COMENIUS in the Lifelong Learning Programme 2007 – 2013

Presentation at 1st CORE project meeting

Based on experiences from:

* EU-funded projects 1997-2011
* Project info meetings Brussels
* Board member of European Schools Project 1994-2004
Why is the EU active in education & vocational training?

EC Treaty

**Article 149**
To contribute to the development of quality education by encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, by supporting and supplementing their action.

**Article 150**
To implement a vocational training policy which supports and supplements the action of the Member States.

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Member States are in charge of their education systems...

...the European Commission has a supporting, fostering role
Over-arching EU policy goal: The Lisbon Strategy

“The Union must become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world.”

Lisbon, March 2000

2005 re-launch:
“EU to become an advanced knowledge society with sustainable development, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.”
The Lisbon Strategy

Teacher and trainer education
Basic skills
Foreign language teaching
ICT
Maths and science

Resources and investment
Mobility & European co-operation
Holistic approach to education
Open learning environment
Active citizenship
Inclusion
Making learning attractive
Links with working life and society

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“The Commission is proposing five measurable EU targets for 2020 that will steer the process and be translated into national targets:

* for employment
* for research and innovation
* for climate change and energy
* for education
* for combating poverty

They represent the direction we should take and will mean we can measure our success.”

(José Manuel BARROSO – President of the EU Commission March 2010)

Preface to “EUROPE 2020 “

“European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.”

CORE Palma Nov 2011
The EU is working towards Lisbon ... 

Policy work with Member states 

Action programmes - subsidies
The Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP)...

...the European Commission flagship action programme in education & vocational training
LLP fosters co-operation among the Member States
LLP fosters mobility between Member States
Lifelong Learning Programme

Duration: January 2007 – December 2013

Budget: 6.9 billion euros

Participating countries: 27 EU-Member States

The programme is also open to:

• Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein
• Candidate countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy
  • (Countries of the Western Balkans)
  • (Swiss Confederation)
## LLP: Structure

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Comenius aims

• To develop knowledge and understanding among young people and educational staff of the diversity of European cultures and languages and its values

• To help young people to acquire the basic life-skills and competences necessary for their personal development, for future employment and for active European citizenship
Who can participate in Comenius?

Basically, anyone involved in school education
What are the Comenius Actions?

1. Multilateral Cooperation Projects
2. Comenius School Partnerships and Comenius Regio
3. Mobility of individuals: Individual Pupil Mobility, In-Service Training, Comenius Assistantships
4. Comenius Networks
Multilateral Cooperation Projects
Multilateral Cooperation Projects

Development and transfer of innovation in

- educational best practices
- guidance for learners & teachers
- new teacher training courses
Participants
Typically teacher training institutes, universities, associations, NGOs, etc.

Budget
up to 300 000 Euro, max 75% cofinancing

Duration
2/3 years

Selection
By the European Commission
School partnerships
School Partnerships

Multilateral* partnerships between schools.

Activities may be

• pupil-oriented and/or

• school-oriented

(*bilateral partnerships possible with a focus on language learning, including class exchange)
Class exchanges can be included

Staff and Pupil Mobility

Budgetary support for mobility and local project costs

Duration
2 years

Selection
by National Agencies
Individual Pupil Mobility

• **New action**
• **Duration: up to one school year**
• **Secondary level pupils**
• **Only between schools involved in Comenius School Partnerships**
Some golden rules

Experiences collated from

- European Schools Project 1989-2011
- EU-funded projects 1997-2011
Some golden rules

- School/institution structure
- Curriculum (cross curricular or subject-based)
- Holidays
- Exam periods
- Local ICT support/ICT training
- At least two persons from each school/institution engaged in the project
- Testing and training the use of the e-mail systems together with your counterpart.

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Some golden rules

- Plan the collaboration well ahead of time
- When you have received an e-mail letter - reply as soon as possible. Above all DO REPLY
- Always answer requests that the coordinator has for the interim and final report
- Teachers/PARTNERS should give each other a good introduction to their working conditions
- Keep each other informed of irregularities that may disrupt the communication: illness, technical problems, promotion..
- Above all keep each other informed
Some golden rules

Netiquette

- Be diplomatic. Criticism is always harsher when written. Use upper and lower case text, because MESSAGES IN ALL CAPITAL LETTERS HAVE THE EFFECT OF SHOUTING
- Be calm. You may have misinterpreted the implied criticism or missed ironic humour in a message; don’t send replies while you are still hot under the collar (’flaming’)
In-service Training
In-Service Training

• Participation in European training activities for teachers and other school education staff

• Training has to take place abroad, not in home country
Course themes: teaching techniques, methodologies, school management issues, etc.

Also placements or job-shadowing

Grant contributes to travel and subsistence costs and course fees

Duration
1 to 6 weeks

Selection
By National Agencies
Life Long Programme - course catalogue:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/

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Remember

K I S S

Keep It Small and Simple
Comenius Assistantships
Student teachers gain first teaching experiences in another European country

Grant contributes to travel and subsistence, linguistic preparation

Duration
3 months to max. 1 school year

Selection
By National Agencies
How to get started in 2011?

Getting more information:
• Call for proposals
• Guidelines for Applicants
• Compendia of past and current projects
• Best practice guides
• Contact your National Agency

Finding European partners:
Contact seminars/preparatory visits
Partner search tools
European Schoolnet/ESP European School Project
E-Twinning
(Sleeping partners”- slippin’ partners”)
Promoting LLP in your school-
What course do you wish to sail after?
If you need help in finding partner schools do not hesitate in contacting me at:

john.rullestad@karmoyped.no
MY CONCLUSIONS after working for more than 15 years in international projects are:

- It is much work, there are always some challenges ahead, but LLP gives pupils and teachers good training in co-operation and internationalisation.
- And travelling is also a lot of fun - and thanks to LLP it’s exclusive for us that have joined it.
- But whatever we do we must remember that we should have a pupil-active school and…..
I believe the children are our future
Teach them well and let them lead the way
Show them all the beauty they posses inside.
Give them a sense of pride.
To make it easier,
Let the children’s laughter,
Remind us of how we used to be……

George Benson
“Greatest Love of them All”