

Comenius Project: Different Stories, Same Values

Second Project Meeting in Essen, Germany March 10 – March 17, 2012 Report of the Meeting

Participants:

Germany: Gabriele Naumann, Klaus-Peter Knierim, Dr. Petra Scheidt
Greece: Dimitrios Selekos, Eleni Hantziara
Italy: Karina Belzer, Giuseppe Caragnulo, Gennaro Boggia
Sweden: Hans Olov Norkvist, Margot Eriksson, Katarina Nordenson

The visiting delegations arrived on Saturday, 10 March, 2012. The Swedish and Greek group departed on 15 March, the Italian group left on 17 March, 2012.

The programme started on Sunday, 11 March with a guided "Ruhr-Tour – Day Trip", by coach. Destinations were industrial heritage sites like "Zeche Zollverein", a former Steel Mill in the "Landschaftspark Duisburg", the "Tetraeder" at Bottrop.

The teachers had a project developing meeting in the evening, dealing with the necessary arrangements for the meeting at Stockholm in May and the future project meetings in the second year of the programme.

The active project work started on Monday, after a formal greeting and welcome by the headmaster of the host school, Burggymnasium Essen.

The student groups presented the results of their work on the issue of "National Flags" and "Anthems". The students then developed these topics with the help of guiding questions that had been worked out before the meeting and presented the results. After a guided tour in the inner city of Essen students in mixed groups started to evaluate the relevance of "National Identity and Flags" for the participating nations. On Monday evening the respective groups presented their "Performances of Literature" on the stage of the Assembly Hall.

Tuesday's project work dealt with the topics of the European languages and the four-language "Dictionary", which had been prepared by a group of students, and which was then employed in conversations between students of different nationality.

The topic in the afternoon was "National Days" and its importance in the four countries which was developed in groups.

Tuesday evening the students organized a party at the rowing club house of the Burggymnasium at Lake Baldeney.

Wednesday issues dealt with the problems of "History", followed by a visit to an exhibition of Students' Works On "Historical Monuments" (prepared by a History Course of Burggymnasium). In the afternoon work was on the issue of "Nations in Europe" and a possible "European Day", again started by group presentations of the national groups, then worked out by nationally mixed groups. The afternoon ended with the official goodbye and farewell to the visiting groups. In the evening the delegations went to watch the "Starlight Express" musical show at Bochum.

The Swedish and Greek groups departed on Thursday morning, the Italian group went on a day tour to Essen and Oberhausen. On Friday the Italian delegation went to Cologne by train. The Italian group departed on Saturday morning.

Apart from the project work the meeting offered insights into the history, traditions and customs of the host town.

The project meeting developed the friendly relationship between students and teachers, it helped to develop the knowledge of different European cultures, improved the communicative skills of the students by dealing with differences and common experience.

The Headmaster of Burggymnasium
Petra Schnell-Klöppel

The German coordinator
Gabriele Naumann