

**aces**

Academy of Central  
European Schools

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Bosnia and Herzegovina /  
Bulgaria / Croatia /  
Czech Republic / Hungary /  
Kosovo / Macedonia /  
Moldova / Montenegro /  
Romania / Serbia /  
Slovak Republic / Slovenia

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**aces** is an initiative of  
ERSTE Foundation

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coordinated by  
Interkulturelles Zentrum

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in cooperation with  
VČELÍ DOM

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[www.aces.or.at](http://www.aces.or.at)

# Academy of Central European Schools

Supporting dialogue  
and cooperation of  
young people

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# THE INITIATIVE

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**aces** is an initiative of ERSTE Foundation within its programme “Europe”.

The programme aims at supporting the establishment of a Central European network of schools. It is designed to enable and enhance a sustainable dialogue and cooperation of young people and to create a continuous network of shared knowledge, mutual learning and innovation.



## **Partner countries**

Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic and Slovenia are involved in the network.

## **Support**

The initiative is supported by the Ministries of Education from all participating countries. The coordinating unit is Interkulturelles Zentrum in cooperation with VČELÍ DOM.

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# THE PHILOSOPHY



## European citizenship – A Soul for Europe

**aces** supports innovative ways of teaching and learning in Central Europe in order to contribute to the process of European integration and the promotion of European Citizenship.

Schools can play an important role in opening up the perspectives of young people beyond the borders of their own country towards a common Europe, based on joint values like the state of law, personal freedom and human rights.

\*Further Information:

**Council of Europe**  
[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

**Unesco**  
[www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

**European Commission**  
[www.ec.europa.eu/citizenship](http://www.ec.europa.eu/citizenship)

**aces** invites schools to contribute to the cross-border dialogue on European values and concepts and to become a vital part of a shared vision of Europe.\*

## Learning for tomorrow

**aces** offers concrete possibilities to take part actively and to discuss European values and topics with peers from abroad. Young people are supported in establishing personal contacts, developing friendship across borders and becoming acquainted with varying perspectives and different ways of thinking.



Besides stimulating the practical use of foreign languages and the motivation to learn even new ones (e.g. “neighbourhood languages”), **aces** welcomes the use of modern communication technologies. Students and teachers may profit from it and create a common space for learning and intercultural dialogue from which knowledge and various competencies emerge.



## Schools as learning organisations

**aces** addresses schools with their potential for developing educational quality and innovation. “Learning schools” get inspiration by comparing themselves with others from abroad: different models of school management, the respective role of leadership or unfamiliar approaches and new methods for the classroom may serve as valuable resources for the own development.



Moreover, the “European dimension” exceeds the limited national tradition of education, it raises the awareness for the diversity of positions and attitudes and deepens the understanding of the complexity of Europe and the globalised world.

# SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

As international school partnerships offer a concrete opportunity for intercultural exchange and co-operation **aces** encourages partnership amongst schools in Central European countries.

Teachers and students (aged 12-17) of schools in the participating countries are invited to find partner schools and to submit a partnership project proposal with their ideas for cooperation.

## Call for project proposals 2011

When work doesn't cost anything, it often isn't appreciated either. Therefore, one aim of the European Year of Volunteering 2011 is to increase the visibility and value the commitment of people working in their free time without being paid: Peers supporting those with learning difficulties in schools, concerts in old people's homes, young and old engaging in initiatives that protect the environment or fight discrimination...

Everyone can volunteer; and apart from personal satisfaction it also provides important learning opportunities. Thus, the overall theme of the **aces** call 2011 also is **"Building bridges in societies - volunteer in your communities!"**

Detailed information on the theme, the contest rules and the straightforward submission procedure on [www.aces.or.at](http://www.aces.or.at)

The deadline for submission is 30 April 2011.

An international selection committee then evaluates and awards the best applications. The winners are supported in carrying out their cross-border partnership projects.

## Network events

International meetings with delegations of the winning project schools, e.g. the Academy, provide a platform for exchange, evaluation and further educational development.

# INFORMATION & CONTACT

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## Information

[www.aces.or.at](http://www.aces.or.at)

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## Interkulturelles Zentrum

Reinhard Eckert & Christine Gamper,  
*Project Coordination*  
Lindengasse 41/10, 1070 Vienna, Austria  
T: +43 (0)1 5867544-42,  
[reinhard.eckert@iz.or.at](mailto:reinhard.eckert@iz.or.at), [tine.gamper@iz.or.at](mailto:tine.gamper@iz.or.at)  
[www.iz.or.at](http://www.iz.or.at)



in cooperation with



## VČELÍ DOM

Danica Lacová, *Executive Director*  
Trenčianska 57, 821 09 Bratislava,  
Slovak Republic  
[danica.lacova@vcelidom.sk](mailto:danica.lacova@vcelidom.sk)  
[www.vcelidom.sk](http://www.vcelidom.sk)

**aces** is an initiative of



**ERSTE Stiftung**

## ERSTE Foundation

Knut Neumayer, *Programme Director*  
Friedrichstraße 10, 1010 Vienna, Austria  
[www.erstestiftung.org](http://www.erstestiftung.org)