

Civic Coalition **STOP HIGH-RISK SEX EDUCATION**
CESI – Center for education, counseling and research
Nova cesta 4
10000 Zagreb
Tel. 01/24 22 800
Fax: 01/24 22 801
E-mail: cesi@zamir.net
Web: www.zamirnet.hr/stoprso

Ministry of Science, Education and Sports
Attn. **Minister Dragan Primorac**
Trg hrvatskih velikana 6
10 000 Zagreb
Fax: 01/4617 962

**THE CIVIC COALITION «STOP HIGH-RISK SEX EDUCATION»
OPEN LETTER
TO THE MINISTER DRAGAN PRIMORAC
ADDRESSING THE PROCEDURE OF PURCHASING THE HEALTH EDUCATION
PROGRAMS**

Zagreb, 24th October 2007.

Dear Minister Primorac,

By following the media reports (Večernji list, Irena Kustura, 17th October 2007.), it came to our attention that the spokesperson of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports Mr. Pavićin confirmed that Ministry started the procedure of purchasing health education programs offered by the Associations Grozd and Forum for Freedom of Education. We would like to take this opportunity to **insist, in the interest of the public and the in the interest of the transparent expenditure of public funds that you, in accordance with the Law on the Right to Access Information, make available, to us and the public, the decision which brought about purchasing of the afore mentioned programs.**

In you public appearances during the past few months you committed yourself, to **consultation with the Ombudsperson for Children and the Gender Equality Ombudsperson** during the process of final decision-making. At the same time taking into account the highest European and world standards of protection of human rights and the rights of children. If such consultations did take place, we feel that it is your duty to, in the interest of the public, **publish the results of those consultations, in other words, the opinions of the Ombudspersons on the final, altered version of both programs sent to your Ministry.**

Further on, since in your Communication to the Public of 12th September 2007 you negate your competences and authorities in the evaluation of the responses to the comments of the Committee of the Ministry for Science, Education and Sports, made by the Associations Grozd and Forum for Freedom in Education, **you confirmed that the Ministry of Science will take in consideration, fully, the opinion of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and will take further steps, accordingly".** Therefore, we **insist that you provide the public with the insight in the final opinion of the Committee responsible for this issue in the**

Ministry and that you notify the public whether the comments of the Committee, considering the scientific and expert opinions, have been taken into consideration in the altered versions of both programs,.

Since the public wasn't presented with the final decision of the Ministry of Science considering the acceptance of the programs, or the opinion of the Committee of the Ministry of Health or the relevant Ombudspersons, we are free to conclude that it means the programs have been purchased in contradiction with the procedure that is prescribed by the tenure and your statements on further procedure on this issue. We would like to remind you that according to the Regulation on the submission of the suggested experimental health education programs in elementary and secondary schools it is stipulated that "the programs that the Ministry accepts will be purchased according to the criteria of the Ministry". **The purchase of the programs which is NOT based on the decisions of the Ministry on accepting the programs, and in accordance with procedures** that was made by the ministry itself (and which includes forming of two Committees within two Ministries, and in addition you committed yourself to the approval of the Ombudspersons), **is in contradiction with the democratic principles of good governance, especially the principle of responsible expenditure of public funds.**

In the case that your Ministry made a final and official decision on accepting these programs, we insist that you, in accordance with the propositions of the tenure **publish your final decision on the web site of the Ministry, along with the criteria for the choice made, the final opinion of the Committee of the Ministry of Health, the opinion of the Ombudsperson for Children and the Gender Equality Ombudsperson, the altered versions of both programs and the amount of public funds that both organization will receive or that has already been paid for the programs offered.**

WE feel that any other manner of purchasing and at the same time accepting the health education programs offered is **legally void, financially irresponsible and not democratic, and therefore an unacceptable result of the attempt to introduce health education in schools** that has been going on for three years.

We would like to add that a translation of this open letter has been delivered to the interested members of the Working group on Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS and Development in the European Parliament, who requested the Civic Coalition Stop high-risk sex education to regularly report on the issue of the introduction of sexual education in Croatian educational system.

Respectfully,

for the Civic Coalition
STOP HIGH-RISK SEX EDUCATION

Nives Miošić-Lisjak
Member of the Coalition board

Marina Škrabalo
Member of the Coalition board

To the attention of:

The media

Minister Neven Ljubičić, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Ombudsperson for Children, Mila Jelavić

Gender Equality Ombudsperson, Gordana Lukač-Koritnik

Forum for Freedom in Education

"Grozd" Association