



## ITTP-21CS

### Integrating technology in the teaching process, path towards building 21st century skills

#### Salih Demirci

Coordinator of the Turkish partner school

By Lenart Sušnik and Maša Kotnik, GSŠRM Press Group

Kamnik, 11th March 2019

**Lenart:** You look quite young. How old are you, if I may ask?

**Salih:** 26.

**Lenart:** How much did you have to study to become a professor?

**Salih:** I am the teacher, not professor, at the high school. I had to study 4 years. After that I had to pass some exams for public schools and I got the paper from government that I am qualified to teach. In our case the headmistress of the school doesn't select teachers, we have different system.

**Maša:** When I was in Istanbul at the international private school I tried to find some differences between oriental and European schools but I didn't have any chance to see it. How does the school system in your country differ from the European and how is that connected with the political situation?

**Salih:** For example, our grade scale is from 0 to 100, you have 1 to 5, Romanians 1 to 10, Portuguese 0 to 20. In our case, the curriculum lacks some of your subjects due to the spatial limitations, for example, our students don't learn musical instruments. As technical school we only have 3 labs, not as many as you have and that is an obstacle. Turkey is high populated country, there is 2 million people in Slovenia in comparison to Turkey's 82 million inhabitants and 3 million refugees. Their children go to Turkish elementary schools, they learn Turkish language and I think they will stay in Turkey after 10 years in Turkey. In Sultangazi elementary school we have around 6000 students, they are usually in foreign classes. Our community was not prepared for that

situation. There are some very good private schools parts of Istanbul, where you have to pay some tuition fees but books are free of charge at all the schools.



**Lenart:** Next question is more of political nature. Recently we have had a lot of negative reports in media about Turkey because of conservative politics. For example, is it true that in schools they don't teach evolution anymore?

**Salih:** I think evolution is an obligated part of biology lessons in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, for technical schools it is not. I also learned that when I visited elementary school.

**Lenart:** Has the religion a lot of impact on the school system?

**Salih:** Recently yes. We have religious schools. You have some lessons and they learn Arabic. Some schools have 2 Arabic lessons weekly. But they don't learn just about Islam, other religions are also included.

**Maša:** Our school took us into cinema, the whole generation, where we saw the documentary made by Turkish director, which was about changes in the school system because of conservative leaders. Is it true that in public schools in rural areas parents are taking girls from school and keep them at home to learn how to cook?

**Salih:** Actually not. The east Anatoly part of Turkey is very conservative, some of that is true, but this is not the case in Istanbul which is Mediterranean and open minded. All girls go to school,

maybe there are some parts where they not do and I cannot say that that didn't happen in the past. Every Turkish child should have 12 grades of education.



**Lenart:** I think this is not necessary. We have rural parts in Slovenia and children have to work at farms. They finish the elementary school and they stay at home. The education is not priority for them.

**Salih:** It's the same in Turkey.

**Maša:** Now the final question. The general stand of Turkey is according to media, that they eventually want to join the European Union. Do you think that you have to adapt the school system to European standards in public schools in rural areas?

**Salih:** That's impossible. We can't do that. We have many other obligations. European Union is our dream but is not going to happen for 80 million people, that's hard. Actually, some parts of Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and some other parts are like Turkey.