

Autumn Meeting of the Comenius Association

19 - 22 September 2017

University of Bergamo

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

1) Introduction and programme

- Welcome by Fabio Dovigo & Geneviève Laloy.
- Introduction of the participants.
- Explanation of the program-
- Organisational questions (about the academic conference, about the school visits, etc.)
- Language policy: The main language of communication during the meeting will be in English, also the report will only be published in English. However, keeping the general idea of being a bilingual association, a french translation of some parts can be provided if necessary, and participants are welcome to express themselves in French if they wish.
- Language(s) of the report: Whereas the report of the Klingenthal meetings will be published in English and in French, the report of the autumn meeting will only be published in English.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

2) Conference « Democracy and Education »

➔ Cf. Introduction « Democracy and Educatio » by Fabio Dovigo

3) 30 Years Erasmus Celebration

Presentation by Fabio Dovigo: « The value of Erasmus » ➔ cf. presentation

Erasmus seen through students' eyes : ESN and AEGEE

➔ Short videos: More testimonials about Erasmus experiences within the Comennius Association are welcome. Please send your more videos to Chantal Muller. The video should be about one minute. If the language is neither English nor French please send subtitles as well **by December 15th !**

THURSDAY, September 21st

4) Introduction (Geneviève Laloy) :

Welcome and remarks about the organisation of the meeting, introduction of the day's programme
Explanation why some member institutions are not taking part in the autumn meeting (if
Geneviève Laloy reminds that the Comenius Association is a quality network, explains why some
members are missing.

5) Journal 2017 (guest editor : George Camacho, Santarèm) :

George Camacho thanks his predecessors, especially the teams of Mechelen, Valencia, Vienna and
Haderslev, for doing the journal as it is an ongoing process. George Camacho also gives some
background information about the process of making a journal. In his opinion It makes sense to do
the journal for several years – 3 years is highly recommendable. Santarem will be ready to do it for
the next one or two years.

During the autumn meeting there will be a work group dedicated to the journal and to the processes
connected to the publication process where PH Thurgau (CH) and other members will bring in ideas
about how to edit the journal in a way which is adapted to the resources of the guest editor and of
the Comenius Association.

The topic of the next journal will be « Democracy in Education ». The call will be published earlier this
time, around April/May ; the contributors of the conference on the same topic in Bergamo will be
encouraged to publish their contributions in this edition of the journal.

Bookmark : The Comenius Association has 10 additional copies printed, the pdf will be sent to the
members after some necessary changes will have been done.

6) International Weeks :

6.1) General Principles of the International Weeks :

Geneviève Laloy explains again the general principles which have been decided upon in Klingenthal in
May 2017 :

The deadline for student nominations will be the 20th of November (except Antwerpen for whom
this would be too late and for Vienna for whom this would be too early). In order to give every
institution organizing an international week the chance to send their students to an international
week, the hosting institution has to wait for the nominations and then to decide. On the other hand,
the sending institutions have to make sure they will send their nominations by November 20.

**The number of persons nominated per institutions should be 2 per institution, with priority for
those who organize a week (unless they communicate clearly that only one person will be
possible).** Even if a week can only host one student per institution, they should be clear from the
beginning, sending institutions can nominate 2 students.

Hosting institutions should wait for November 20 before they fill the places.

Hosting institutions should react quickly to the nominations. The nominated students can do their
application after November 20.

Credits : If possible, there should be 1-2 ECTS credits (or 3 for an additional work), it depends upon

the hosting institutions.

The sending institutions should remind their students that the arrival and departure has to be in accordance with the times which has to clearly indicated by the hosting institution.

Institutions should be clear about the type of schools (pre-primary, primary or secondary) involved.

The Comenius Association is aware that there is no procedure which suits each member institution to the same degree. We will try the new application rules this year, evaluate them and then are open to modify them again if necessary.

Discussion of the idea that weeks should be open for students for each institution, not only for students of a limited number of institutions – this has been the case for some weeks, especially if the International Week is part of a bilateral teaching project : If it is an international week it should be open for everybody. Otherwise it should range under a different title.

6.2) Introduction of the weeks (Dates, topics):

There will be 22 International Weeks next year. This really shows that the International Weeks are the « DNA » of the Comenius Association.

(For the complete information see the Comenius website.)

If no other information is provided, the language of the week will be English.

- Antwerpen (11 – 15 December 2017): « Creativity »
- Louvain-la-Neuve (5 – 9 February 2018): « North-south and sustainability » ; bilingual week (English and French),
- Catholic University of Valencia (27 February – 2 March 2018): « Arts » (visual arts in preprimary and primary education), visiting teachers in this field are very welcome
- ~~University of Valencia (5 – 9 March 2018) : Earth, water and education. (Cancelled)~~
- Gävle (5 – 9 March 2018) : Migrants and school (all school types !)
- Escuni Madrid (12 – 16 March 2018): « Gamification » . Colleagues are welcome ! (infant and primary school)
- Winchester (19 – 23 March 2018) : « Harmony at School » . Target group : Primary Education
- Mechelen (26 – 30 March 2018) : Two weeks « Drama in Education », working in puppets in schools AND « Body language »
- Liège (26 – 30 March 2018): « Cultural Diversity », students and teachers are welcome !
- Vác (9 – 13 April 2018): « Social issues »
- Stavanger (9 -13 April 2018) : « Outdoor Education », with a focus on play and risk. There will be free accommodation for 26 students.
- Schwäbisch Gmünd (9 – 13 April 2018): « Europe », all school types welcome, teachers are welcome. Accommodation with local students, for free if reciprocal, 2 credits
- Santarem (16 – 20 April 2018): « Freedom and Citizenship », teachers will welcome. Accommodation at the students residence : or youth hostel, all school types (including social education). 1 credit.
- Namur I (16 – 20 April 2018): « Storytelling » –Storytelling in a foreign language. The group will be working on traditional local stories. At the end of the week the participants will teaching in a primary school –Although the focus is on primary schools, students for preschool and secondary school are also welcome. Teachers very welcome.
- Haarlem (16 – 19 April 2018): « 21st skills experience – ICT ». Teachers are welcome.

- Barcelona (16 – 20 2018): « ICT tools at school.2 1.5 ECTS. Accommodation : In case of reciprocity accommodation will be for free, otherwise youth hostel (150.- Euros for the entire week).
- Lausanne (16- 20 April 2018): « Mobility » : no specific topic, but participants will compare mobility practises. Accommodation : 100.- CHF at the Youth Hostel, only 20 places. Not more than 2 or 3 teachers. 2 credits.
- Vienna I (23 – 27 April 2018): « Music in primary schools » : how to plan and perform a mini-musical! 2,5 credits, part of the regular curriculum. Accommodation : Youth hostel. There will be a limited number of students : 15 incoming students only!
- Vienna II (May 2018, dates not confirmed yet) : « Interreligious and intercultural learning » ; colleagues welcome for STT.
- Esbjerg (30 April – 4 May): « Learning with all your senses – indoor and outdoor, schools and kindergarten » : Early childhood and teacher training. 60 Euros accommodation in the yourh hostel if private, reciprocal accommodation will not possible. 1,5 ECTS
- Paris (30 April – 4 May) : « Personalized Pedagogy and didactic tools ».
The international week proceeds in French (with some translations in English per moments).
- Namur II (14 – 18 May 2018): « 5 Senses » : Using all our senses to discover our surroundings and things we are normally not aware of. Creativity will be in the centre. Teachers are welcome. Accommodation with students (families or students' rooms, otherwise another accommodation).

The question of the recognition of credits obtained during international weeks will be discussed in Klingenthal 2018.

6.3) Teacher Staff Weeks 2017/18

(For further information, the exact dates, and further weeks see also the website of the Comenius Association)

Graz : Conference of the « Voices » - network in April 2018. « Topic of the conference « Inspiration : Intercultural Communication and Diversity », with a strong focus on languages. There will be a lot of school teachers present. Teachers are welcome as STA or STT visits.

Ghent : Early Childhood Education (Spring 2018). Focus on « Cooperation » - in cooperation with AA Ghent.

General remarks about staff weeks :

- Use all possibilities : STA, STT and OS
- Encourage colleagues to travel as a team

Communication of STA/STT opportunities in general:

There will be a place on the CA website where we can place our offers and demands soon.

7) Other projects/new Erasmus courses:

La Salle Madrid: « Narrativa Transmedia », new degree in the department of Education. Almost unique study programme worldwide, it combines educational studies, ICT, management and engineering.

www.lasallecontrouniversitario.es/transmedia

La Salle wants to establish cooperation agreements within the CA and is looking for colleagues working in the same fields. It will be put on the website under « other projects ».

PEERS closing conference in Liège, december 14 - 15. The best way to learn more about the PEERS project for those institutions interested. Soledad Soldevila will send the invitation around.

TOWE (Toddler wellbeing) :

See project website www.toddlerswellbeing.eu

There will be an international training event on the 15th/16th of March in Kingston (including training and visits to the settings). Early years colleagues are as welcome as local representatives.

University of Valencia : Linguistic Accompaniment Groups GRUPal

Language support for incoming students to UV.

UC has developed a special concept for incoming students who do not speak Spanish : GRUPal, including material, tutorials and evaluation can be provided in other languages. UV has identified teachers and students who are able to help in other languages. UV will send around the list of the persons and the topics/courses included in the programme.

Louvain-la-Neuve : International seminar in Mbour, Senegal « Shared challenges for the school of tomorrow » (language : french), at the end of November. Participants : teachers, teacher trainers and students from the north and from the south.

INHOLLAND : Minor « IDEA Full Colour » on inclusion in several senses.

www.inholland.com/ninorfullcolor

Next step : share good practises shared online

Schwäbisch Gmünd : « Exploring the world »

30 CTS module specially for Early Childhood students from April 7 – July 31 2018

Primary and secondary teacher training students with no or little German will find speaking students will find large range of courses mainly spring, April – July. Students who speak German (level B2 or higher) are welcome in the autumn (October – February) as well as in the spring (April – July) – or for an entire year.

Joint Erasmus course Namur/Louvain-la-Neuve :

2 international weeks, courses in English. Optional courses in French. Students either live in LLN or in Namur.

General remark : The members are requested to put all the relevant programmes on the Comenius website (or send it to the board who will upload it).

8) Feed back Comenius work groups

- **Outdoor Education (Summary : Sébastien Bar)**

➔ Cf. presentation

The KA2 application « Hanging out » is on the reserve list.

One of the strengths : within the network of the Comenius Association.

Weaknesses : More partners needed

- **Inclusion (Summary Geertrui Van den Berghe)**

Handed in as Horizon 2020, but it has not been accepted. It will be revised based upon the results of the evaluation, and handed in next year again. The group will carry on, the next meeting will take place in October in Ghent.

- **Migrations** (including the seminar planned by the Comenius Association in March 2018) **(Summary : Niomi Kelly)**

➔ Cf. presentation.

Working title : « Rethinking cultural classrooms »

Next step : The Comenius Association will organize a two-day-seminar in Brussels including keynotes and practises (and on why they work) from 21 – 23 March 2018 in Brussels. The target group will be teachers from the member institutions who can finance the participation as STA/STT. The second step will be a similar seminar in 2019 mainly for school teachers who can also apply for STT grants.

Call for teachers who want to share an experience, lecturers who work on something, experiences from International Weeks. ➔ Please contact the board if you are interested or if you have colleagues who can contribute something valuable.

There is a SHIPCON training week « Integrating Minority, Migrant & Refugee Children at European Schools & Society » at Prague about integrating migrant / refugee children in European schools. Niomi Kelly et Martine Wilmots will take part in the week ; they can bring in this experience into the seminar.

There can also be relevant input from the KA2 project « ENABLE » (Coordinator : PH Schwäbisch Gmünd, with Gävle University, the University of Calabria Cosenza (IT), the University of Mugla (TR) and several NGOs. The project is about how refugees with a teacher training background can contribute to the integration of migrants at school.

9) Projects connected with the Association

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

- **Languages and cultures / Stories**, book talk and intercultural learning group (Chantal, Jette, Valerie)
- **Journal** (George Camacho)

The workshop "Journal" started from the proposal, presented by Monique Staeger and Gerit Jaritz, from Thurgau, to create a procedural framework for all the steps concerned with the journal (since the call for articles till printing the journal). We considered that it was a very good document and we introduced some new ideas, in some points, in order to have a general framework that any institution can use it as a reference, on the future.

Besides that document, we also discussed the advantages and disadvantages to maintaining the same institution as a guest editor for a couple of years, as it happened during the last years. It's a point that worths a deeper reflexion in Klingenthal.

- **Students' works** (Geneviève Laloy)

Present: Phillip O'Neill (Artevelde HS Gent / Belgium), Sébastien Bar, Bénédicte Schrobiltgen and Geneviève Laloy (HE Vinci / Louvain-la-Neuve / Belgium)

- Continuation of reflection following the previous meeting.
- Publication that would be annual (?) and "edited" by the Comenius Association (specific committee to be instituted).
- Different levels of publication proposals, depending on what has already been done in some institutions.
- Propose the results of short research + introduction by an abstract of 1000 words.
- Propose an article resulting from a more in-depth work (of the type of graduation work) + abstract also.
- Links to
 - video clips illustrating the research
 - more important works (always with abstracts in English)
- Possibility to have publications in print and online, on the website of the Comenius Association.
- Criteria to define / specify:
 - Rules & format.
 - Formal aspects: between 5000 & 15000 signs
 - Languages: English & French

- Quality: How to guarantee it? To be validated by each institute sending a project and / or by a review committee?
- Specific focus
- What added value: comparative pedagogical perspective?
- Photos

- Should we offer a price linked to these publications to stimulate contributions?
- For monitoring :
 - Geneviève proposes to send the documents of her institute to the working group
 - For the next meeting in Klingenthal, we should be able to have more clearly the criteria or even the call to the articles to be able to envisage a publication in 2018-2019.

- **New topics for the Comenius Association** (Monika Becker)

The quite large working group came up with various suggestions of topics the Comenius Association could work on in the next years.

The results of the brainstorming can be divided into different fields and at different levels:

- Internationalization :
 - Internationalization of our curricula
 - Embedding of internationalization in our institutions
 - How to develop (career) benefits of internationalization
- Digitalization :
 - The role of the teacher in a digitalized world
 - Datification of children, image of the children
- Childhood :
 - The changing image of childhood ; common parameters beyond school → free time, play (philosophical approaches, comparative approaches)
- The Teacher of Tomorrow :
 - The (self) image of teachers ; the role of the teacher in a digitalized world,

- **Website** (Richard Pirolt)

10) The Comenius Association and the Conference of independent NGOs at the council of Europe

Report about the activities of different members during recent INGO meetings in Strasbourg.

Explanation of the presence of Comenius Association at the Council of Europe. The Comenius Association can get benefits from the INGOs conference and have a voice within the Council of Europe.

Example: European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe: Pepelino, Plurimobil, EducoMigrant, etc. Chantal Muller is pointing out the different possibilities the ECML has.

Example: Forum of Democracy

Monika points out that we as the Comenius Association can influence the discussions and the topics discussed within the committees and working groups.

Evening : Bilateral contacts, excursion and concert at San Aegidio

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

11) Comenius Association General Assembly

Practical information :

The Language of the reports of the autumn meetings will be English only for the future

Journal:

The institutions not participating in the meeting will be sent their journals; further corrections – if necessary - will be added in the pdf.

George Camacho is taking over the next journal. Volunteers for the year after are very welcome. the call for papers will be done earlier this time. The topic of the next journal will be « Democracy and Education ».

Website, e-mail and Social Media :

The members are reminded to add any useful information (on workgroups, etc.) on the website.

Small changes about institutions (contact information, etc.) should be done by the participants or requested to Richard Pirolt or Geneviève Laloy. But please do not add attachments or do larger changes. For these aspects, send your attachments to our web master alain.desmarets@gmail.com

Chantal Müller will send all the information about the international weeks to the webmaster Alain Desmarets who will upload it.

Richard Pirolt reminds everybody to contact him for mailing problems/problems with the « membres » address.

Reminder : There is an e-mail address for the board – please use it : board@associationcomenius.org
Comenius Association on Facebook (Geertrui van den Berghe) : Invitation to join the group – which is only for private purposes, not for work-related questions of the Comenius Association.

New Logo of the Comenius Association :

There will be a call for a new corporate identity and a new logo, initiated by Richard **Pirolt**.

New members :

The focus will be on Finland and Greece – if you have contacts please let the board know so we can contact and invite them. But we want to keep the network a small and human quality network. [In the meantime, Chantal Müller has got in touch with the University of the Aegean in Rhodos, Greece. They will be invited for the next Klingenthal meeting].

Financial statement (George Camacho) :

The financial situation of the Comenius Association is good, although we are expecting to have more expenses due to our activities in the Council of Europe. The savings will be put on a more sustainable bank account.

Approval of the financial statement: 100% (no abstentions, no refusal). A big thanks to the treasurer George Camacho for his excellent work and Sébastien Bar and ### who checked the financial statement before presentation to the members.

Next meetings :

- INGO / Council of Europe January sessions : 22 – 26 January 2018
- Spring meeting : Klingenthal 22 – 25 May 2018. The deadline for registration will be earlier for 2018 than for this year, to enable to handle the remaining places more easily. The 21st of May is a bank holiday in Alsace, so the board will also arrive at Klingenthal on May 22nd.
- The Council of Europe June session not confirmed yet.
- The place and the dates of the autumn meeting 2018 have not been confirmed yet.

Thanks ...

The General Assembly is thanking warmly to ...

... George Camacho for very spontaneously taking over the journal !

... Piet Tutenel for all his input into the Association. Good luck for his new job ! We hope he will come back soon !

... to Ankie Mantel for her more than 20 year long presence in the Comenius Association.

... to Fabio Dovigo and his team for hosting such a wonderful meeting.

Local schools visit, Optional trip to Accademia Carrara Museum, farewell and departure



Comenius Autumn meeting group picture : © Fabio Dovigo

Schwäbisch Gmünd, the 15th of November 2017, Monika Becker, for the board