



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

## MINUTES OF MEETING

The third meeting of the project Comenius Multilateral ***Building their Tomorrows, Today!*** ***SIROCCO!*** was organized from 20 to 25 May 2012, in Kayseri, Turkey.

The following participants took part in this meeting:

Portugal EPA: Ana Ribeiro, Jorge Castro, Sofia Tiago and two students

Spain: Rafael Contreras Rodrigues and Jesus Maria Gallero and two students

Estonia: Sigrid James, Silva Sikk, and Raili Reimets and 3 students

Italy: Sabina Viridis, Francesca Nioi, Cristiana Loddo and 4 students

Turkey: Murat Gencer, Turan Karadeniz, Erkan Gultepe, Erhan Hobek, Fevzi Imren, Oguzhan Yalcin and 20 students.

UK: Kim Johnson, Di Jenkins and two students

On 21st May, after the welcome meeting and the visit of the school facilities, all partners showed what they have done related to the project since March.

The following was decided:

- Next meeting will take place in Kent, UK, from 15 to 19 October. Kim has asked the partners to send him information about students and staff going, so that he can try to find hosting families and the best prices concerning accommodation in hotels / hostels.
- The fifth meeting will take place in Estonia from 4 to 8 March 2013.
- The sixth meeting will take place in Italy, from 12-16 May 2013
- The last meeting in Portugal will take place the first week of July (1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013).
- Concerning the project logo, the partnership decided on the Spanish one, according to what has been decided in the first meeting in Aveiro. The Spanish partner will send a good quality version of the same.
- In what the first newsletter is concerned, the first draft was shown by the coordinator and everybody has agreed to send information as soon as possible about transnational meetings held and activities developed at local level.
- For the interim report, the following can be written:
  - Logo has been done and decided as well as the Project webpage.
  - Expectations questionnaire, to be filled in at the beginning and at the end of the project, by pupils in general concerning their perspective of Integration, Inclusion, the relationship with mates in general, helping each other, cooperation.
  - Concerning the outcome “A study based on a questionnaire for teachers concerning their perspective of integration” the partnership has agreed to continue to collect evidence of inclusion in the various partner countries so that they are better able at the end of the project to write an overall report.

- A study based on a Questionnaire / survey to find out the needs concerning know-how for the staff on some specific special needs and respective analysis
- Planning and organization of transnational training sessions according to the results of the questionnaires for technicians related to specific special needs. In Portugal and in Turkey it was organized a workshop on autism and in Spain about Bullying. The partners will send the presentation/plan of the workshop to the coordinator to be uploaded in the project webpage.
- The coordinator will send as soon as possible a layout for the e-folio activities (with activities – plans, according to the application form (“with joint activities addressed to handicapped and not handicapped people as a group, either for younger or older people) which every partner will complete accordingly.
- Every partner will contribute for the E-FAQ (How to deal with Specific Special Needs - to be included in the Project web page), sending the most frequent asked questions and respective answers.
- It was decided too that each partner will try to find a specific case study concerning the impact of the project on (a) specific student(s).

Concerning the evaluation of the first year of the project the partnership has agreed that the project has helped the students a lot to gain confidence about their disability. Those without disability also have a much better appreciation and understanding of disability and find it easier now to engage with those students. In the whole, they are more autonomous and have acquired a lot more of self-esteem too. Another very positive point is the fact the students are much more comfortable with the English language, trying to speak it whenever possible. They have also developed communication skills not only in their mother tongue but also in English. On the other hand, the students also feel more involved at school and feel more like working and being involved in the school and in the project activities. In every school, all students and staff are very involved in the activities of the project and feel very pleased of being part of it.

However, some problems were found: in Italy and in Estonia, for example, they work one hour a week for the project, but sometimes it is difficult to gather all the people involved at the same time due to several reasons, such as tests, other school activities, etc. Some colleagues still do not understand the importance of the project for the school and do not react positively towards the staff involved in the same. In the UK, they have strict rules concerning the use of internet, specially facebook at school, so it was difficult to have the students communicating with one another.

In order to solve the problem of the internet and facebook, the students were encourage to communicate with each other at home. To solve the problems of the misunderstanding of the colleagues, the partners started talking with their colleagues giving examples of successful stories involving students working in the project.

At the end, the partnership evaluated the third meeting. It was agreed that the meeting was very good and very well organized. Communication between partners continued to be very efficient and smooth. All topics were again explained clearly, the whole team worked together

and every opinion was taken into consideration. Everyone is looking forward to the following meeting.

Apart from the meetings concerning the project work, the group had the chance to participate in some cultural and leisure activities according to the enclosed programme.

Aveiro, 23 May 2012