Education
Cooperative Education Exchange Program
Alumni Projects program -2008-2009
Six-day Introductory Level Workshop

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Participant selection, category and their participation.

Like previous year, Economic Research Centre defined certain criteria to select economics teachers for the workshop this year too. These criteria dealt with following aspects: involvement in courses raising professional skills, participant teaching experience, regional representation, and age limit (no older than 50 years), knowledge of languages (Russian and English), and gender balance. (See att. 7) The Centre, having made an appeal to the Ministry of Education in this respect, achieved its objectives. There were selected 28 participants to participate at this training.

This year for the selection of participants we officially addressed to the Ministry for Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan for help and received positive feedback. Thus, the Ministry instructed Head Consultant of Common Education Department on village districts, Sabir Hamidov to get in touch with Educational Departments of Guba, Gusar, Khachmaz, Davachi, Siyazan districts to take appropriate steps towards selection of participants for the seminar. After the selection, they addressed list of participants to the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Economic Research Centre with official letter. As a result of this process, 25 participants covering Guba, Gusar, Khachmaz, Davachi, Siyazan districts were selected to attend the seminar. In order to make the seminar venue more available and convenient for participants one of the leading schools of Guba district was selected. The seminars were conducted at the conference hall of one of the leading schools of Guba districts of secondary school #4.

During the seminar participants were provided 2 coffee-breaks between sessions and a dinner. Moreover, transport fees (to seminar venue and back) were provided. After the seminar, each participant received a Certificated for successful participation.

This year also there was provided pre-seminar orientation for workshop participants at the office of Economic Research Centre and the event was joined by

officials of Ministry of Education. Workshop requirements and expectations were made clear and questions the participants were interested in got answered. The workshop agenda was distributed to the participants (*See Att. 6*), agreement documents were signed and participants were introduced to transport means, participation rules, clothing style, and security guidelines. Their proposals were taken into account as well. Orientation results were discussed between workshop organizers and participants followed by relevant modifications made to the program (for instance, handouts were prepared in two languages –Russian and Azeri- considering education background of some participants in Russian).

There were also representatives from educational bodies, who took active participation at the training.

(Copy and content of certificate attached, please, see Att. 2).

Background on Trainers.

Two trainers were invited to the workshop. The first represented Khazar University, Professor Fuat Rasulov and the second one was Deputy-Chairman of the Economic Research Center Management Board, Mr. Vusal Gasimli. The Ministry official acted both in the capacity of observer and teacher in the course of the event. Moreover, about 10 economists, teaching economics at higher institutes of education took part at this seminar.

Seminar schedule and Teaching Content.

Seminar content was based on CEE methods and it was entrusted to the staff of 3 people who conducted NCEE seminars. 2 of them (Fuat Rasulov and Vusal Gasimli) worked on the content, while another 1 person (Anar Bayramov) had to address technical issues.

The seminar was one stage covering 2-8 January, 2009. Seminar attendees were broadly introduced to seminar goals, requirements and evaluation ways, CEE activities and programs and the presented teaching components encompassed selected chapters from introduction to economics, micro- and macro- economics, international economics, especially teaching methods of economics, practical lessons on modeling and business games arranging. These topics were educated via

the team based games, tested in various situations and upon differing conditions and inter-team competitions.

A few other notes were made clear as to the copyright belonging to CEE in the distributed handouts and seminar attendees were instructed to use those materials only in the auditoriums.

Seminar Delivery ways.

The exercises embodied active and interactive methods of economic education For this purpose combined teaching and modeling methods were chosen. Of modeling issues, «Stock Exchange», «Market», «Pitsa Up» games were preferred by participants most. In order to assess teaching skills of attendees during the course of the event, micro classes were arranged and recorded in videotapes. During the later review of the classes, each class was separately analyzed and its merits and demerits were compared. Class results were graded.

The part of seminar on macroeconomic topics was done through presentations. Presentations were on «GDP», «State Budget». An Olympiad was conducted at the end of the seminar and the winner was awarded. Pre- and post-tests were applied to compare attendees' knowledge level/. The last session concluded the event and results were evaluated and evaluation sheets were distributed to assess the complex effect of the seminar. (See Att. 3) They answered the questions in the sheet by points. Questions were about teaching, economic content of the event, teaching methods, organizers' contribution, trainers' contribution, circumstances the event was held in. They were requested to express their proposals and complaints in the evaluation sheet. Every participant filled out the questionnaires.

There were held two tests within the training. That gave chance to find out level of knowledge of the participants. (See Att.5)

Bu hisseye diqqet yetirin, ve muvafiq deyishiklikleri edin.

Proposals and Concerns.

Summarization of participants' evaluations says that most of them wish the seminar duration to be longer and held on a regular basis. Another proposal made by the participants is preparation of a book by trainers, the content of which will be

more accessible for both teachers and students than the ones they do have now.
(See att. 3)

Public effect of seminar.

Seminar results were published in the monthly newsletter of the Economic Research Center. (See Att. 4)

Future Plans.

It is already the fourth year that ERC has been holding seminars on “Interactive methods of economic education” with the methodical and financial support of CEE. During the last event, it was decided to set up an Alumni network between previous event participants and those of the last one to share the gained experience in a broader scope.

Considering the interest of some participants, they were recommended to take part in NCEE’s 2008/2009 program of Training for Economic Education Trainers/. Thus the ERC pursues to expand the pool of trainers.

Program Coordinator

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