



Comenius sessions – Valencia autumn meeting 2015

Tuesday, 29th of September 2015

19.00 – 20.00

1. Opening:

Geneviève Laloy (President of the Comenius Association):

- presentation of the programme
- Why there are two sessions: Klingenthal: reflexion; autumn: get to know the institutions and to work on the content: coordinators AND teachers together
- Thanks for the welcome at UCV and CV. 26th edition of the autumn meeting. Importance of those meetings. 1992: first autumn meeting in Valencia
- Languages: the CA will try to have as much as possible in two languages.
- topic of the meeting / journal
- introduction of all participants
- call for presentations for the next sessions (international weeks, staff weeks, special Erasmus programmes, workshops...)
- call for experience in Key Action 2 (accepted or refused) and Key Action 107 (international dimension – partners outside Europe)

Pablo Vidal (UCV; vice-rector for international relations)

- Official welcome: Teacher training as flagship of the university. UCV is one of the foundation members of the CA. Thanks to the Comenius Association, UCV has become an international institution
- Valencia: 2nd on the list of European destinations of Erasmus students
- Practical information on the programme
- Introduction: Rachel, Iris, Anna, Alex

Juan Maria Senent: Living history of the CA → cf. attachment

Alex Rose: Practical information about the meeting

Wednesday 30th of September 2015:

Catholic University of Valencia:

Welcome by Maria Catret (Dean): Introduction of the Faculty of Education
Responsibility and opportunity to create a better world: important role of teacher training

Lola Lopez: Spanish school system

Starting with recent PISA results, Ms Lopez held a presentation on current issues of the Spanish education system.

Development: link to changes in political system (PSOE <> PP), each new government had their special emphasis on education.

The development of the private and semi-private education sector was also mentioned as well as the following emphasis on diversity, higher proceeding standards, then linking the schools with the “world outside” and splitting the curriculum into core and autonomous parts ending by external evaluation at the end of primary & secondary schools and pre-university courses.

This was followed by a view on the current status of the system (primary, secondary, pre-university courses, in connection with university access assessment) and critics on the current legislation as recently discussed in Spain.

11:30 Seminar: teacher training and Social Education at UCV (see pdf of ppt)

Vicente Gomar, Vice-Dean for Research

Dionisio Yanez, Vice-Dean for Primary Education

Alex Rose, Moderation: He presented the history and development of the UCV as well as current structures and studies.

Development of the UCV (EDETANIA 1969 > UCV 2003)

240 ECs Master of Primary or Early Childhood Education, of which are 50 ECs for internships.

The UCV has same plans for internships for early childhood and primary education; there more than 1000 schools and other institutions linked to the UCV for internships

Project “One to one iPad”, started in 2014, is one of the flagship projects of innovation within UCV.

Social Education: there are lots of projects within the studies to prepare the students for their later work with elder people. The students have 3 days at the university and 2 days in internship.

Question: Where is the project developed: at the university or rather in schools?

This depends: Sometimes schools or institutions have demands, then a project is developed by the university. Students implement it under the supervision of the academic staff in the respective institution.

The presentation ended with an outlook on the upcoming goals.

Discussion:

Maria, Blanquerna: Social Educators as bridges between families and teachers

Jakovie: How is the research organized in social education? > The Master Thesis is mostly the first step into research as research is rather optional within the studies.

Kia: Links between teacher education and social education students? Students from different degree programs are linked if required to work together.

Piet: How do you manage the relationship with the 1000 schools? There is a commission of about 10 person in contact with these schools.

15:00 Tamar Shuali – The role of social educators in Spain

There is a framework for the practice of social education: sociology, political science, ... - as large is the field of action for social educators. There is a difference between social worker (rather technical/administrational) and social educator (rather close to the people, empathetic). Social workers have no governmental job description, the role has no legal basis which causes conflicts between different disciplines.

There are about 11.300 social educators actively working in the fields of gender, youth, community development, minorities, disabled or senior citizens in Spain. They are working towards a social change so they are rather educated in project design than in writing essays. There is also an emphasis on empathy for minorities as well as changing situations. Tamar reported a project called "education for cooperation" where students got into contact with NGOs to then present them to scholars.

Conversation about social educators in the various countries

Presentation of Colegio Fuensanta (see pdf):

This is a school with a huge group of gipsy children. Several successful actions were shown (co-teaching, classes for parents, support in the classroom).

Kia/SWE: Where are the fathers? > It is difficult to change the cultural background, in gipsy culture it is deeply stuck that children education, housekeeping and things like that are totally female.

Chantal/BE: Plurilingualism: How cope with difference between home and school language and how detect home language? > There is no perfect answer, you need patience, empathy and interest.

Presentation of the Colegio San Vicente Ferrer (see pdf)

The projects should tell the children living in difficult conditions that there is a world around them that offers them some opportunities. They work with emotional education: Children decide on projects they realize, things that they like, that they can manage what supports their self-esteem. They also organize school trips founded by charity. After a school trip some children don't see e.g. English as a language any longer, it is rather something kind of lifestyle they want to achieve. It is very difficult to adapt to the regular curriculum, they have to focus on certain things of the

curriculum but they have to select. As they are a small and familiar school, there is a lot of cooperative work.

Remarks: Kingston: Teacher trainers and schools can not be made responsible for the decline of economy. PISA and the centralization of the educational systems all over Europe are part of a neoliberal agenda.

Wednesday – 17.00 – 19.00

2. International Comenius Weeks and other short exchanges

Geneviève Laloy presents the general principle of the Week

- finance
- reciprocity
- deadlines

Antwerp (December 7 – 11): Student based, but lecturers welcome. “Creativity in Education”. Small group: 15 incomings only.

Louvain-la-Neuve (February 1 – 5): “Relationships north – south” / “Sustainability Development”. If no reciprocity, 30 Euros per week for the coordination. Languages: both in English and French. Teachers are welcome.

Haarlem (February 8 – 12): “Miscellaneous”; e-mapping project. Teachers are welcome.

Liège (February 15 – 19): “Let’s integrate the differences” – same programme as last year, including the refugees topic.

Barcelona (February 29 – March 4): “a school for everyone” – inclusion. Accommodation: youth hostel, paid by the students; 15 international students in total

Catholic University of Valencia (February 29 – March 4): site: Xativa. outside Valencia “New methodologies, new technologies, new schools. Costs: 50.- Euros for material; accommodation for free. Teachers are welcome.

Madrid ESCUNI: (February 29 – March 4) “Socialize, gain and win” – videogames, facebook; accommodation: 1:1 Teachers welcome

Mechelen (March 7 – 11): “Drama”; lecturers welcome

Thomas More Kempen: “International Days” (March 8 – 11)

Winchester (March 21 – 25): “Harmony at School”. Max 15 students; accommodation 100 Pounds.

Paris (March 29 – April 1): confirmed! Inclusion and individual programmes – language: French

almost only

Stavanger (April 11 – 15): outdoor education – max: 20 students; mutual exchange if possible; often Erasmus students share rooms. Mainly for pre-primary and primary.

Schwäbisch Gmünd (April 18 – 22): Europe / diversity; teachers and “apprentices” welcome. Accommodation for free if on a reciprocal base.

Santarém (April 18 – 22): Accommodation: free if on a reciprocal base. If not: 8 Euros per night at the students residence or 15/20 Euros at the youth hostel.

Kolding (April 24 – 29): “Imagine, Create: Danish pedagogy” mainly Kindergarten and primary schools. Costs: 60 Euros (for accommodation), to be paid in advance.

Namur (May 16 – 20): “Discovering, learning and creating with all the senses”: school visits across the language barrier. International teachers welcome!

Other possibilities for short exchanges / short mobilities:

Offers and demands concerning short exchanges → call by Geneviève Laloy.

3. Administrative Council

Participants: Monika Becker, George Camacho Carmen Carmona, Bertrand Chavet, Valerie Coultas, Fabio Dovigo, Iva Jedlickova, Kia Kimhag, Geneviève Laloy, Jette Laursen, Ankie Mantel, Chantal Muller, Richard Pierolt, Monika Roethle, Soledad Soldevila, Eva Szatmari.

3.1 “Sleeping members” and new members:

Örebrö: new international coordinators being nominated

Timisoara: no news; we will contact again

Haapsalu: no news; we will contact again

Lincoln: no news; we will contact again

General procedure for potential new members: contact through the board. Formal letter – and then invitation for Klingenthal.

Finland (Yväskylä): potential new member; contact through Monika Röthle Other new potential member: Greece (Patras University), France (Strasbourg)

3.2 Timing of autumn meeting: 2nd or 3rd week of September 2016.

3.3 Refugees: activities, symbolic action, coming up with a project

3.4 Journal for 2016: who would be the editor?

Trym sent a mail concerning how the Comenius Association is dealing with the current emergency situation of refugees coming to Europe. Referring to EU mail to all HEIs how they are dealing with this situation?

A short discussion without a clear decision was going on but it was pointed out that the association should react somehow.

Comenius Thursday 1st of October

Reminder: possibility for the institutions not being present for the general assembly to vote by proxy; give the letters to Monika Becker

9:25 Universidad de Valencia – Welcome and Presentation of the UV

Ramón López, Vice Rector

UV and their two faculties of Education – Paula Jardón & Maria Jesús Perales

50.000 students (2800 of them International Exchange Students), 5000 academic staff

500 years of history; Vivès: former rector!

2 Education faculties: primary school teachers AND secondary schools, social work, etc.

Offer to the CA: placements for students (even for students with lower competencies of Spanish)

www.uv.es/filoeduc

Paula Jardón + Maria Jesus Perales: Presentation of the UV (see pdf of ppt)

The UV is 500 years old, has 50000 students and 5000 staff members. It was one of the first universities to implement inclusion and equality. There are two faculties of teacher training: one for primary teachers and one for philosophy and teachers of secondary education. The UV is in cooperation with a lot of organizations around the city of Valencia, they have mobility programs within Spain, Erasmus and South America.

Juan Maria Senent: he points out the cooperation between UV and Comenius Association members and having AC here was very important for the UV.

11:35 Distribution of the AC Journal

Many thanks to Carmen Cramona and Nerea Hernaiz. We need guest editors every year, the main topic of the next journal will be formal and non-formal education (following this autumn meeting).

11:45 Information on school visits (Alex Rose)

4. Staff weeks and other projects

4.1 Staff weeks - Feedback about 2014-2015 to inspire new ones

4.2 Teacher staff weeks 2015-2016:

- Jette Laursen (Teacher Staff Week in Esbjerg): new way of visiting teachers: accommodate all teacher? Better quality? Staff week AND teaching week. Visitors can offer workshops. Topic is very large: "Youth"; four lines: y and internationalization, y in health, y in inclusion and pedagogy. First two days in Esbjerg together, then spread to the other campuses. Training grant or teaching grant. NOT a "conference" (conferences are not fundable)
- Teaching mid-week ENCBW – IP Santarem in Santarem "Sustainable development": follow-up of a teaching week (which has been a follow-up of an IP. 14th – 16th of March. Possible to combine it with teaching. NOT a conference → STT and STA. Target group of STA: primary education and social work only.

4.3 Other projects 2015-2016 / 2016-2017 :

- English Module Henallux : common project LLN – Namur. Erasmus module all in English. 20 or 30 ECTS ; practise included. More for preprimary and primary ; lower sec is possible. Students commute ; they will either stay in Namur or in LLN. Placement can be in English if proficiency is sufficient. Otherwise observation in a French school.
- UCSYD : « outside the box » some of the modules will be with the Danish students. Both, first and second semester. 30 ECTS each.
- « ToWe » – Follow-up of TODDLER (Barcelona, Kingston, Stavanger + Kindergartens) ; TODDLER material translated, new material developed, job shadowing for practitioners, important hint : if not enough money, apply at your national agency. Supporting the Wellbeing and Learning of Desadvantaged Toddlers through materials and training for early Yars Practitioners ».
- Schwäbisch Gmünd – early childhood education 30 Ects credits in English: "Exploring the World"
- Vienna – new curriculum and implications on student mobility in the future
Vienna – international week – spring 2017 – migration and home: Summer semester 2016 the last English programme, then start again in 2018, with the new curriculum, concentrating on primary education. Mobility window in primary education (4th semester). The new curriculum tries to cross borders: inclusion, pre-primary.
- INHOLLAND: 30 ECTS: End of January – April "Early English", 4 – 12 year old children (including internship in Amsterdam); "Global education: April – June" Can be booked separately, but then students have to book accommodation on their own.
- LaSalle: 30 ECTS Health Education in English, teachers are welcome in Health Education
- Reminder LaSalle: Erasmus placement offer 3 – 6 months; IO and student union. Purpose: welcoming platform for international and local students.
- Artevelde – "Bridges in education" – new leaflet; 3 periods: 1.2. – mid April / 2-4 weeks placement / half-may – half-june other modules. Every combination is

- possible. Please contact Gertrui.
- Artevelde – new project of intercultural competences in primary school. → call for best practises; → partners offering 2 – 5 days of school experience in primary schools.
 - KdG Antwerp: “Crossing borders” 20/30 ECTS (placement: 10); starting 5th of february. Application by 5th of November. Multidisciplinary approach – education, healthcare, social work. Theoretical “think modules” (poverty, sustainability, human rights, sexuality, ... > 3 ECTS each) and practical courses “act and create”: research, projects, etc.
 - UV: only 4.5 ECTS; but 25 ECTS placement possible in English with a bit of Spanish; placement in formal and informal education settings. Best in the first semester; second semester: only 25 ECTS training.
 - Tamara, UCV: Conference on Education and Law: Social rights and policy in Europe.## Planned research project on Intercultural Competence especially in primary education. European Association for Intercultural Education. → website and facebook pages, asking for good practises and contributions and articles about refugees.
 - Valerie, Kingston: looking for partners working in pedagogy / classroom talk.
 - Call: Collaborative learning March London
 - Thomas More / Vickie: English programme “Key competences in Education” Bruges, 20 / 30 ECTS (placement, language course or research. Beginning of February – End of April / end of May.
 - **Reminder: send information on Erasmus projects, KA2, Staff weeks, etc. to the webmaster.**

5. Projects specifically connected to the Association : follow-up of the workgroups of Klingenthal :

Prepare either staff weeks and / or key action 2 – strategic partnerships – 4 groups

- **Outdoor Education** (Piet Tutenel) : Focus on the playground ; Piet will send an invitation for a planning week in December.
- **Teaching and Learning strategies** (Niomi Kelly) : Same week as Piet

Still some open questions : level ?

- **Languages and cultures – split into two groups**

a) CLIL /bilingual learning / immersion (Martine Wilmots)

International mid-week in autumn 2016 about the topic in Belgium (including school visits). Possible link with the topic of immigrants

b) Intercultural competence and teaching through stories (Jette Laursen and Chantal Muller)

Mid-staff-week to share ideas. « Awareness for otherness » ; Unclear about the outcome and the approach – KA2 or other (as there will be quite a lot of partners).

Venue : Belgium February or May 2016.

- **Inclusion:** (Geneviève Laloy) :
« All inclusive ». Meeting in Bergamo.
Different ideas what inclusion is, what is connected with inclusion (also culture).
Hand in an application for the round 2017

There will be a new part on the website for the five new groups.

6. Council of Europe:

Short summary – meeting of the conference of the international NGOs.

Short evaluation : place of sharing good ideas, sharing, making things known, lobbying, visibility.

Inquiries to be sent around

Next conference in January, the board of management tries to participate

New application in March

Next conference in June – participation, not necessarily a member of the board.

➔ Discuss in Klingenthal !

7. The Association and the Refugee topic

➔ What do the individual institutions do ?

➔ What can the CA do ?

Examples and best practise :

Vac : Conference : academic background and practical training for future social workers. Topic will be built into the curriculum.

LLN : Global action « share your school » : special page on the website students can download against prejudice ; collect school materials for refugee centres ; students go to the schools of the refugee centres to teach. (tent !)

ESCUNI : offering Spanish language, social work, psychomotricity work

KPH : Learning Café ; organized by Caritas ; students teach there. Students union in charge of this.

Artevelde : raise awareness (boat !) ; information sessions ; fundraising ; call for students doing volunteering ;

Santarem : free courses, technology, citizenship ; awareness raising to fight against prejudice

Mechelen : open courses ; for free

UCSYDK : students line-up something

What can we contribute as an Association ? (Brainstorming)

Piet / Monika R. : 20th of November – Children’s rights.

Yakova : how to integrate activities in / for refugees ?

Gerit : strengthen CLIL which will be even more important.

Monika : « the nightingale » buddy system – students take care of migrant children ; raise awareness among our students. Encourage students to join activities of organizations like the Red Cross. On our website : ideas on how to help.

Pieter : EURASHE is looking for capacities in e-courses for Turkey, Jordan, etc.

Andy : network of schools with a special expertise

Éva : fight against growing hostility ; duty of people in Education to inform and to influence.

Marie José : Statement to be published on the website by the Association.

Fabio : how to get more knowledge on the development ; voluntary work is not enough, it has to be systematic

Jonathan : scholarships for a Syrian refugee (Monika B: example from Germany : Syria scholarship programme of the state of Baden-Württemberg)

Eva : new kind of teacher training necessary ? CA : share and discuss

Kia : create a platform to share knowledge, experience and ideas.

Niomi : awareness-raising – share material to be used in different institutions.

Friday 2nd of October, 12.00 – 13.30

Visit of schools

8. General Assembly

Geneviève Laloy : Official opening of the General Assembly

8.1 New members :

New member : University of Bergamo. Their membership officially approved. **A warm welcome !!!**

New members in general : procedure

Potential members :

Yväskylä will be invited for Klingenthal. Monika Röthle will inform them ; Strasbourg will be officially invited.

Graz : invite them for Klingenthal

for later meetings : University of Patras (contact : Geneviève ; also connections with KPH Vienna).

« Sleeping members » : contact Estonia, Lincoln, Timisoara

8.2 Statutes :

Main changes to be voted upon :

No Administrative Council anymore. The General Assembly will be responsible for the decisions. The Board will be responsible for the preparations and the implementation of the decisions.

Possibility extend the board on special occasions (e.g. in connection with the Journal)

Associate members : institutions other than an HEI (other organisation, person, etc.) pay half of the fee, have some benefits, but they can not vote.

Benefits : safe time, fairness for countries with more members

Discussion : vote on the change of statutes in total or per article ?

Kia : remark that normally they would have been voted upon differently.

The board will organise the vote this time, but improve the procedure next time.

Vote on the statutes : 24 out of 24 approved

8.3.Election of the President and the Vice-President :

Clear statement : Team Geneviève / Chantal will be open to be elected, but it will be their LAST period.

The CA needs refreshing to be a dynamic association in order to have new ideas. Others are motivated to think about the next period.

President / Vice-President for the next four years :

Geneviève Laloy and Chantal Muller : 24 out of 24.

Congratulations !!!

8.4. Financial statement : Explained by controlled by Maria Jose Quintanas and Elise Leveque.

Positive results; money will be transferred to a savings account. No need to increase the membership fee even if more expenses than incomes.

Approval : 100%

8.5 Journal : after 3 years of UV doing the Journal another institute is needed.

None of the present institutions declared their readiness to do it. Proposal : Call for articles earlier (March !), better especially for Northern countries.

8.6 New ideas for short exchanges : collected – call first, then put in the report and in the website.

Idea : Platform for students → the idea will be forwarded to the webmaster Alain.

8.7 Refugees :

Letter where the CA is taking position

Letter put on the website of the CA

Ideas coming from the different institutions placed on the website ; ressources to share !

8.8 Website :

Once the list of administrators will be finished (some institutions still have not reacted) the passwords will be sent individually.

The « membres » list will be updated.

8.9 Next meetings

Spring : 24th – 27th of May 2016 Klingenthal

Reminder application procedure Klingenthal : 1 person per institution; an institution can indicate a potential 2nd person in case there are places left. If somebody wants to intervene, an institution can send a second person.

Cancellation policy : reminder to inform us early enough – question of respect, personal worries.

Suggestion : Finish the meeting on Friday before lunch.

Autumn meeting :

Winchester is going to host the next autumn meeting: September 6 – 9 2016.

8.10 Closing of the meeting. Thanks and hugs for all the people involved in the organization of that wonderful event.

A special thanks by UCV goes to Teresa Delcano for all her work done within the Comenius Association.

Strasbourg, the 25th of January 2016.