



KLINGENTHAL MEETING 2019
Democracy and Citizenship in Europe
Missions of the Comenius Association and current societal challenges
Issues of international mobility in initial teacher training in Europe

Tuesday 21st – Friday 24th May 2019

Report

Tuesday 21st May 2019

Arrival of the participants, welcome

First working session of the meeting

- Presentation of the programme
- Reminder of the house rules of the Klingenthal Castle.

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

1) Plenary session: Evaluation and state of the different projects implemented in 2018-2019

General introduction of the different forms of international projects (Geneviève Laloy)

The Comenius Association is “surfing” on different waves. That makes the Association so special – although most members have other partners as well.

1.1) International Comenius Weeks – summary 2018-2019 and perspectives

Early communication is important for the success of an International Week: Information should be accessible online on the Comenius website mid-September (there will be a kind reminder at the beginning of September).

The following information is required by every institution organizing an International Week:

- Dates of arrival and departure
- Clear topic and kind of activities foreseen
- Costs for students and what they include (accommodation, meals, transport).
- Information on how accommodation is organized.
- Language requirement for active participation and for communication
- Costs for last-minute cancellations should be also made clear.
- International staff welcome as well?

→ The more information communicated, the better!

In case of changes (cancellations, late arrivals, etc.), the international offices should communicate it to each other as soon as possible.

The Comenius Association sticks to the procedure that we wait for the **deadline November 20th** before additional students are accepted. But it might be helpful to know beforehand if there are places available or additional students interested.

Some members underline the enrichment of additional students from institutions which do not offer international weeks themselves.

Discussion: *Do the institutions give ECTS for International Weeks?*

Different points of view:

In a lot of institutions students need the recognition of the international week as ECTS.

Some institutions require preparation, so the students should get credits for it.

Not every experience can be measured.

Not every organizing institution is ready to do the extra work to give them additional assignments.

Some countries require a minimum number of credits 3. How to get the additional credits?

→ Please inform the partners beforehand, in most cases a solution can be found easily.

“Success stories”:

-Mixing Erasmus students with “one-weekers”; it is the Erasmus students’ last week, which is a good introduction.

-Mix with local students at least during some parts of the week.

-Drama: good way to mix local students, Erasmus students and “one-weekers”.

-Application of the content at a real primary school to increase the commitment.

-Inviting local staff as a first step in I@H activities.

-Active classroom visits: interviewing pupils.

Idea: International staff week: Inviting international staff, local students are attending (as it is the case in Vilnius for example); international students just coming for the week might be included as well.

A large variety of possibilities are possible; it has to make sense for the institution.

Some institutions offer a possibility to have a one-week placement at Kindergarten.

1.2) New international staff weeks:

-Artevelde Ghent:

Staff week for Preschool (November 2019)

Staff week Early Childhood Education (June 2020), especially for social educators

Staff week 27 – 30 January 2020 on Gender: compulsory for Artevelde students. Erasmus and other students taking part in “Bridges” can arrive one week earlier and join – with credits or without.)

-Pädagogische Hochschule Schwäbisch Gmünd: Staff week “Democracy and Participation” (in combination with the International Comenius Week for students) (April 27th- 30th 2020).

-Staff week Europe: For January 29th – 31st 2020, the Board of the Comenius Association is planning training days on Europe in Strasbourg (see below).

1.3) Individual student mobility:

→ Cf. presentation “Staff and student mobility”

As long as communication is clear, a lot of things are possible.

Students coming only for placements:

The sending institution should give them the task if they want to send students for placements only (Stavanger).

Some institutions can only accept students for placements for an entire semester, and students have to take some courses to be part of a structure and to avoid isolation (Schwäbisch Gmünd).

Tutorials are required to inform the students about the expectations of the hosting institution, e.g. about academic writing and plagiarism, but also about behaviour in placement schools.

1.4) Changes/new programmes:

UCSYD: No fundamental changes for “Crossing borders” and for “Inclusion”. “Living and learning”: The basic content will stay the same, but the profiles will change. The programme will have a stronger focus on the Nordic approach to Education. The narrative aspect will be important.

Vac: First spring semester in English in spring 2019 (30 ECTS, including a project week/International week at the end of the Erasmus semester); include Hungarian students and a project group from Winchester. The complexity made the week a big success. More international students are welcome!

Schwäbisch Gmünd: “Exploring the World” (spring; 30 ECTS in English including a German language and culture course, field trips and placement): New edition. More ECHE and primary students welcome!

Lausanne: New programme in English, together with Fribourg. 12 weeks in the spring. Not subject based but transversal, including a school placement. Lausanne is flexible, but the students can not mix the courses with the courses in French. The students live in Fribourg, the travel to Lausanne is covered by the university.

Namur/Louvain-la-Neuve: spring; 20 / 30 ECTS option possible. High flexibility! General module for preschool, primary and lower secondary, rather transversal, no focus on a special subject. School placements in international and in local schools are possible. Students rather stay at LLN or at Namur. A mix of timetables is also possible.

Namur: 30 ECTS in English for Social work.

Artevelde: “Bridges” will be integrated from 2020 on into the Belgian study programme. There will be more courses as well weekly school practise with local students.

1.5) Staff mobility – general keys to success and specific offers:

General experience: If staff is moving, students will move as well.
Demands and expectations have to be realistic.

→ Cf. presentation “Staff and student mobility”

Suggestion, good example: “International staff days” to concentrate incoming visitors (staff and teachers). Individualized content, only social activities together. It is a good way to cope with numerous demands: The hosting institution is communicating fixed dates; participating colleagues can network with each other instead of staying

Demands and needs: how to match them, and how to make it beneficial: Profiles or calls by e-mail? → Profiles could be too rigid and could make colleagues disappear from the screen.

ENABLE: Multiplier event in Berlin in September 2019. New project handed in KA2, concentrating on partners.

Invitation to come to ESPE Strasbourg to give a lecture in English within the course “Current issues in Debate Culture”: 16th of September - 21st of October

Seminar “Migration” feed-back of the second edition of the seminar 20th – 22nd of March 2019 in Liège and plans for the next meeting, taking place in Mechelen 11 – 13 of March 2020. (Niomi Kelly)

2) Journal:

Call for papers will be resent with extended deadlines. Main topic for 2019: “Digital society and education”. The journal will contain a new section: “Window to the World”.

Reminder: Please let George Camacho know if your institution will need 15 copies.

- Feedback of the international training organised by the Comenius Association and HELMo in March 2019 – Topic Migration and the education system
- Feedback about the INGO conference in April and perspectives

3) Council of Europe (Geneviève Laloy)

Cf. ppt “INGO’s Conference”

The CA proposes a teaching/training staff mid-week in Strasbourg (29th – 31st of January 2020) with STT grants, including visits to the European institutions and presentations.

Additional comments of Richard Pirolt: Campaign launched by the Council of Europe: “Free to speak, safe to learn – Democratic Schools for all”.

Changes in the Council: There will be a new president, the financial situation is tense, a code of conduct has been implemented.

Fernando Marhuenda Fluixá recommends to share the topics before the meeting of the INGO to all the members.

Reminder that there is updated information on INGOs meeting on the CA website.

4) Work groups:

Feedback of the different workgroups previously initiated by the Comenius Association, reflections on the progress of possible applications.

- Digitalisation (Richard Pirolt): Still in the phase of topic finding, as the topic is very large. The workgroup will narrow down and have a meeting in Graz.
- Internationalisation @ home (Philipp O'Neill) : decision to share good practises to inspire each other. The work group will not lead to a project. General problem : Lack of time. Suggestion Chantal : doing things on the spot, instead of « taking it home ». The link will be put on the website.
- Being a child today – Intergenerational projects: (Geneviève Laloy and Niomi Kelly). Idea: Intergenerational work through the arts. The project might be introduced by a cultural centre.
- Languages & storytelling (Chantal Muller/Jette Laursen): Wait until we have information on the new Erasmus programme. Starting point: traditional stories leading to modern/contemporary stories, maybe in mixed groups.
- Teacher of tomorrow – Topic of the Graz meeting. Suggestion Kia: Take into consideration university teachers/teacher trainers.
- Inclusive Education (Geertrui Van den Berghe): no recent information.
- Outdoor Education: The workgroup has handed in another KA2 application (Barbara Dejonge)

5) Workshop “Values of the Comenius Association” (Jonathan Rooke)

→ Cf. presentation “Values of the Comenius Association”

6) Bilateral contacts

Thursday 23rd May 2019

7) Democracy and citizenship in education

- Introduction by Geneviève Laloy

- Democracy and Education (Pieter Demeyer)

What is democracy? How is democracy taught in your country? -> actions, games, pupils' participation, special topics, etc.

Framework:

- 1) Sustainable development goals (UNO) → a lot of material can be found there
- 2) Global Citizen Education Education (UNESCO) → teaching material from Kindergarten on
- 3) Competence for democratic culture (www.coe.int/competences): Values, attitudes, skills, knowledge and critical understanding.

OECD: ICCS Report 2016: Equivalent of the PISA survey for political culture.

Concrete work at Artevelde:

5 learning outcomes to be implemented in the curriculum in teacher training: Digital literacy, entrepreneurship, sustainable development, research driven activities and global citizenship.

13 learning goals, two of them refer to democracy:

- 1) "The teacher as a global citizen": knowledge, skills, engagement
- 2) "The teacher as an expert"

Growing towards active European citizenship ("Europe House Ryckvelde")

- 1) Professional and personal development (including Community Service Learning)
- 2) Content expertise and specific didactics
- 3) Teaching practise
- 4) Optional courses: "Europe in class": mix of Belgian and Erasmus students: "European citizenship"

Discussion:

-How to cope with students who have completely different values. What about students who have a completely different attitude? → Whatever the perspective of the individual student is, they have to see other perspectives as well. This teaches the complexity of things.

-What about values and attitudes of teachers which are different?

-Eurocentrism in the course?

- Presentation of some tools by the Council of Europe
- Debate

8) Cultural activity: Visit of Colmar

- guided tour at the Museum Unterlinden
- visit of the city centre

9) Cultural evening:

- organ concert by Richard Pierolt (Klingenthal church)
- honouring of two longstanding members of the Comenius Association: Jette Laursen and Monika Roethle.

Friday 24th May 2019

10) Fernando Marhuenda Fluixá: **Role of University of Valencia within the Comenius Association.**
Presentation of the School of Education and Philosophy (they are NOT the School of Teacher training). Which makes the role of the UC in the Comenius Association: Not all the topics of the CA are relevant for UC. Fernando is the main contact at UC for international cooperation. Please send him a message if you see overlaps with your own institutions. Give him a reason to stay within the CA! If they stay, if he sees an echo, he will offer an international week on social work or on social pedagogy or on general education. They will have a programme of 30 ECTS in English.

11) Chantal Muller: **Tools offered by the Council of Europe**

→ Cf. presentation “Council of Europe - some Tools”)

Material for training teachers (theoretical background, descriptors) and practical teaching material
Material for short projects, posters, etc. in many languages.

Special highlights:

“Bookmarks” and “We can” (against hate speech and for human rights)

“Compass”: Human rights education with young people (“Compasito” for children)

Special topics: Diversity, gender, teaching sensitive issues, minorities.

12) Follow-up

“Democracy in Education”: We will take a short time in Graz, and go further during our mid-staff week in Strasbourg in January.

“Values of the Comenius Association”: There will also be a follow-up of the topic in Graz.

13) General Assembly:

13.1) Autumn meeting 2019 Graz:

- Information about the Autumn Meeting in Graz: 22 – 26nd of October 2019
(Presentation Susanne Linhofer)

The meeting will include an integrated conference day with local and international colleagues and with students.

Topic of the conference: “Education in the 21st century”. Workshops are welcome. Call for abstracts is included in the invitation.

The colleagues taking part only in the conference will join in on Thursday 24th at 18:00.

The link and the preliminary programme can be found on the website; the participants have to book their own accommodation. If you book the hotel make sure it is near “Campus South” (Ortweinplatz).

Recommendation: Come on “Combined teaching mobility” as 8 hours are difficult to arrange.

The autumn meeting is a place to bring additional people into the CA.

13.2) Next meetings:

Klingenthal meeting 2020: the dates have to be confirmed (second part of May or first week of June 2020).
Autumn meeting 2020: Hradec Kralove: 3rd week of October (20th -23rd 2020).
2021: Thurgau is planning the meeting, and probably 2022 Paris.

13.3) Mobility numbers for 2018/19 within the Comenius Association:

Richard will present the numbers at the autumn meeting in Graz.

13.4) Journal:

There has been a reminder for the 2019 edition, and a slightly extended deadline.

13.5) Financial statement:

Will be done in Graz.

13.6) Possible new members:

The board will send an invitation for Graz to colleagues from the Universities of Luxemburg, Lubiljana and Krakow.

13.7) The CA and larger networks:

Promotion of the Comenius Association in larger networks (EAIE, Eurashe ...). Participation of several CA members at the EAIE in September 2019 in Helsinki.

The Board is planning to prepare a poster or a session for EAIE 2020.

13.8) Mandates: Mandates of the President and the Vice-president are expiring. There will be an open call for all mandates before Graz, as it is possible to change positions within the board.

13.9) Upcoming event:

ESCUNI will be 50 next year. Marga Alvarez will send an invitation around, everybody is welcome.

Dr. Monika Becker
for the Board, 1st of August 2019.



Foto: Monika Becker