

DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC (IN ENGLISH)

State the objective of the project, describe the research to be carried out, and present reasons for choosing the research topic - max. 1 standard type-written page

The aim of the project is to investigate the assumptions on which the first alternative social schools in Poland were established, who created them, for what reasons, and how they have evolved over 25 years of Polish democracy. My preliminary research shows that the communities establishing these schools were focused around innovative social ideas, so one should also examine what vision of a human being was present in the assumptions lying behind the schools, and the vision of a person in a new political and social system. I would like to focus on Waldorf School founded in Warsaw in 1992 by a group of anthroposophists, parents and young teachers inspired by western pedagogy of Rudolf Steiner. Waldorf Schools grew out of the idea of anthroposophy, in Poland, however, it fitted significantly into the specifics of culture of democratic breakthrough, and began to be an interesting proposal for unstable times. I would like to carry out ethnographic interviews among people involved in the formation of the school to examine its glocal functioning – analyze what new items were added, and how they were given the "Waldorf character." To compare it I am planning to conduct a research in one of the central Waldorf schools (Dornach or Stuttgart). I would also like to carry out interviews with graduates, analyze articles written about Waldorf schools, and conduct participatory observation in the first Polish Waldorf School. Because a number of community schools were created in the 90s, and the topic was widely discussed, I would like to define the subject of my study as educational social movement, developed mainly under Social Educational Society. Therefore contextually I am researching other schools that have grown within the societies exhibiting characteristics of social movements in the Polish Peoples Republic (counterculture, humanistic psychologists, Solidarity). The reason of choosing the topic is a will to research upon the role of educational social movements and their schools in Polish democratic breakthrough and their influence on Polish democracy.