



## Klingenthal Meeting 2018

### *The mission of the Comenius Association facing the current challenges of society: Role and perspectives of international mobility in initial teacher training in Europe*

#### Report

**Tuesday, 22nd of May 2018**

**1. First working session of the meeting:**

- Welcome by the president, presentation of the participants
- Presentation of the programme, distribution and discussion of the different tasks of the participants for the different plenary sessions, workshops and working groups.  
Task for everybody: Collect the mobility numbers of students, staff and international weeks within the Comenius Association and report it to Richard Pirolt. The overview will be published for the autumn meeting.
- Reminder of the house rules of the Klingenthal Castle.

**Wednesday, 23 of May 2018**

*Morning: Plenary Session*

**2. Evaluation and State of the Arts of the Erasmus+ programme and of other mobility programmes during the academic year 2017-2018**

2.1 Information about the new edition of the **Journal** of the Comenius Association (Editor: Santarém)

George Camacho recalls the preparation process and the guideline for the journal finished last year by Mechelen, Thurgau and Santarém. The topic of the Journal will have same topic as the Bergamo meeting: "Democracy in Education". The articles have to be sent to George Camacho by the end of June. More abstracts are welcome, even after the deadline is over already. Each

member institution will receive 15 printed copies of the Journal. If an institution needs less, George Camacho should be informed about it before having the copies printed. Institutions not coming to the Autumn meeting will receive their copies by mail afterwards.

2.2 Report of the **international seminar on superdiversity** in the classrooms organized by the Comenius Association in March 2018 about the topic of Migration in educational contexts. (Niomi Kelly and Martine Wilmots), *cf. presentation "Migration and Education Brussels 2018"*.

There will be a follow-up of the seminar in 2019, this time including school teachers as well. The 2019 edition will take place from March 20 – 22 in Liège (Belgium), a save-the-date mail has been sent to the members on June 15. It might be too late for school teachers to apply for KA1 funding.

**2.3 Summary of the projects 2017-2018:** international weeks, international trainings, international seminars, staff and student mobility, other European projects.

**2.3.1 Evaluation International Weeks:** An extended discussion (including the current figures) will take place on Friday morning. Short feed-back and discussion:

*What makes an International Week more successful:*

- Involve teachers from other partners for the whole week turned out to be very beneficial (some members experienced the opposite)
- Organize the week as staff week, and students can join.
- Teachers can participate on a traineeship base.
- Be clear about what students can expect, in order to avoid false expectations. Be clear about the programme and about the costs.

*Ideas against drop-out:* Have students pay a deposit? Integrate it into the curriculum? Involve the coordinators on both sides?

*Cancellations of international weeks:* There is a deadline for it, e.g. in January, in order to facilitate planning of the sending institution. The institutions organizing an International Week will maintain the procedure the Comenius Association has decided upon during the Bergamo meeting: Each institution organizing a week can send 2 students to an International Week (unless specified differently), after 20<sup>th</sup> of November more places the members will communicate if they have more places available.

*Common standards of International Weeks:* In order to get credits recognized there should be the same standards everywhere. We have to trust the different partners that this is the case.

*Long-term impact of short exchanges:* Helen Sutherland and Kia Kimhag can contribute data about their short exchanges during the next meeting.

### **2.3.2. Evaluation of first specific programmes introduced in the framework of Erasmus+ (KA 2, KA 3, etc.)**

Helen Sutherland, TOWE (KA 2): the final project conference (faculty and practitioners) just took place, very positive.

Kia Kimhag, ENABLE (KA 2): How to improve the self-management of Arabic speaking children in the classroom. The first conference took place in February in Germany.

Soledad Soldevila: PEERS is going on: Winchester, Louvain-la-Neuve, Ghent

Geneviève Laloy: Optional modules for students at Louvain-la-Neuve: International weeks or creating micro-projects in the school context at some partner institutions. It is one of the benefits of the Association that such informal options are possible. If students are planning a micro-project at a partner institution, it should go through the international coordinators. Each party involved has to be aware that it is additional work.

Carmen Carmona: Pilot project on how to integrate foreign languages and culture awareness into teacher training. Idea: Visiting teachers are included in the classroom. All languages are welcome, as long as there are slides in English or Spanish.

*Afternoon: Plenary Session*

**3. Trym N. Holbek - International relations adviser (University of Stavanger): KA 107 („International Credit Mobility“), Erasmus mobility with non-European partners.**

*Cf. Presentation “International Credit Mobility Klingenthal 2018”*

Exchange of ideas and experiences of the participants in this mobility framework: So far, Vienna, Schwäbisch Gmünd, UCSYD, Hradec Kralove and Santarém have experience with ICM, most of them very positive. A big disadvantage: Due to the short programme duration, an institution has to apply every year, with open results, which makes a long-term planning very difficult. The projects are not very sustainable.

**4. Working groups** (follow-up of the workshops previously initiated by the Comenius Association, reflections on the progress of the applications)

-Inclusion (Geertrui van den Berghe)

-Migration, Refugees and Education (Niomi Kelly and Martine Wilmots)

-Languages and cultures in teacher training (Chantal Muller).

*Evening : free evening, optional wine tasting*

**Thursday 24th of May 2018**

*Morning Plenary Session:*

**5. „Erasmus+“ and perspectives for the year 2018/19**

**5.1. Work groups:**

Reminder: there is a part on the website about the different work groups.

**Inclusive education :** There will be staff meeting in Ghent in November. Building up of expertise, in the future hand in a project. More colleagues are welcome.

**Migration :** There will be a second staff mid-week 20th – 22nd of March in Liège : Multiculturalism in our classrooms. Target groups : teacher trainers AND primary school teachers. Colleagues and schools which are dealing well with the topic are welcome, please get in touch with Martine

Wilmots and with Niomi Kelly. There will be a preparatory meeting in September in Vilnius (on Tuesday).

**Languages** : two ideas : A project on storytelling or a mid-staff week for teachers and also possibly students. There might be a preparatory meeting in Vilnius before the autumn meeting. Chantal is collecting names of interested persons.

**5.2. New projects 2018-2019** : strategic partnerships, international weeks, international seminars, mobility of students, teaching staff and administrative staff, etc..

**Artevelde Hogeschool** (Geetruï Van den Berghe):

- There will be a staff week on preschool education in November.
- « Bridges in Education » : the programme has been revised. Now there are possibilities to have different placements at schools and/or in community services.

**INHOLLAND** (Yakoova Nieuwstraaten)

- Re-designed International Week for students in Alkmaar about « Culture », including Dutch students.
- 30 ECTS international module about inclusion, bilingualism and assessment. Information can be sent on demand by e-mail by Yakoova Nieuwstraaten.

**La Salle Madrid** (Nuria Hernandez and Maria José Quintana) : New Bachelor programme « Transmedia narratives ». Humanistic approach : Relevance of narratives in the lives of people – many different fields included : Marketing, education, management, etc. Content of the English modules : 20 ECTS. Exchange students are welcome for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester (January – April), the programme includes Spanish ; project development : how to develop (education) games ; narratives and identity building ; robotics and Artificial Intelligence ; gamification. The courses are in English, the programme takes place in close cooperation with the Education department.

**European Council for Modern Languages (ECML)** (Chantal Muller) : Supporting multilingual classrooms. For language teachers, but also for school leaders and teachers of other subjects. Possibility to have in-service training of two full days. Possible languages : English, French, German. There is funding for the people who travel. Contact your national contact person of the ECML in your country.

**KPH Vienna** (Thomas Schrei):

- Vienna will offer an Intercultural Education module in English in the spring : 20 ECTS (+ 10 regular courses).
- There will be an International Day in November about Human Rights (the date will be communicated). Target group : Teacher trainers for primary and lower secondary education.

**PH Steiermark Graz** (Susanne Linhofer):

- « Empowering education in a European context »: 4 institutions (Barcelona, Denmark, Graz and Belgium ) have developed a module of 4 x 4 weeks, one in each country.
- Winter term : Staff is invited to Graz to teach in the module « Current trends in European education »
- Educational staff week 2019 : dates and topic still to be decided.

**PH Schwäbisch Gmünd** (Monika Becker) :

- « Exploring the World » : 30 ECTS module for Early Childhood Education in the spring (April – July)
- Courses taught in English for future primary and lower secondary education : mainly in the spring (April – July), but also possible in the autumn (October – February)

**UCSYD** (Jette Laursen):

- UCSYD will have to limit to the number of incoming students to the numbers agreed upon in the lia, due to balance issues.
- « Crossing borders » in Abenraa, organized by Martin Brunsgaard: Takes place in the autumn and the spring (target groups : primary and preprimary)
- « Inclusive Practise – Special Education Needs and Inclusive Teaching » in inclusive education, in the autumn
- « Living and learning » in the spring
- Staff week in April/May in Esjberg

## 6. Risk management in international exchange programmes :

How do the different institutions cope with risk management (emergencies in the context of international relations). The topic will be discussed in Vilnius. → ***Please send written procedures/protocol/crisis manual, etc. before the meeting (in English, if possible).***

## 7. Offers and demands for (individual) teaching staff mobility

Some dates are on the website, but please add more weeks, and add information.

Demands for individual mobility (or for event) can be on the website, however, offers should not. Offers should rather be sent by e-mail. Chantal will send around a grid to formalize the offers and demands.

How to inspire more teaching mobility ? → **Offers should be sent to Chantal before the Vilnius meeting so the Association can make the offers more visible.**

## 8. Conference of INGOs and the participation of the Comenius Association:

Presentation of the work of the Board of Management of the Conference of INGOs in January 2018 and perspectives for the future. Presence of the Comenius Association in the Board of the INGO conference (R. Pirolt – Austria).

Geneviève Laloy explains the general situation: The Association Comenius is now a member of the INGO. Our membership gives the internationalization of teacher training a voice. On the other hand, the Comenius Association can have benefits from this membership.

R. Pirolt has been elected as one of the rapporteurs within the Standing Committee. He does not represent the Comenius Association there, but the Standing Committee. However, this is another important (indirect) link of the Comenius Association into the INGO.

More information about the Conference: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/home>

The following persons represent the Comenius Association in the three Committees:  
Human Rights: Thomas Schrei  
Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges: Jonathan Rooke and Niomi Kelly  
Education and Culture: George Camacho and Pieter Demeyer

The group of persons is not closed. Colleagues are invited to join. There is the possibility they have an STT grant. In case there is no grant, the Comenius Association can support the colleagues active in the committees. The participants in the work groups are putting short summaries of things relevant for the Comenius Association on the website.

Special event within the Council of Europe: **World Forum for Democracy 2018: 19 - 21 November 2018**: Women's participation in public and political affairs and combating violence against women. The persons taking part should register directly, not through the Comenius Association. It is possible to use STT grants for that purpose.

## 9. New workgroups and new topics:

Follow-up of the meeting in Bergamo: The output of the brainstorming about new ideas.

The following new topics have emerged:

1. Internationalization: How can we make internationalization part of our curriculum? How can we show the benefits of internationalization so our universities integrate it into the curriculum?
2. Digitalization: links between digitalization and education, humanistic approaches.
3. Being a child today: What is the same and what has changed over the years.
4. The teacher of tomorrow: What will be the role of the teacher? What kind of teacher do we wish? Which values should be promoted in our teacher education?

World café: deeper brainstorming about these four areas.

*Afternoon :*

## 10. Field trip to Château du Haut-Koenigsburg and Séléstat

*Evening (after dinner): concert in the music room of the Castle and social evening in the cave.*

**Friday, 25th of May 2018**

*Morning :*

### **11. New perspectives for the Comenius Association:**

The mission of the Comenius Association facing the current challenges of society: a road map for the coming years.

Discussion in small groups: have a look at the mission and have a look at the key points. Does it still fit? Do we have to add things? Should we change things? → Chantal Muller collects the results of the short group discussion. It will be the ground for a larger discussion of the topic during the Autumn meeting in Vilnius.

### **12. General Assembly**

12.1. Presentation of the participation of the Comenius Association at the next Conference of INGOs (Council of Europe) 25-29 June 2018. Organization of the follow-up, benefits and impact for the Association.

12.2. Reports of the different representatives in the different commissions of the Conference of the INGOs. (Cf. Website of the Comenius Association)

12.3. **Autumn meeting 2018 at VIKO Vilnius (Lithuania) from September 11 -14 2018**

Vilnius will send the invitation as soon as possible in order to book the rooms.

Structure of the meeting: Wednesday will focus on the topic "Digitalization" – a day which will be very diverse. Thursday and Friday morning will be dedicated to Comenius work. There will be 1,5 days for Comenius work. In addition, there is time for work groups.

Suggestions to the organizing team: There should be a possibility to be online, in order to make it possible for persons not physically present in Vilnius to participate. Request to have an overview of the country, the history and the educational system of the country.

Discussion: How large is the topic? What is included into the topic? It should be as large as necessary and possible.

Suggestion: There could also be students presenting something.

→ Preparation for Vilnius: bring presentations about your international weeks along, also offers and demands, contact persons potentially interested in the topic "Digitalization", send information about "Be prepared for the worst".

General discussion about the dates of the autumn meetings to find good dates: For the future – if possible – an overlap with the EAIE conference will be avoided in the future.

12.4 **Journal:**

Call by George Camacho to hand in more articles – also student reports.

Discussion: Should there be an additional part in the Journal "Perspectives from the outside" about the topic? The idea has been approved.

#### 12.5 **Elections:**

Mandates of the two secretaries and the treasurer will expire this autumn, they have to be reelected. Question for the next mandates: Reduce the number of the board members from five to four, in order to have the organization more slim (and in order to reduce costs), or maintain five board members with clear responsibilities (e.g. organization, reports, statistics, website). Discussion is open, general option: Do what is best for the functioning of the board.

#### 12.6. **Next meetings:**

Spring meeting 2019: Klingenthal in May (or early June) 2019, (21<sup>st</sup> = 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019).

Autumn meeting: will have to be discussed. Candidates for 2019: Graz has confirmed for week 43, from 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2019 on. Candidates for 2020: Hradec Kralove, Thurgau. The dates and the places will be discussed in Vilnius.



Klingenthal 2018 (Foto: Lia Frederix)

Monika Becker, for the Board of Management, 23th of July 2018