

Report

The local work on the project "Teaching Innovatively with ICT" at Hässelbygårdsskolan, Stockholm

BACKGROUND

In 2011 Ylva Lindahl was assigned to be responsible for our school's international work. One of the things she did was to start looking into different possibilities to take part in international projects. Ylva had previously taken part in a Comenius project when working for another school and she was familiar with the procedures and thought that it would be a good idea for us to join such a project. She started to browse the Internet to find a project suitable for our school.

The original idea was to take part in a project focusing on learning English as both Ylva and Helena, who now had joined, teach English. During this time Ylva made contact with a Spanish school, IES Newton Salas, and started making plans for a language exchange trip for our nine graders who learn Spanish. Soon we were contacted by participants from a large project focusing on teaching with ICT where one of the many objectives was to practice English. The project was well planned and some of the participating countries had worked together in a previous project. That experience, together with the well written and extensive application, as well as the vigor of the project appealed to us and we were happy to try to join in. As Ylva already had an ongoing long term annual project involving student exchange with a German school and was now planning for a second student exchange trip to Spain, we decided to join this project only with teachers. Our headmaster thought that the focus of the project on ICT was interesting and was happy to consent to our participation. We were granted 24 mobilities and were looking forward to start working on the different assignments and meetings with the other seven schools involved.

PARTICIPATING TEACHERS

As we started the project we wanted to form a core group of teachers teaching the subjects suitable for the different tasks for the project: English, science and humanities. We formed a group of five teachers. We had monthly meetings and in between the meetings we worked individually or in pairs on the assignments before every meeting. At times other teachers at the school were involved as we needed their help and knowledge. Over time new teachers joined and as we were on our second year, we realized that the best thing to do for the project and our school was to try and invite more teachers to the project. The idea now was that the "new" teachers going to the same meeting abroad were to take part in meetings planning for the project together with some of the members of the project who had joined from the start. This meant that we have had quite a few teachers who have been to only one meeting each and some who has been to three meetings. We have also travelled with head masters and members of the school's administrating department.

ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS

During the two years of the project we have carried out a lot of activities resulting in many products. As we were assigned to present our country, our school and the national curriculum for our first meeting, we involved students from the media profile at our school as well as students in our classes. A film with 6th graders acting as the minister of education and reporters was made. Two short films

describing our school's methods and profiles were translated into English and subtitled. Media students were equipped with cameras and went into the city of Stockholm to take shots for a power point describing their way of looking at our capital. A lot of photos were also taken and enlarged to represent Swedish lifestyle and traditions in a photo exhibition.

Coming back from this meeting and then after each meeting we have made different presentations to show at our school's staff meetings. The focus has been to show the main events from each meeting as well as places we have visited and the cultural and traditional phenomena we have experienced.

In the spring of 2012 the office for Comenius in Sweden contacted us asking if we would like to represent the project at a conference in Brussels. The conference, "Helping schools team up across Europe", was one afternoon divided into four different workshops. The one we were to take part in was *Turning schools into 21st century learning environments*. Helena went there and made a short presentation of the project's objectives and ways of working as well as the expected impacts on the teaching.

For the next meeting we organized a competition among the students where three virtual banners representing the project were to be made. We also prepared and documented four lesson activities with focus on science and maths for the meeting in Italy. It was now late January 2012 and we started to think of what week to suggest for the meeting that we were to host in May/June the same year. Coming back from Italy we started to prepare for that meeting. We planned for some students to take part and to show work that they had made. A group of 8th graders was to display their work with probability creating mathematical games and films on the platform Learnify. Some other students from the 9th grade were to show films they had made on the theme "Typically Swedish". The special task for the Swedish school was to collect and edit material for a booklet with English lesson activities from each school. That work was completed in June after the meeting in Sweden.

The main focus for the next meeting was to create software for the subjects maths and science. Science teacher Heydar made a game about the nervous system together with his students in class 9. At the same time Elham, teacher of mathematics, and her students improved two of the games on probability in order to use them in the competition in Spain. We also initiated a competition in making a logo for the project. Our new art- and media teacher, Lina, was involved and the result was very good. The teachers could bring two winning logos to the next meeting. All contributions were exhibited in our main school building for students, teachers and visitors to see. Around this time the online diary for students was opened on the project's web site. About 5 – 10 students, a few of them on beginner level, from school year 9 was asked to contribute with short presentations about themselves. They were also instructed in asking questions to students from other countries.

A couple of months later we had two lesson activities ready for the next meeting. One on how to write a story with second language learners of Swedish and the other one on ratio and proportion. A film made by Heydar and the students in the Science profile was completed to take part in the Science film festival. The film showed how the students had built robots with Lego and how they were maneuvered by remote controls.

Preparing for the meeting in Bulgaria three new teachers joined, they were the ones to create an activity in history about ancient Greece and one on how to work with digital tools in story writing for

younger students. Another task was to make a documentary on the impact of the project in our school. Again media students were happy to participate, a group of 7-graders spent time preparing interviews and compiling ideas on what to include together with English teacher Helena and media teacher Lina. They had access to the school's iPads and carried out and filmed interviews with students, teachers and the headmaster. As they learned how to edit in iMovie the clips were finally put together and music and information was added.

For the final meeting teachers from class 9C, Erik and Karin, together with their students have spent time preparing and making films for the quiz that is to be completed in Romania. The short film clips are going to illustrate different Swedish habits, superstitions and cultural ways of greeting and behaving in public. Headmaster Anders has also contributed in preparing for the common humanities game "Let's learn about our Europe!" where there will be questions from each country on famous authors, buildings, places and traditions. We are also going to prepare questions for the final evaluation of the whole project as well as bringing this report.