



Spring Meeting Klingenthal 2013

Tuesday 28th of May 2013, 5 p.m. – Friday 31st of May, 2 p.m.

Report

Participants: Geneviève Laloy, Chantal Muller, Monika Becker, Carla Gutmann-Mastelli, George Camacho, Martine Wilmots, Brigitte Bruscek, Richard Pirolt, Piet Tutenel, Lia Frederickx, Annelies Magerman, Laurence Rolinet, Vera Tauchmanova, Anneli Kasesalu, Mia Musche, Anna de Monserrat, June Junge, Margariat àlvarez Rodriguez, Manuel Pérez Canizares, Marianne Öberg Tuleus, Lars Holbaek Pederson, Tove Heidemann, Marc Boucherat, Agnes Streitmann, Chiara Tasso, Carmen Carmona Rodríguez, Joan Maria Senent, Gerry O'Reilly, Kia Kimhag, Ankie Mantel

Tuesday, 28th of May 2013

Opening:

- Welcome by the President and by Mrs. Stinzi
- Practical information
- Information on the language policy of the meeting (although not everything will be translated in both languages, the participants are encouraged to express themselves either in English or in French; translations will be provided if necessary).
- Presentation of the programme

Wednesday, 29th of May 2013

Presentation of new potential members

Explanation why the colleague from Lecce did not participate although he was enrolled and had not cancelled beforehand.

Mobility grid: Monika reminds that the CA wants to reactivate the collection of the mobility numbers within the Association, in order to have a valuable basis to illustrate the activities – and the value of being a member of the Association. Those institutions who have not sent in their mobility grid for 2012/13 are kindly requested to do so.

International Weeks 2012/13:

General ideas:

Numbers (NOT including the Erasmus students participating in the weeks)

	incoming	outgoing	remarks	
Schwäbisch Gmünd	9 (among them 4 Canadian students sent by LLN)	16	Including the week into the local curriculum increased the number of outgoing students	
Santarem	21	0		
Liège	12 (only 6 from within the CA)	11		
Mechelen	16	20		
Vienna	0	14		
Dublin	16	0	4 ECTS	Different context ; project outside the « International Week » frame.
Stavanger	7	21		
Gävle		15	Bilateral project with Kingston	Different context ; project outside the « International Week » frame.
UC Valencia	15	3		
ESCUNI	9	10	20 wanted to participate	No ECTS, but number of hours certified
Inholland Haarlem	15	12		
Haderslev	29	2		
Antwerp	13	13		
Namur	6	2		
Louvain-la-Neuve	22	6		

Örebrö, La Salle Madrid and Barcelona are planning to organise a week in 13/14.

Inholland and Stavanger are thinking about NOT to organise a week in 13/14.

Discussion: What can contribute to the success of an International Comenius Week?

Connection staff mobility (some institutions receive teachers: eg. Portugal → positive experience)

Coordinators should read the conditions and find students who can cope with it. (language wise)

Weeks have to be embedded structurally (hours, student helpers, etc.)

Get students involved as a project

School visits are highly appreciated by students

International Week contribute to the Internationalization at Home (and help for local colleagues)

Staff and students involved from the same institution increases commitment

Tasks and presentations prepared beforehand increase the commitment.

Include presentations about International Comenius Weeks into regular teaching.

Local students organize the week and get credits for it.

Find a solution of how to cope with “difficult” students (better preparation beforehand, inform coordinators at home in case of problems).

Problem with regular Erasmus students (and local students): they miss the regular courses → talk to the teachers

Health Insurance: different solutions (personal responsibility, special insurance at the university, but students have to be informed)

Commitment: many institutions have a kind of contract / agreement

Intensive Programmes 2012/13

IP “Memories of the past ...” (U Valencia) 2nd turn. Cf. Presentation. Application for a 3rd year handed in.

IP “Generation Y” (Helmo Liège): 1st year, 2nd year handed in. cf. Presentation

IP “Creativity in Early Years” (Coordinator: Namur, location: Barcelona): 2nd year. Application for a 3rd year handed in – and approved.

IP “Soundshaping” (Thomas More Mechelen and Helmo Liège - *a great cooperation!!!* - ; location: Liège)

IP “E-Skills” (IP Santarem): will take place in July under special conditions (short time for preparation, only 3 partners)

Tove Heidemann: News on “Erasmus for All”

(Cf. presentation)

Discussion:

Question: *Would it be an option to transform the Comenius Association into a “Strategic Partnership”?* → According to Tove, it will not be possible to turn the entire Comenius Association into a Strategic Partnership, but Tove suggests another approach: Given the assumption that not many full universities go into Strategic Partnerships, so there might be some chance to have Strategic Partnerships within the Association.

Another assumption: The number of agreements will be limited, with preference to institutions having a larger range of topics.

State of the art / state of the information is different in different countries: Most countries do not have enough information [which is not surprising, as no official decision has been published yet]. Some countries are expecting more precise information after the summer break. Others, like Denmark or Portugal, are expecting to have the guidelines ready only before Christmas. Ireland has published some information during their national Erasmus meeting in May: Some of the tendencies: The IPs will stop. Emphasis will be put on “third countries”. Emphasis will be put on cooperation between higher education and the private sector.

Comment Winchester: Much of the development goes in line with what is happening in UK politics at the moment. Marc sees interesting opportunities for teacher training institutions.

Lausanne gives a recommendation: We have to be quick to find good private partners.

Decision: The Association will dedicate a session to the topic in Alkmaar, inviting a member of the National Agency

Teaching Mobility : Good practice / How to create win-win-situations in staff mobility

Recommendations given by the participants:

- Implications of the new Erasmus generation: The new Erasmus generation will require 8 hours of teaching! This will require new forms of teaching mobility.
- The host institution has to know beforehand which subjects / modules the teacher would like to teach.
- There have to be close contacts between teaching colleagues.
- The Participation in other activities (like research groups, meetings, etc.) can be very rewarding for both sides.
- A certain long-term regularity of exchange can be very rewarding.
- Inform the students on time by annotating in the curriculum: “There might be teaching in English”
- We should try to reactivate “Offers / demands “ on the website and the “members”-e-mail.

- “European Village” or similar models: course for local and exchange students as part of the curriculum. Introduce a pre-task for the students and reflection. Such an embedded structure will bring benefits for both sides.
- Welcome several teachers at the same time.
- Publish best-practice on the institution’s website (e.g. Vienna → “international / Gastvorträge”)

Administrative Council

Participants: Geneviève Laloy (board), Chantal Muller (board), George Camacho (board/PT), Monika Becker (board/DE), Carla Gutmann-Mastelli (Board/CH), Annelies Magerman (BE), Anneli Kasesalu (EE), Tove Heidemann (DK), Marga Alvarez (ES), Anna Montserrat (ES), Ankie Mantel (NL), Brigitte Bruscek (AT), Marc Boucherat (UK), Gerry O’Reilly (IRL), Vera Tauchmanova (CZ), Marianne Öberg-Tuleus (SE), June Junge (No), Agnes Streitmann (HU)

Cancellation policy for meetings: What to do with members / participants who do not show up?

Modify the enrolment form: “In case of short term cancellations or no-show-ups, colleagues who have enrolled but do not come to the meeting will have to pay the fee and the hotel costs”.

For Lecce: send e-mails to Demetrio Ria and to Elisa Palomba and send an invoice to Demetrio.

For Lincoln: invoice of hotel and fee, and a letter giving a little “opening “ to continue the membership

Membership applications:

The membership applications of Winchester and Tallin/Haapsaluu will be confirmed!

Autumn meeting: 8th -11th of October (Tuesday evening – Friday lunchtime)

Potential members to be “invited” for Alkmaar (but they have to pay the fee and the hotel ...):

- Krakow University of Education (contact through Gerry, who will send the contact information to Monika)
- Yvaskylä Polytechnic (contact: Gerry, will send the contact information to Monika)
- Belfast membership: Genevieve will contact Peter Finn who will be invited for Alkmaar by Geneviève.
- Monika will send the invitation to the potential members on behalf of the Board (and will send a copy to the Alkmaar team) [done June 7]

Deadline of the hotel reservation: June 14, the rooms have to be paid by August 15.

Website: please inform us about changes to be done on the website. In Alkmaar there will be a training session about the website. By then: send infos to Monika and Chantal

Bank account: transfer of the savings account from ING to Triodos.

Journal: UV will take care of the journal, with help of the board (proofreading) and Mechelen (coaching)

Theme: "Internationalization in times crisis"

Further topics:

Dublin: Announcement that they have a joint master in Theatre Studies with a French partner

Proposal Agnes Streitmann(Vàcs): Shakespeare anniversary 2016 → make something out of it!

International Weeks 2013/14 (preliminary version):

Antwerpen: 2-6 .12.13 (week 49)

Helmo Liege: 24.2. - 28.2.2013 (week 9)

UCV Valencia: 3.3. – 7.3. (week 10)

Blanquerna Barcelona: 24.3. – 28.3.13 (week 13)

Thomas More Mechelen: 24.3. – 28.3. (week 13) – to be confirmed

Namur (Special course): 31.3. – 4.4. (week 14)

Santarem 31.3. – 4.4. (week 14)

ESCUNI Madrid 24.3. – 28.3. (week 13)

Haderslev: 7.4. – 11.4.13 (week 15)

Schwäbisch Gmünd will organize a week, the date has to be confirmed

Alkmaar and Stavanger: probably no weeks in 2014

Probably Örebrö and La Salle Madrid will organise weeks in 2014.

Thursday, May 30th 2013

Joan Maria Senent: “The Structure of Education Systems and Teacher Training in Europe”

Cf. presentation

- Some tendencies and open questions underlined by Joan Maria:
- “Feminization” of the teaching profession
- More options → more differentiation / fragmentation → more homogeneous groups → higher specialization in teacher training necessary.
- Teacher Training: Simultaneous or consecutive model?
- Different specializations, different types of tracks: who is taking which track in the current context (crisis, etc.)?
- Role of the teacher: specialists or general classroom managers?
- Big issue: intercultural aspects in teacher training: how to meet the needs of heterogeneous groups?

New Projects 2013/14

IPs already handed in:

1. **IP Early Years (Namur):** 21.4. – 2.5. Site: Esbjerg (March 2014), preparatory meeting probably third week of January on Erasmus STA base. (will be 3rd turn)
2. **IP Memories** (U Valencia) ...: 2.3. – 13.3. (would be 3rd turn)
3. **IP Generation Y** (Liège): 9.3. – 22.3. (would be 2nd turn)
4. **IP Soundshaping**(Liège Mechelen/Location: Liège): 22.3. – 5.4. (would be 2nd turn)

New IPs to be handed in in March 2014:

1. **IP Fishing ...** (well-being) Mechelen 17.3. – 29.3. → follow up of TODDLER (Namur,LLN, Timisoara, Lincoln, Stavanger, Kingston)
2. Follow-up-IP of TODDLER about **Early Language Learning** (2,5 – 6) if there are still IPs, Namur would coordinate it.
3. **IP “Teaching sustainable development”** (LLN): 17.3. – 28.3. (partners: Timisora, Örebrö, UV, Haderslev, Santarem, Namur, Nice, Helmo) → teachers from other institutions would be welcome as experts!)
4. **IP “Special Needs and the ethical attitude of teachers”:** (Gävle): Haderslev, Belfast, Esbjerg, Kingston, Dublin – and other institutions outside the Association. 27.1. - 7.2. in Gävle
5. **IP “E-Skills”** (2nd turn in Santarem): 17.2. – 28.2. (SG, Timisoara, Schwäbisch Gmünd): Very successful framework. We have to fight for the follow-up.

6. **IP “Using ICT in the classroom”** (2nd turn in Haapsalu): April (Haderslev, Winchester, Haapsalu)

Other projects:

Stavanger:

“Comparative Education” will continue

NEW: Drama and Intercultural Communication. Very practical courses. Target groups: School teachers (Early Childhood only to a lesser degree)

Haderslev:

- Leonardo: “Changing the change agents”: new application handed in for another two years (Haderslev, Namur, KdG, Kingston, Valencia including Kiel, Utrecht, Anadoulou) This could be a starting point of a Strategic Partnership
- Comenius multilateral project: How to prevent school drop outs among teachers (five partners, among them Esbjerg, Namur, Barcelona)

Mechelen: Seminar “Imagining the playground” → experts in outdoor education. Dates: February or March 2014. Aim: European perspective on playgrounds in education. STA-week with a special topic

Louvain-la-Neuve:

follow-up of “IP Philosophy” → seminar on ethical issues. There will be a STA-week at the end of November (Philosophy at School – maybe include Art), maybe in connection with the UNESCO conference in Paris about the same topic.

Invitation to join their international degree “International policies in Education” and their course “Grand Courants de Pédagogique”, especially in Special Needs and how it is taught in their countries

Winchester: conference 26 – 28 of June on Resilience. Marc will send the information around.

Visit to the Council of Europe:

www.ecnl.at

Publications on intercultural competence for free!

Joseph Huber (Council) would support a membership application of the Comenius Association in the group of NGOs

Friday, 31st of May 2013

Ideas for the future: What will the main subjects of the activities within the Association?

(Brainstorming)

Topics:

- How to cope with the reforms?
- How to continue with high mobility numbers?
- Languages / second language in primary schools: language diversity in the classroom, how to cope with heterogeneous language backgrounds at school
- “Boys back in school – from structure to chaos!” → this is a topic which politics want! Focus on boys at schools as a “remedy” against fundamentalism? (Research project run by Vienna on male teacher training students and their professional identity.)
- Results of boys at school. Schools and the methodologies are made for girls.
- Games, playful learning (for Kindergarten) → Ravensburger Stiftung as “private partner”
- Learning Apps / “Apps for good”
- How to bring kids to understand nature, to bring them out to nature
- List of companies, journals, places to disseminate the outcomes, projects, etc. of the Association.
- Mette Ernlund’s work on feelings and effects of Erasmus → might inspire a project on the evaluation of teaching mobility.
- Placement abroad: how students cope with the different environment. Gävle/Kingston already evaluate this experience. This aspect has to be evaluated. Evaluation of the placement experience is much more demanding . So far, very few studies.
- Inclusion: how do we cope with it in our classrooms: Inclusion or specialization → Topic in Lausanne 2014: Inclusion
- How to cope with the contradiction between creativity and curricula/school organization.
- Hospital schools: what does it tell about role of schools in society?
- School-phobia

Suggestions:

- Prepare posters with possible topics in Alkmaar!
- Higher visibility of the activities within the Association to emphasize the value of the Association. We have to be more strategic, use synergies and bring activities together.
- Put down “flagship areas” of each institution to show the strong points of the members of the Association and to find strategic partners → Alkmaar (reminder before the meeting!) We have to communicate these things within the Association (e.g. on the website) “New ideas” / “new projects”.
- Do something we believe in!

General Assembly

New members: Tallin and Winchester are officially accepted as members of the Association.
WELCOME!!!

Next potential new members: For Alkmaar we will contact Lecce, Belfast, Yväsylä University College, University of Education Krakow (if Yväsyla does not join, then Turku will be contacted). Next on the list: Thurgau or St. Gallen (Switzerland, promoted by Brigitte or Chantal), Kosovo (promoted by Niomi)

Journal:

Guest editor: U Valencia. Call has been published on June 4.

Deadline: 25 of July

Title and draft: 15 of June

Topic "Education in times of crisis" / "How can we manage in this situation?"

Other topics are also welcome!

Spread the news in your institutions!

Alkmaar Autumn meeting:

Arrival Tuesday afternoon (8th), from 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Physical Education expert and CA meeting

Wednesday afternoon: excursion Naarden

Thursday: work on the web, CA meeting about "Erasmus for all"

Friday: CA meeting about new ideas and projects, school visit

End: Friday afternoon (Amsterdam: optional excursion)

Participants are asked to bring presentations of their IPs and their International Weeks along.

The participation fee (375 per person in a single room, 325 for a double room per person) has to be paid by August 15th.

Autumn meeting Lausanne 2014: 29 of September – 3rd of October 2014. 40 rooms booked already.
Topic: Inclusion

Financial aspects:

invoice for 12/13 is going to be sent around by George

invoice for the persons who did not come will be sent by George

New savings account: Triodos

Website:

please inform us about changes!

please include a direct link to the international office page of the partners

The list of addresses behind “membres” will be revised soon by Geneviève.

The board is aware of the problems with the e-mail-address and is trying to solve them.

End of the meeting and farewell to all the participants