



YOUTH WITHOUT BORDERS

COMENIUS PROJECT 2013-2015



Welcome everyone to our first newsletter! Our goal is to keep you informed of all our activities and upcoming events so you'll never miss out.



The section "About Project" provides an excellent summary of the project itself, highlighting the objectives, the subjects, the problems and the expected results. By clicking on the different sections, it is possible to know more about each partner, the project logo and the case studies. Reports of every scheduled meeting will be uploaded, step by step, in the sections "Group and Multilateral Meetings". Enter your email address to follow the blog and receive notifications of the new posts.

Case studies: work in progress

All the partners are working hard on YWB case studies on the basis of the agreements reached at the kick-off meeting in Romania.

About the project "Youth without borders"

The main purpose of the project is to connect young students from eleven different European countries and have them work together to explore possibilities of studying or working in another EU member state. But it also aims at helping them become aware of what it means to be a part of the European Community, to be a citizen of the European Union and learn about their rights to youth mobility within the Union. Through various activities, the students will begin to learn more about the school systems of their peers living in other countries and to experience different cultural points of view. In order to help students achieve this aim, they will be asked to collect information about four main areas: Labour Market, Housing & Health Care System, Education, Cultural Behaviour & Sport and Free time. Updates concerning the progress and results of the project will be discussed over the course of ten meetings that will be held in the following years. Newsletters such as this are therefore important tools that allow us to monitor how the project is proceeding.

Project Website

<http://comeniusywb.wordpress.com>

The "Youth Without Borders Project" website is now online.



Denmark, Netherlands and Portugal are working on the case "Labour Market and Economy". They have decided to focus on: Industry and Agriculture; Public Sector; Service and Transport, on three different levels: the school own town, the region where the school is located and the country. They will investigate these topics in their own countries and during the three lateral meeting in Portugal will decide how to collect information from the other partners.

Hungary, Latvia and Sweden that are in charge of

"Culture & Society" have already prepared and sent to the other partners all their questionnaires, interviews and essays.

Hungary will develop: Superstitions, National Traditions and Local Media; Latvia: Art; History; Movies; Music and Opera and Sports, while Sweden: After School Activities; Culture at School; Social Media.

The case on Education is in the hands of Poland, Spain and Romania. They will investigate on: "Higher Education: fields of study chosen by secondary school grades and the changes in this area over the last five years" (Poland); "Scholarships and Grants at National and International Levels" (Spain); "The Educational School System in Your Country" (Romania).

Italy and Turkey are responsible for "Healthcare and Housing". Turkey is mapping the healthcare system in Turkey, preparing questionnaires and interviews for the partners on: Health Care System in Your Country; Doing Sports for a Healthy Life; Eating Habits for a Healthy Life; Alternative Medicine. Italy is investigating: Housing Opportunities for International Students; Housing Solutions for Young Travellers; Housing Solutions for a Family Planning to Move to another country.

The meetings in March 2014 will be a great opportunity to exchange opinions and point of view and to decide how to proceed to raise the students' awareness on how they can concretely benefit from EU rights and policies.

Our logo

Each school has chosen its logo. They have given freedom of expression to their students by asking them to imagine and implement a plan that expresses the idea that Europe is a continent where young people can easily, travel, study and live in any member country. This is: **YOUTH WITHOUT BORDERS.**



Each school selected the best one and presented it at the kick-off meeting. Each logo represents the idea that all young European citizens can move freely within the member states, enjoying the freedom and lack of barriers. Most of the logos showed the silhouette of a free and happy youngster in the foreground, and flags and profiles of the various countries involved in the project in the background, symbolizing that there must not be any distinctions between various countries and cultures that make up Europe.

The logo chosen for the project is the one submitted by the Turkish school.

In the foreground it portrays a boy who is jumping, symbolizing a person who is free. This idea is also highlighted by the flags of the European countries involved in the project that cover his body. In the background we can see the profile of Europe



News from the Netherlands

Dutch students have prepared some very beautiful posters of the participating countries, collecting information from their partners.



They really enjoyed working together as Germaine told us.

"I found very fun and educational to make the poster. I met new people and learned a bit about the culture. I had contact with an English teacher of the school Nazilli Fen Lisesi. She told me a lot about the school and the surrounding area. After making my poster, I have also been in contact with a student of the school. He was wondering about the Netherlands"

and our school, because he's coming next year with the project to the Netherlands. I found it very nice to make my poster on Turkey because I didn't know a lot about the country. I have worked with pleasure, and the contact was very educational".

Kick-off meeting: Evaluation Survey

The survey was carried out by Grünberg Ágnes and her team from Budapest. All partner countries took part in the survey, which is a good start.

The partners had two main objectives for the meeting:

- getting a picture of the participating countries and people involved
- planning the work for and discussing matters related to the project.

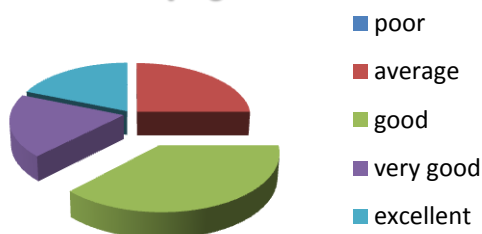
The majority of the participants think that the meeting purposes and objectives were clearly stated. They are satisfied with it (75% agree/strongly agree) and enjoyed it (87,5% agree/strongly agree).

The response of one partner summarizes the meeting atmosphere: *People have been the most memorable experience "...I'm so pleased to have met them, they were funny, interesting, friendly, talkative, sociable. I remember every minute spent with them."*

But on the other hand half of the participants declared that the meeting time could have been used more effectively and some project aspects needed more discussion, for example: the financial aspects, the division of tasks, and the collection of information.

We have to monitor and evaluate our work to improve it.

The scheduled programme at the meeting



The Kick-off meeting: some students' impressions

The students who participated to the kick-off meeting in Romania were really happy with their experience and their enthusiasm was definitely

contagious.

In fact all the other students, who are already working on the project (exchanging emails and preparing questionnaires), are now looking forward to meeting their peers in the following months; they are eager to see where they study and live, know their habits, traditions and customs and share some time with them.

Below are some of their impressions.

"It was a pleasure to participate at this project. I have a lot of friends now, I know many things about many countries, I understand better now how the people from other countries think, how they study, how they live.

"Before starting the meeting, I was very excited. We had to prepare the meeting, all the project stuff, but it surely deserved. Everything was beautiful, like a dream, and after the meeting was over I was upset because the dream was finished. But I surely hope I will take part in a future meeting, too.

In conclusion, it was a great experience, I would participate anytime in such kind of projects in the future, and I will explain everyone what a special experience are such Comenius projects. They help everyone change their mentality, their vision, open to the others, learn a lot of new things and making new friends for a lifetime". Robert - Romania



"I have had never thought I could attend a journey like this. It was a unique opportunity for me and I'm very glad. I met new people from different countries. It was a very big and positive experience.

Actually, first it was strange to stay in a boy dormitory but the boys were so helpful and kind helping us with everything. They were very caring and attentive, I felt myself very good. I could practice the language better and I think this is the best method to know other people.

I also saw a lot of exciting, interesting and amazing places, for example the Dracula and the Peles castles.

I liked very much the trips, I had never seen hard cold mountains in winter time, and the soft, pleasant beauty-coloured spring together. It was a very beautiful landscape-view. I could also hear a lot about other cultures and history, I love history. We heard a lot of interesting and useful information widening our horizons". Réka Szeder – Hungary



"We spent four days having a great time and socializing with the Romanian, Italian and Hungarian students. Some days we would go on exciting field trips to all kinds of cool places like the famous Bran Castle that is also known as "Dracula's Castle". One day we even got to meet the town Mayor! And in the evenings we hung out with the other students to get to know them better. All and all I had a great time in Romania and I hope I will one day return to see its beautiful nature and to meet its amazing people once more". Pontus Lennklev – Sweden

"We had a very warm welcome. We met very nice, friendly and attentive people both at school, and elsewhere. We found a country that is taking giant steps forward to redeem itself from the difficult past, which is still alive in the people's minds... Even though the four days in Romania flew by, we are sure that both the memories of this experience and this country will remain in our hearts. But this is only the beginning of our "European adventure" which has the noble purpose to strengthen the various cultures by knocking down the "borders" that separate us from each other: rather than geographical barriers, what we need to knock down are our bitter and senseless prejudices, and our positive experience in Romania is a direct evidence thereof!". Marco Pagani - Italy

Romanian traditions

Since our arrival in Romania we have enjoyed a festive and joyful atmosphere. We were welcomed by very nice and friendly colleagues. Not only were our colleagues both kind and careful, but so too were all the people involved in the organization of our stay.

In each school we visited we were welcomed by children dressed in their traditional Romanian costumes that offered us bread and salt.

The bread and salt have a symbolic meaning: it is a way of saying, "welcome to my house". This is a Romanian welcome greeting ceremony, a traditional custom expressing hospitality.

During the four days spent in Romania we were able to appreciate the typical dishes of this country: *sarmale* and *mamaliga*. All this accompanied by dances and songs typical of Romanian culture.

