

Evaluation of the Project Work and Its Impact on the School Report

A survey among students and teachers from Vicho Grancharov Secondary School involved in the Comenius project was carried out to measure the impact of the project on the individual students and teachers, as well as on the school as a whole. The questions were formulated in such a way, so that the participants in the project could compare their skills, abilities, knowledge, character traits before the project had started with the present state of affairs- at the end of the two years' participation in it.

Everyone has pointed out that the project has had a positive impact on them in several spheres – way of thinking, character traits, communication skills, language skills, knowledge of other countries, teaching and studying methods and approaches.

The way students and teachers perceive themselves and the world around them now is the first visible change.

The understanding of being a part of the European community and the value of the cultural and linguistic diversity is a life-changing concept. It has led to forming a more tolerant and open-minded outlook to the different to us people and ways of life. The participants adopted the maxim “Different But Equal”. This has cleared the way for a continual development in all spheres of life.

Another important change in the way of thinking is that the European citizens not only have the privilege to be a part of the European community but to contribute to the process of shaping a new Europe, ready to meet the social, pedagogical, cultural requirements of the present and of the future – share the benefits of a united Europe but also work for its present and future development.

In the course of the project students and teachers have been working on various tasks. The team work formed a sense of belonging and of close cooperation, especially during the preparation of the visit to Bulgaria, the shooting of the films and the creation of the logo. Sharing the same goals united the Bulgarian Comenius team. Everyone contributed to the overall implementation of the project, giving their bit for the common work, so that the final results and outcomes can be a source of satisfaction and personal fulfillment, as they are results of mutual efforts.

Both students and teachers have pointed out that because of the bigger responsibilities everyone has been having for the past 2 years, they have become more organized and responsible.

The project has helped in realizing the objectives of the Lifelong Learning Program at school. The teaching methods have been changing and have become more creative and attractive to the students. The focus shifted to forming practical skills in students. Teachers have been working on the innovative student-oriented teaching activities and have made the educational process more enjoyable and fruitful for the students. The use of the new technologies and of all the opportunities they give, changed the overall view of teaching. The newly-created software products have been used in the classes. The booklet “Let us ICTeach English” has been an inspirational source of ideas for the English language classes. All educational products, made as a result of the partnership, can be freely accessed by teachers and students from all over the world.

Due to the fact that the working language of the project was English, both students and teachers had the opportunity to use it not only during the visits but also while working on the project tasks. In this way the level of English of both students and teachers has improved. Some of them were shy and even afraid to talk in English but in the course of the project the language barrier has been successfully overcome. The better command of the English language, acquired as a result of the participation in the project, gives confidence and freedom of speech and presents new opportunities for personal and professional development.

The project presented new opportunities open to the participants in the project – to travel to other countries and become acquainted with the history, culture, traditions, national cuisine, landmarks of the partner countries, opportunities and experiences they hadn't had before.

Both students and teachers experienced the joy of finding new friends from all over Europe. The communication between them did not stop once a meeting is over, it continues, using the modern tools of communication.

As far as the dissemination process is concerned, all the participants involved their families, classmates and colleagues in the project. While the online voting was carried out the whole school took part in it, parents, friends, colleagues of the parents, local institutions. During the visit to Bulgaria we sought the assistance of the Town Hall

and of firms and institutions, who gladly helped. Students and teachers frequently wrote articles for the local newspapers, so that the community of Gorna Oryahovitsa could be well-acquainted with the Comenius work done at school. Vicho Grancharov had been working on the online magazine, one of the final products of the partnership. In the course of the project 15 issues were published. The paper edition, presented during the meeting in Bulgaria, was a compilation of the best parts of the online issues. One copy of it was given to each partner. After the last meeting of the project a newspaper was prepared to spread the ideas of the project and to better acquaint the citizens of Gorna Oryahovitsa with the final results and outcomes of the project. In order to be more accessible for the people here, the newspaper was in Bulgarian.

Taking everything into consideration, it must be concluded the project has not only been beneficial but life-changing for the students and teachers in Vicho Grancharov Secondary School.