

# Comenius Association, Spring Meeting 2016

KLINGENTHAL May 24 – 27 2016

## Report

**Tuesday, May 24**

### **First session**

Welcome by Geneviève Laloy and the board.

We've received a postcard from Gerit Jaritz from Hawaii.

Language: The main language will be English; there will be no translation of all the contributions, but participants are asked to feel free to use other languages as well.

House rules: once again published

Program and list of participants are handed out

**Wednesday, May 25**

9:35 **Plenary Session**

### **Presentation of potential new members**

#### **Presentation of ESPE Strasbourg – Andrea Young (see ppt)**

Part of Strasbourg University; specialized on Teacher Training for Primary Education: age 3 – 11!

Very few outgoing students, due to the structure of the study programme and the French system of „Concours“. Very interested in short-term mobility.

#### **Presentation of PH Steiermark – Susanne Linhofer (see ppt)**

Offer a 30 ECTS course in English in both semesters.

PH Steiermark is member of the VoiceS – Network, an easy platform for finding partners from tertiary and secondary level (schools)

They will organize an International week (April 3 – 7 2017), it differs a bit from the design of international weeks within the CA (mostly teacher mobility)

### **Follow-up Valencia**

Need for discussion on following topics:

- International weeks efforts
- INGO Conference of the Council of Europe
- Situation of migration and refugees, proposal for a new project
- Workgroups on the 4 topics (inclusion, languages, outdoor education, sustainable development, teaching strategies).

Evaluation of core activities of the Association: International Weeks / Student Mobility / Staff Mobility – Look back & forward
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Introduction: Video clips of the international weeks in Schwäbisch Gmünd („Europe“) and Namur („Discover the surroundings“)

**Invitation:** dates of new international weeks next academic year

Methodology: 6 Thinking Hats (Edward de Bono)

white paper: facts

red paper: emotion

black paper: “Yes, but....”: negative, risks

yellow paper: good

green paper: dreams, creative, alternatives

blue paper: overview, conclusion

The report on the three groups will be disseminated on Friday

<b>Presentation of Projects</b>
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**Strategic Partnership “ToWe” (Helen Sutherland)**

**(see ppt)**

“ToWe” (= Toddlers’ Wellbeing): KA2 with 3 Universities and 4 Early Years Setting Partners

Participants: University of Stavanger, Kingston University, Blanquerna

Working Language: English, translated to Norwegian and Catalan

1<sup>st</sup> step: Preparatory Week in Kingston to create a link between Universities and Practitioners

Job shadowing and dissemination: 2 days-workshop at the end of the project

Main advantage: intellectual output and also test the material that has been developed

Material is now partly available (update to Toddler Project Material)

March 2018: Conference ECHE Kingston (University teachers, practitioners, policy Makers); fundable with STT grant.

### **Report on “Learn to learn” (Martine Wilmots)**

Participants: Thomas More Mechelen, Helmo Liege

The project was run at a primary school in Liege and primary schools abroad

The strategy was stepping into a primary school project instead of running a project on their own (lower demands by the EU for primary sector)

Workshops abroad, students and teachers took part

### **Vác/Winchester Tale Project (Marianne Szentpetery)**

(see pdf)

Questions: Could they transfer this into an international week? Vac will think of it.

How did you finance it? The students financed it themselves.

### **Comenius Journal: Mechelen**

Leading topic: “Formal and non-formal learning”

Further articles welcome, Call for proposals 10/6/16, full texts are required until 4/07/2016

Languages: English, French, Spanish, German: abstracts in English and French required

### **“KA 3 – the secret programme” (Tove Heidemann)**

Cf. ppf

KA3 has originally been communicated as not relevant for International Relations.

It turns out that there is money for centralized activities left, managed by EACEA.

Possible subprogrammes, not even advertised by some national agencies.

Priority 2016: strengthening teacher training and education by using the opportunities of new technologies. BUT: top-down-projects, have to be initiated by a ministries.

But: There is the possibility of “Forwardlooking projects” → very similar to former Comenius projects and IPs. Universities, Networks, NGOs, schools, etc. can apply, 3 countries, 3 partners minimum. The priorities fit perfectly.

### **Questions (and Tove’s answers)**

Length of the project? → 2 years

Potential partners? → possible to combine

Expected outcome? → political input, not implementation. Deliverable: potential input.

Where does the decision and the management take place? → Comenius multilateral projects

Example: Susanne Linhofer: KA3 Austrian ministry of science AND the national agency (Bologna experts); KA3 about e-learning with Pabo Zwolle.

Austria: only 4 KA2-projects this year, in DK only 2 per year, in Flanders only 1. → very difficult to get them, so rather KA3.

Working hours? → Yes, as part of the co-financing.

Number of partners of approved projects: → cf. website.

Cross-sectoral work better? → ? very likely.

EACEA central office is very helpful.

Info-Day → website

Suggestion Thomas Schrei: collect successful applications in KA1, KA2 and KA3.

Why “secret” money? What’s the agenda? → unclear / unknown.

Suggestion: define the priorities of the CA. Is it possible to identify one priority shared by all in the CA?

Big difference KA3: What kind of input does it have on politics / European policy / National policy?  
Project output has an impact on politics.

Not necessarily research based; it can be included, it can be linked to research, but there can also be best practice, etc.

## CORE TOPICS of future projects

### **Outdoor Education: Piet Tutenel**

Project “Hanging out” (see ppt)

There have been meetings in Mechelen and Louvain-La-Neuve (LLN). They had to clarify differences in interpretation of “outdoor education”

Sticking to 5 priorities

3 focus domains, concentrate on one of them each meeting

### **Jette Laursen: Languages Interest group**

This group split into an intercultural and a language competence group with a rather methodological approach.

Partners: DK, Thomas More Mechelen, UCV, Vác, Kingston, (Valerie; coordination)

Idea: mix of Comenius Week and IP plus additional week for school visits. (End of March or around 1<sup>st</sup> of May). Participating institutions send 1 teacher and a group of students.

English will be the working language

(see pdf)

### **George Camacho – sustainable development (see pdf)**

Participants: Louvain-La-Neuve (LLN), Gent, Namur, Haderslev, Liege, Santarem, Vac

At first he refers to an IP in LLN in the past and then the mid-week organized in April 2015 in the follow-up of the IP.

**1) March 2016: new** mid-staff week about sustainable development (SD) with a theoretical Approach – specialists at Santarem

**2)** There is a platform of SD-Education in Lisbon Area with educational material → visit of the group in Lisbon

**3) Project to organize** module for teachers, students not addressed, dealing with strategies developing material for use in class

**4)** Create methodological tools in the participating institutions to apply sustainable development, put the tools on a platform

Work to be continued in Winchester to prepare KA2 or KA3-application

### **Niomi Kelly – teaching and learning strategies**

Developed out of the languages interest group (see ppt)

Question: Why not combining this with teaching practice?

### **Geertrui Van Den Berghe – Inclusion**

As it is a broad theme therefore the group had to explore the field of inclusion

Conference in Bergamo with meetings before and after; Fabio sent a summary: same challenges in all countries, looking for KA2-project (or KA3)

Decision: organize an international staff week on inclusive education (4/10-7/10/2016), STA and STT possible, it is open for early & primary education

There will be an extra space on our website for staff weeks

Remarks: Thomas Schrei: KPH looks on students with special needs in teacher training

### **Martine Wilmots – CLIL (emerging schools)**

The group is still on Valencia status

There are only few participants at a certain CLIL module at Helmo; it seems there is not so much interest in that.

Link it to refugee issue: many children are taught in another than mother tongue – look for strategies/methodology how to teach them

Remarks: Chantal: EC/CoE-initiative for supporting multilingual class teaching: will go on in 2016/17 (information will follow). @CLIL: Mary Shopin is an expert, offers modules in Liege (not many students take them)

Piet: KA2 applications are not very easy, Plan B is a good idea. But what is in between? Learn more about KA3 what is allowed/possible

Tove: Invite Susanne Linhofer to Winchester, she'll know more about the options then.

Genevieve: combine international weeks/staff weeks to practice;

Monika Becker: it seems we have more and more staff weeks, no relation to past performance, this leads to strict financial regulations, so how send teachers to them?

### Different projects for next year

- Mechelen: New item in Mechelen: degree as Bac lower sec French in Flemish community for Bacs in lower sec with Dutch degree. Artevelde Gent is also offering this option.
- Mechelen: "The Body in teaching" – conference in Mar 2017 > body awareness is important, invitation will follow
- Vác: CoolTour – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, focus will be on playful education
- Haarlem: Minor for Early English (15ECs) and Global Education (15ECs) still available,
- HEP Lausanne: Peers-project is ongoing, Summer university with Bangalore, Summer university with Canada
- KPH Vienna: international week 13/5: social science in primary education (holocaust education ...), all English, 2.5 ECs are to be awarded. Due to the change in curriculum specializations, eg in Religion Teacher Ed and inclusive ED are to start in Winter 2016
- Louvain-la-Neuve: @International weeks: also open for students of not organizing institutions if possible
- HELMO Liège: we need to insist on respect for the importance of information on AC website!!! Ask all institutions until autumn meeting
- Namur: advertising starts at the beginning of the academic year, so if there is no information, there cannot be any advertisement.
- LLN: LLN international certificate in comparative education (see folder): 6 weeks courses, 6 weeks of training, research and teaching practice in Belgium (in French or in English) and 4 to 8 months abroad for courses and practice!
- Call for STA mobility: LLN invites 5-10 teachers to comparative education (9/16-10/16)
- HELMO Liège: "Let's integrate differences" would also welcome further 2 teachers (20.-24.2.17)
- LLN/Namur: joint project (see flyer): Erasmus+ module in English, to be continued in 2017, also practice in schools with CLIL (also available in French speaking schools), assignments depend for what they study at home; The language level must be B2 at least
- PH Schwäbisch Gmünd: International Week on Europe in April 2017, enough English spoken courses for teacher training primary/lower secondary; new: 30EC package of Early Childhood Education (see flyer)

Thursday, 26 May

### Teaching mobility: mobility interest grid

Richard presented a teacher mobility interest grid, to find the “perfect match” between two or more teachers

### Council of Europe

Genevieve offers general information on the Council of Europe and the way of the Association Comenius towards it (see ppt)

Framework / Structure of the Conferences

INGO Conference: main purpose: make member organisations active (320 of 47 countries)

3 committees:

-Democracy,

-Human rights,

-Education & culture,

One special team for gender equality

The Comenius Association was invited to look where to fit into, first focus Education&Culture

4 Workgroups in Education & Culture:

- Teaching profession
- Digital society and education
- History – Democracy building
- Intercultural dialogue

➔ **Call:** look for persons of the various institutions to follow the workgroups

Benefits for CA of being a member of the INGO:

Visibility of CA

Bring in values and aims of the association into the INGO Conference, make our voice heard as an international association (see basic values of the CA > website)

Being informed about new recommendations, tools, projects – easier access to (new) information for the members

E.g. side event of an association against hate speech on new media: material available for direct use in class

CoE makes a lot of recommendations, we could make the link to teacher training and then to schools, bridge the gap of formal and informal education

*Manifesto:* Education for change – Change for Education

History Workgroup – Richard reports on current events

Language: French , but also English

Question Piet: can we use STT grant?

- ➔ Question: are there CA members to follow workgroups, to represent the CA & report to the CA

Tove: use the information for KA3 applications, also for dissemination

Geneviève: we applied for participatory status (was not approved but observer status), but we are more and more committed to workgroups, advised us to renew the application

Forum about democracy in November 2016 (including side events)

Next Meeting of the INGO Conference: June 20-24

Members invited to take part in the meeting and be active in the work groups, especially if there is a longer perspective for one person. Possibility to use STT grants or even financial support from the Comenius Association.

- ➔ **Survey on good practice for intercultural education in our institutions**, sent around by Geneviève Laloy.

Examples at different levels given by Geneviève Laloy (all from LLN)

International weeks – international level, project of the ENBCW, project of a primary school

The members are encouraged to participate in the survey, as the results will be disseminated and make the CA visible.

Another strong point of the Council of Europe ECML: **European Center for Modern Languages**

Possibilities for countries for consultancy:

The countries can ask for consultancy, the ministry can pass to a certain institution, cost for organisation are paid by the ECML or EC.

- ➔ GL: Gerry O'Reilly as member of geographers' association reminded us to look for the CoE representatives at home to get into contact

**Development of intercultural competences: Activities with high priority within the Comenius Association**

**Methodology: SWOT analysis**

- 1) New initiatives for exchange (see ppt)
- 2) Summer schools organized by the CA as international association, not by an individual institution
- 3) Publication of students' work
- 4) Migration and refugees: Conference/workshop/... on Education and Migration/Refugees in March/April 2017 in Brussels



**General Assembly (Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>)**

**Feedback work groups:**

**International Weeks (Monika Becker)**

*cf. document "Evaluation International Weeks".*

More and more diversity in terms of fees, application procedure, accommodation, etc.

Main reason for difficulties: Lack of communication

- ➔ During the Winchester meeting, time will be reserved to discuss the International Weeks with all the institutions organizing a week.

Vác: Nov 7 – 11 2016

Antwerpen : Dec 12-16 2016

LLN: Feb 6 - 10

Liège: Feb 20 – 24 2017 (Topic: Diversity)

UCV: Feb 27 – March 3 2017

KPH Vienna: 15 – 19 May 2017 (Topic: Human Rights)

Henallux Namur: May 15 – 19 2017

Stavanger: March 20 – 24 2017 (Topic: Outdoor Education)

Thomas More Mechelen: March 27 – 31

Inholland Haarlem: 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of April

Santarem: April 17 – 21 2017

Schwäbisch Gmünd: April 2017 (date to be confirmed)

Staff weeks:

Graz: April 3 – 7 (Teachers and administrators)

Artevelde: 4.-7.10 Inclusion (teachers only); 29.5.- 2.6. ECHE (teachers only);

- ➔ Please send your programmes and application forms to the webmaster Alain Desmarests - - [alain.desmarests@gmail.com](mailto:alain.desmarests@gmail.com) - as soon as possible (at the latest before Winchester)

**Student mobility (Chantal Muller):**

Cf. document "Student mobility"

Differences in the number of students participating

School placements: sometimes possible with low language skills, but not always.

Challenge: Avoid a wrong impression of Erasmus created by a certain “Erasmus lifestyle” of some students.

Dreams: increase numbers, make it inter into the curriculum

### **Staff mobility (Geneviève Laloy):**

Cf. document “Evaluation Staff Mobility”

Wish to have a more professional exchange.

Dream: International exchange should be considered normal and “compulsory”.

### **Activity in the field “migration, refugees” (Chantal Muller)**

Cf. document “Migration and Refugees”

Follow-up: contact people; continue in Winchester, STA will be possible next year.

Niomy Kelly mentions a Conference in Gent 11 – 16 September 2016. ([www.sipcc.org](http://www.sipcc.org))

Niomi will contribute a video project including refugees’ stories

### **Summer courses (George Camacho):**

Cf. document “###”

Decision of the work group: a summer course will be a good idea to continue.

- ➔ In Winchester there will be a time for reflection about what we can do. (An e-mail will be sent to the members before Winchester).

### **Student publications (Geneviève Laloy):**

Overall topic: “Comparative education”

Idea: One journal per year published online; additional paper versions

- ➔ Reflection in Winchester
- ➔ The participants are asked to collect articles by students already written about that topic.

Suggestion Tove Heidemann: Extend to topic to Bachelor thesis. It would be interesting to see what the requirements are and what the students hand in in the different institutions. ➔ Bring one copy each to Winchester (even if it is not in English).

Suggestion Piet Tuteneel: Also ring along our quality criteria.

Suggestion Piet Tuteneel: Make teaching material developed by students accessible to partners.

## **Autumn Meeting Winchester, September 6 – 9 2016**

There will be a possibility for project work groups to join on Tuesday between 1:00 and 5:00 already.  
Official start of the week: 5:00 p.m.

Special focus on conference “Values in Education”: Colleagues welcome to join just for the conference.

Call for papers will be sent around! Deadline: June 23. (June 23 will also be the deadline for the Comenius participants taking part in the entire meeting).

*BEHIND YOU!!!*

## **Council of Europe: participation of Comenius members to the INGOs’ Conference in June 21 - 24**

The participation to the INGOs’ Conference is open to all persons interested in a long-term commitment. Please contact Geneviève and Chantal if you want to participate in one of the work groups during the June session.

- ➔ Inquiry “Intercultural Dialogue”: Members are asked to fill in questionnaire with good examples from their institutions. The more examples, the better for the Council and for the Comenius Association which can increase its visibility.

## **New members**

PH Steiermark Graz (AT) and ESPE Strasbourg are interested in becoming a member and will hand in their application soon!

Finland: Yväskylä is not interested in joining

Patras: It has not been possible for them to come to Klingenthal, but they will receive an invitation for Winchester.

## **Website**

- ➔ All the participants are requested to check the website if the info about their own institution is updated.
- ➔ Suggestion Martine Wilmots: Add a direct link to info for incoming students!

## **Journal**

- ➔ Reminder to send the articles on time to Mechelen. Deadline for articles: July 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Friends of the Comenius Association**

A follow-up of their activities will be given in Winchester

**Klingenthal 2017: May 30 – June 2**