



## REPORT: Online debates „Debatology“ November 2013

**Name of event:** Online debates „Debatology“

**Date(s) of event:** November 2013

**Location of event:** Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Activities (training, seminar, tournament, etc):**

**Number of participants:** 1751 hits, 62 debater responses.

**Background of participants (type of school, age, ethnic background (if relevant) etc):**

Participants in Debatology are high school and university students from across BiH and countries of the ex Yugoslavia.

**Motions/topics/focus:**

Topics directly regarding the EU or in which debaters used proofs regarding the EU in November were:

Advertising rental and sale of „earpieces“ should be prohibited by law?

Who does not correspond to the adoption of the Law on juvenile offenders in FBiH according to the European standards?

Protest of Hungarian students about dress code is justified?

Promotion of graduates without their parents being present is justified?

Female bullies from MSS Tuzla should be sent to prison or correctional facility?

Participation in extracurricular activities should bring extra ECTS credit in universities?

Schools should have a larger responsibility for prevention of juvenile delinquency?

**Describe what happened/what the participants did in a bit more detail:**

The most popular topic in Debatology during October, with total of 348 visits, was about the advertising of rental and sale of „earpieces“. One group of debaters claimed that advertising and sale of earpieces should be forbidden by law because it is fraud which is punishable by law in other European countries. Second group of debaters said that the incriminations of sale and advertisement of earpieces would be futile because it would not produce the wanted results – reducing cheating in exams. This attitude was corroborated by the fact that there are numerous ways to cheat and that the ban against advertisement of those who want to sell the equipment for cheating will only point them into different way of advertising, which is less available to the wider public.

Who does not correspond to the adoption of the Law on juvenile offenders in FBiH according to the European standards is the topic to which debaters had the best arguments in November which made this topic second most visited, with total of 142 visits. Debaters mostly brought out the argument that the current political situation in FBiH does not support the adoption on law according to the European standards, because it means the reform of the complete infrastructure for exercising this law, which asks for large amount of finances.

The third most read topic was about the additional ECTS points for students engaged in extracurricular activities in universities, and it had 243 visits. The affirmative side's most used argument was that extracurricular activities mean presentation of the university and that students use their free time to contribute to the positive promotion of their faculties, which should be awarded. It was stated that this practice exists in

other countries in the world and that it motivates the students to do the quality work and to be dedicated to extracurricular contents. Negative side said that extracurricular activities are based on students' free will and that there is a reason why they are called "extracurricular", because they are not connected to the regular educational curriculum. It was explained that it would be unfair if the student who is good at sports and goes to faculty which has nothing to do with sports gain extra credits which would release him from passing one of the obligatory exams in his faculty.

The winners of online debates in November were: In the first competitive week "StefanL", in the second and third week "sm", and in the fourth week amra96, which made "sm" gain the title of the best internet debater for November. CCD contacted "sm" and asked for his contacts in order to deliver him the award and to present his participation in Debatology through an interview.

**Remarkable things (quotes, publicity of the event, impact on participants or public, reception, etc):**

Competitive topics in November pointed out the importance of argumentative debate about the problems in educational system of BiH, in order to encourage young people to seek the solutions to the problems in the examples of positive practice in EU countries and in order to create positive changes in BiH educational system on the initiative of young people. The students who formerly gained the title of best debaters were also participating in the debates, and they continued to research and share their attitudes, which prove that Debatology gained a constant circle of readers and users and has become recognizable in promotion of culture of dialogue and argumentative discussion on the internet.

Especially significant was the fact that in November there were debaters in Debatology whose schools and faculties are not members of Centre of Cultivating Dialogue and who did not have the opportunity to be introduced to the importance of formal debate, which proves that there is widening of culture of communication as a method of exchange of opinions and its popularity in the wider public.

**Lessons learned (if any):**

- Awareness about the necessity of BiH educational system's reform according to the EU standards was raised
- Wider public had the opportunity to understand the importance and potential of argumentative and formal debate in solving the problems
- Young people realized that the argument is only valid if it is founded in research, and not personal opinion
- Debaters pointed out the relevance of the sources through the debates, based on which they gained opportunity to learn what is verifiability and reliability of the information on which they base their arguments
- Through the participation of young people from across BiH and countries in the Region, Debatology contributed to breaking prejudices and barriers among young people, because it proved that only in debate the strength of the argument is valued and that debate necessarily means tolerance to different attitudes

Please add 1-3 pictures of the event to the email.

Please provide a link to any video material or photo albums of the event.

Topics for November can be found at: <http://studomat.ba/forum/index.php/board,383.0.html>

