

**EUROPE, IMAGE AND IDENTITY, MYTHS AND REALITY
MEETING IN LA RAVOIRE – FRANCE - 8 TO 11 DECEMBER 2010**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The first project meeting took place in France and was hosted by the Lycée du Granier, La Ravoire.

The participants at this meeting were teachers from the 6 schools taking part in the project:

1. Lycée du Granier La Ravoire, France (coordinating institution)
2. Zespół Szkół im Marszałka Józefa Piłsudskiego, Garwolin, Poland
3. Instituto Educación Secundaria Romano Garcia, Lorqui, Spain
4. Lykeio Polemidion, Limassol, Cyprus
5. Escola Secundária José Saramago Mafra, Portugal
6. Georg Büchner Gymnasium, Seelze, Germany

Several main subjects were on the agenda

- A. Assessment of the work so far achieved
- B. Work activities during the first meeting
- C. The work programme between now and the second project meeting in Cyprus
- D. Other activities

A. ASSESSMENT OF THE WORK SO FAR ACHIEVED

Colleagues agreed that the work programme between the beginning of the school year and the first meeting in La Ravoire had been demanding. Students had produced:

1. Individual profile sheets
2. Presentations on European construction in each country
3. Presentations analysing press coverage of issues of interest to Europeans
4. Newspaper articles included in Front Pages created in mixed nationality groups while in France.

All this work had been successfully completed by each school meaning that we had respected the commitment made in our Comenius application.

The final piece of work was a summary of the interview between students and their local MEP. Not all colleagues had managed to contact their MEP but questions had been prepared by students.

It was agreed that, if not already done so, these interviews would be carried out between during January and February 2011 for inclusion on the web site Marcos Hadjimichael was congratulated for creating this website (<http://www.schools.ac.cy/lyc-pol-lim/europe/comenius2.html>) which was deemed clear and attractive. The website will be used throughout the project for collecting work that will be organized according to the various themes (political identity, regional identity, economic identity and cultural identity) as well as type of document (PowerPoint presentations, written reports, videos, photographs, recorded interviews etc.)

The Portuguese team explained they had already created a blog.

The link is: <http://comeniusprojectportugal.blogspot.com>

The blog will resemble a diary enabling teams to post written reports at different stages of the project.

For example students who participate in project meetings (such as the first one in France) will be encouraged to write a report explaining how they react to the experience and what they learnt from it. The blog will provide a forum for students and teachers to relate any experiences relevant to the project. For example the French students working on the project have been invited by Malika Benarab-Attou to attend a debate at the European parliament in Strasbourg in April 2011. Written reports on this excursion will be written and appear on the blog.

Colleagues expressed satisfaction concerning communication between schools particularly via the e-group:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Europe_Image_and_Identity
Europe_Image_and_Identity@yahoogroups.com.

B) WORK ACTIVITIES DURING THE FIRST MEETING

We dealt with various topics, such as:

1. European construction

Six PowerPoint presentations focusing on each country's history in relation to the European Union. Nations' opinions for and against Europe, before and after The Lisbon Treaty, achievements, criticisms as well as challenges of today.

A few countries presented the results of their interviews with a local Member of the European Parliament, following the lines of a common questionnaire (Cyprus in written paper, Germany as a newspaper article). Other interviews will be published on the common website.

Each group prepared and then asked questions for Skype conference with the French local MEP in Brussels.

All presentations and activities were published on a CD.

2. European Newspapers

Several European newspapers had been analysed before the first meeting. Some extracts were presented (Portugal, Germany and Cyprus). Main topics dealt with:

- Greece, financial crisis,
- the Euro,
- Sarkozy and Romas.

Mixed national groups created a front page of a European Newspaper and presented their results to each other. (Cf. CD).

3. A 10-minute film was made which can be found under the link:

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xg98c5_comenius-au-lycee-du-granier-a-la-ravoire-savoie_school

C) THE WORK PROGRAMME BETWEEN NOW AND THE SECOND PROJECT MEETING IN CYPRUS

We agreed that the meeting would take place during the week beginning 9 May 2011. Traditionally, in meetings coordinated by the Lycée du Granier, colleagues and students have travelled on Tuesday, the official programme has been from Wednesday to Friday, days out have been organized on Saturday and the different teams have travelled back home on Sunday.

However the Cypriot team are under no obligation to follow this pattern. As soon as they have made their choice concerning exact dates they will inform colleagues so that plane tickets can be bought.

The theme of the second meeting will be regional identity. Teams will arrive in Cyprus with a PowerPoint presentation on their region, their town and their school.

The main work carried out by students will concern ranking the five most important places or buildings in the vicinity of schools. Teachers will decide how these buildings, sites, spaces or places will be selected and by whom. Some may choose to organize surveys involving one particular class or the whole school. Others may prefer to include the inhabitants of the town where the school is located. Once their choice has been made, students will be asked to photograph the places and to write short texts or prepare other creative work, such as videos or drawings to illustrate the photographs for the purposes of exhibitions to be held in each school during the school year 2011 to 2012. Teams will arrive in Cyprus with a digital version of their five photographs so that a compilation of the thirty photographs of the same size (DIN A 4) can be made.

The deadline for forwarding the material to Cyprus will be 31 March 2011 enabling the exhibition at the Lykeio Polemidion to be prepared.

During the Cyprus meeting students will make a second presentation on the five places they have chosen.

Activities during the Cyprus meeting will focus on regional identity. Excursions to the places selected will be organized. Students and teachers will be given the opportunity to meet and dialogue with people who play an important role in these places or buildings. If possible mixed nationality groups will be formed enabling students to work in teams.

The Cyprus team are of course free to include any activities they consider relevant and of interest to the theme of their meeting.

D) OTHER ACTIVITIES DURING THE PROJECT MEETING IN LA RAVOIRE

Excursions to Annecy and Chambéry related to the project. A School visit.

an introduction to the French educational system. participation in class work.

a festive evening dinner held at the local hotel and catering school, cross-country skiing.