

COMENIUS – Activity 1 – Coordination of schools project FINAL REPORT

Gymnázium Olgy Havlové

Address of institution: M.Majerové 1691, 708 00 Ostrava-Poruba
Tel. no.: 00420 696 957 737
Fax. no.: 00420 696 953 670
e-mail: gyohavl@mbox.vol.cz
Contact person: Mgr. Markéta Dehnerová (marketa@dehner.org)

Partner institutions:

1. Co-ordinator:

Gymnázium sv. Vincenta de Paul
Bachova 4
821 03 Bratislava
Slovakia
e-mail: gymnazium@vincentdepaul.sk

2. Ingeborg Bachmann Gymnasium
Ferdinand Jergitsch Str. 2
9020 Klagenfurt
Kärnten
Austria
e-mail: bg-klu-bachmann@lrs.ktn.gv.at

3. Thuri György Gimnázium és Szakközépiskola
Szent Imre utca 9.
8100 Várpalota
Veszprém
Hungary
e-mail: thuri@thurigy-vpalota.sulinet.hu

4. Zespół Szkół Ogólnokształcących – Liceum Ogólnokształcące
Bielska 34
43-430 Skoczów
Śląskie
Poland
e-mail: zso-sko@ids.bielsko.pl

Number of people taking part in the project

Until now there have been 50 co-operating students and 6 teachers (teaching English, German, History, Arts, Music and Latin). We have methodically worked with the class V.A, VIII.A and 3.A (students at the age of 17-18).

Kind of mobility, which our school took part in

During this school year, we have taken part in three partner meetings. The first meeting was held in October 2004 in Várpalota and the partakers were able to participate on the finalizing of our common output material, which is a booklet entitled "Europe on the Way". We focused on the creation of the cover of our tripartite booklet. The collected material was assembled into a final shape, so that it would best document the three-year working period and three basic building blocks of the project: the past, presence and future of identities in different parts of united Europe.

The second meeting, held 14th-17th March 2005 took place in Bratislava, where we brought the published booklets, which were printed in Ostrava and introduced them to the partner schools. The visit to Slovakia after three years was an extraordinary experience (a ballet performance in the Slovak National Theater, the folk songs and dance performance of Kremienok etc.) The students of all countries presented different regional customs, habits or even the national cuisine.

The last and final meeting took place 26th-29th April 2005 in Krakow, Poland. The Austrian school brought a road exhibition mapping the whole three-year cooperation of our schools which was first brought from Bratislava to Klagenfurt and then from Krakow to Ostrava and displayed in school corridor. One of the most important results of this meeting was that we agreed upon a further financially unsupported cooperation in the framework of the Austrian agency ÖKS.

General information about the project and its evaluation

The fundamental asset of the Socrates project is, in my opinion, in the motivation of all the participating towards the study of foreign languages. Both, the teachers and the students often realize, after their email exchange or after the partner meeting, that the knowledge of foreign languages is inevitable because of its basic communicative value in the framework of the project cooperation. Even those, who are not exactly interested in traveling and getting to know other countries, could have proved that the knowledge of vocabulary and grammar is an important aspect, what the student relations, communication and studies generally are concerned. They are also able to compare the level of language used by students from other partner countries, which generally brings about the strain for improvement.

An asset of no less importance is created by the possibility of a discussion about the social and cultural history of the participating countries and the search for mutual similarities and differences among them. For example, the debate about the political development in the countries of the so called Soviet bloc (Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary) in the 1980's and Austria, on the other hand. By virtue of the history the students were able to understand the cultural differences of these countries and also ascertain many similarities, for example during the comparison of tales from different regions.

One of the positives was also the stressing of creativity, concerning not only the choice of topics, acquiring information and material, but also the shaping of the project very output. The students themselves appreciated the possibility of group work in comparison to the ordinary school obligations. Except for the preparation of the whole booklet printing, our school also worked on some other activities. For example, the history teacher and some students of our school prepared a photo exhibition of the Michal mine (a sight of historical interest in industrial Ostrava) and the teacher of English and students of the fifth grade shot entertaining video sequences about some interesting items to be found in Ostrava and its surroundings. We bought a DVD player and are planning to show the edited movie in September on a projecting screen on the occasion of the European Day of Languages at our school and send a copy of the CD to all our partner schools.

A significant asset brought the improvement of students' IT skills, which is an inseparable element of mutual communication, making use of modern communication and informational technologies. Students got used to working with them in all phases of the project, the documentary one, the presentation one, etc. The participating students were forced to be able to work with computer, for example to lead an ordinary email correspondence or to create www pages presenting the whole project, to work with a scanner, digital camera etc.

Mgr. Markéta Dehnerová