

To: All partner schools
From: The coordinating school
Subject: Teaching innovatively (with a focus on ICT) and its impact on the quality of education
Date: 18-23 May, 2013, Bucharest, Romania

Purpose

This report contains the relevant information concerning the implementation of the last meeting of all participants of the aforementioned Comenius project, meeting held in Bucharest, Romania. The report highlights the most pertinent and relevant elements of the feedback forms submitted by participants from all the countries involved, namely from Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, Turkey, Poland, Italy and Sweden.

Efficiency, level of organization and evaluation

Based on the contents of the 57 feedback forms, it seemed the participants considered the meeting to be a very successful one (as it scored a total of 4.42 on the forms, on a given scale of one to five). Similarly, all members agreed that the meeting was well organized by the Romanian hosts, with a total score of 4.27 out of a maximum of 5. All 57 of the surveyed participants considered the meeting had met their expectations. The overall mark for the meeting, based on filling out a scale from one to ten on the feedback forms, was 8.92.

Strong and weak points of the meeting

Most of the participants identified two main positive areas. One focused on the work accomplished during this last meeting, with particular notice being given to the highly interesting and useful workshops. Numerous participants praised the excellent and relevant software presentations, and the usefulness of also being given pointers on how to apply and/or integrate such tools in classes, with particular mention being given to the English teaching language activities. Of equal interest were the discussions with other teachers during specially organized workshops. The second area was the one including the cultural and social activities, with the majority of members agreeing on, among other items, the hosts and organizers being very hospitable and friendly and the trips to Brasov and Bran being interesting and informative. Other identified strong points included the good balance struck between cultural and work activities, as well as having had the possibility to visit a picturesque country with friendly people. Last but not least, positive mentions were made for the accommodation, which was unanimously praised, and for there being sufficient time to do all activities, be they cultural or work oriented.

On the other hand, participants criticized the occasional delays between activities, and attributed some of them to the lack of proper information being distributed to everyone. Furthermore, some members voiced dissatisfaction with either having too much free time or it being not properly organized by their student guides. Finally, some participants were dismayed to find that, yet again, not everyone had at least a working level of English, and suggested this should be a criterion when deciding participation in such projects.

New acquisitions & achieving results

As this was the last project meeting, the participants had an ample opportunity to evaluate not only the acquisitions from this event, but the relevance and usefulness of the project in general, and the results were very positive. As with other project meetings, all participants agreed that this meeting had provided them with an excellent cultural learning experience, with particular focus being given to the Romanian culture, the Romanian school system, the beauty of (and the differences between) the Romanian countryside and the cities, especially Bucharest, and the friendliness and hospitality of the organizers. The majority of participants also mentioned that even at this last stage, with most products having been already achieved, they still found an ample supply of items to discover and learn, mostly to do with teaching software and alternative teaching methods and school/educational systems. The opportunity to engage other teachers and to exchange opinions about better ways of teaching was, by far, considered to have been the most important.

Criticisms

As before, critical contributions were at an all-time low, although some were, indeed, provided. One outlined the necessity for better time management, while others voiced the desire to have visited more places, though acknowledging, at the same time, that the schedule was already rather busy. Finally, some expressed a wish for the students' evening to have been more formally organized.

Conclusions

Taking everything into account, on the basis of the feedback forms, it would be fair to conclude that all the goals of the project were achieved, with extreme benefits and enduring results, as well as highly useful, and relevant products, for all involved. It is also of vital importance for all members to acquit themselves of the final project duties, such as the submission of reports and the provision of final evaluations, as well as continuing to integrate ICT in their teaching enterprises, and of maintaining the productive relationships built over the two year-duration of the project.