

REPORT ON THE COMENIUS MEETING IN SPAIN

From the organizing country (Spain) to all partner schools

The purpose of this report is to analyze the outcome and organization of the meeting in Villanueva de la Torre (Spain), meeting where students and teachers of schools of Romania, Turkey, Bulgaria, Italy, Poland, Sweden and Spain took part on.

Based on the feedback forms that were collected at the end of the meeting, it seems that the participants found the meeting to be successful- as most of the forms were scoring 3 or 4 (maximum score was 4, minimum 1). In most of the items the average score lies close to 4, and only one item (Airport check out procedure) was clearly evaluated a bit lower (average 3,1).

Our impression over the activities which took place at the school is very good, as all of them turned out quite well. There were some minor problems like little delays or even some lack of room in our facilities, which we could more or less solve, and (we hope) did not affect the outcome of the activities. We are not a vocational school, but a general one (in Spain, obligatory school is common for all kids up to 16 years old age), so we cannot offer facilities further than rooms for up to 35 students and a few computers. Moreover, due to shortcuts in education in our country the number of teachers has decremented in 20% since last year with a 10% increase in students, so our own availability was not all as much as desired. Still, and according to the survey among participants, we are very happy with the result.

The outdoors activities (Alcalá, Toledo, Guadalajara) got higher evaluation score. We know there were punctual problems as in any activity involving so many people and few organizers (2 people), but again in general terms, we feel very happy with the outcome.

Where it seems that assistants were not that happy is in the check out procedure, as this item, although still relatively highly scored (3,1) is clearly, as above mentioned, relatively low rated. We know there were problems with some groups despite check out instructions from our school, as still even with directions the procedure is not easy (bus or metro to Madrid downtown, then bus or train to Guadalajara). We feel very sorry for these inconveniences, but unfortunately there was no way of fleeing a pick up bus (under a reasonable price) due to the varied arrival times. Now we think that perhaps it would have been a good idea to demand certain within-a-range-limited arrival times from all the participants, so that we could have picked all you up without severe waiting time at the airport for the first ones to arrive. It could have possibly

made the flights more expensive, but maybe not if planned and purchased enough in advance.

We also had some complaints about Terminal 4 at the airport, as it is very big and not always so well indicated. There we could do little as even if we had been at the airport we could not have come inside.

Last, but not least, we want to add that the experience for the students has been superb, and it has had a big impact in our school. Many of our students do not have the chance of traveling abroad, so for them spending time with other partners has been a great experience and has for sure boosted the students towards a higher participation and involving in the project. We also feel very happy with the response of the families of Villanueva and we have no news of negative experiences with their host students. According to an own survey on the Spanish families' experience, they all are very positive, they have felt very comfortable with the host student, considering the exchange a great experience with, in some cases, even emotive scenes at farewell.