



CHOIR Project meeting Trofaiach/Leoben, Austria - minutes

Monday, October 5th – Friday October 9th, 2009
Hosting institution: Peter Rosegger Hauptschule Trofaiach

Date and place of working sessions

Tuesday, October 6th PRHS Trofaiach
Wednesday, October 7th PRHS Trofaiach
Friday, October 9th Falkensteiner Hotel Asia Spa, Leoben
all of them Styria, Austria



Menu-cover at the official dinner

Additional group activities

Reception by the head teacher of PRHS Trofaiach, Mrs. Christine Mugrauer

Official reception by the mayor of the city of Trofaiach

Dinner: "A taste of Styria"

Guided tour to the "Gösser Brauerei"

Trip along the "Styrian Iron-Road" including

a ride on the "Erzbergbahn", the steepest normal-width railway in the European Union
visiting the exhibition mine at the "Erzberg (Ore-mountain)" in Eisenerz

Guided cultural tour – Leoben

Visiting the "Gösser Kirtag" – Austria's oldest traditional market fair



Ready to go inside the iron-ore mountain - Eisenerz

Chairman: John Christiansen, overall coordinator of the project

Participants: School coordinators and staff from all participating schools
Kirsten Schneider, PedCen Albertslund, DK – evaluator

Agenda: A short introducing round – for those who join the meeting for the first time

What have the different schools done since the meeting in Oviedo

The common box general discussion – "Can we create a common box?"
Detailed discussion - what should be in the box
Who takes responsibilities for which item
Communication and deadlines

"The evaluators corner". Presenting the results of the evaluation reports/ new report (by Kirsten Schneider).

The website. Where are we now and in what way can we develop it?

The application. A look at the application form to see, if we are working in the sketched direction. (John).

Outlook to the meeting in Sesto Fiorentino, Italy

The final meeting in Albertslund, Denmark





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Introducing round

The chairman officially opens the meeting.

There are new participants at the meeting – teachers from partner schools that either have joined the project this academic year or have been involved in it, but not been at meetings before.

So all participants introduce themselves and are welcomed to the team.

Unfortunately the new Spanish coordinator, Isabel Rivera cannot be present at this meeting, but she will be fully informed by Aná Badía, who has the role as a leader of the Spanish delegation.

Review – what has been done since the meeting in Oviedo/Llanera

The partner schools give a short review on the work since the last meeting.

There is not only a report given, but all of them provide material (pictures/posters/texts, ...) to document their work.

Materials are shared and exchanged among the partners.

It turns out that the prepared lessons that were presented at or shortly after the meeting in Spain were very helpful when working with the different items.

All of the partners have “made their homework” – working on the “KISS” (material provided from Austria) and the photo marathon (material and instructions provided by Denmark).

At the same time – almost – all of them work on the poem “Ein Freund ging nach Amerika – a friend went to America” by Peter Rosegger (mostly not on a literature aspect, but because the emigration/immigration problem is virulent in the different countries)

The common – European – box

There is no discussion about the fact that there should be a common cultural box – though this box may look different from what was planned at the preparatory meeting and set as a target in the application.

It turns out there will be two different things, which we have to keep apart.

- a.) The box – which has to be an electronic/IT based one – to be presented on DVD and on the website

and

- b.) the presentation/exhibition of the box at the meeting in Albertslund, DK, where there have to be hard copies to exhibit.

So everything in this chapter ONLY refers to the box, not to the exhibition.

The partners agree that there should not be a “European contest”, where pupils decide which of the items in the various boxes is “worth” to pass to the common box, but that students in all partner-schools should work on the same items and topic, thus making it “European”

The partners also decide that we should use as much as possible from the things and materials we have already produced when working on the various boxes from the different countries. (Not only because it will be a matter of time)

The group also agrees that material will only be used if either one of the partners has the copyright him/herself or it has been explicitly/formally given to CHOIR or to the one who uses the material.

The group also agrees that the procedure of compiling the box should be made as easy as possible to the partners.





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The items:

As the partners agree on using as much as possible from material that already exists, they finally identify the following items as part of the common – European – box:

- The photo marathon
- The arts lesson on Gustav Klimt's "The Kiss"
- Everyday's life – a day in a student's life
- The CHOIR song – new
- The CHOIR multilingual dictionary of basic phrases
- "Ein Freund ging nach Amerika" – migration

There is always one responsible partner institution.

They gather and compile the material they receive from the partner school (along with the one from their own institute, of course) into one final item for the common box.

This final item should also include at least one performable lesson plan or detailed instruction on how to work on it in class (without much additional preparation time for the teachers, who do so)

Deadline for sending material to the partner in charge will be **January 29th, 2010**

In detail:

The photo marathon

Partner in charge: **Det 10.element, Denmark**

Each partner sends the five pictures (one for each of the keywords fixed at the meeting in Oviedo) they have chosen to Det 10.element

Pictures are expected as .jpg or .gif files

(if not possible as a part of a powerpoint presentation)

No hardcopies needed for the box.

The item will also include the instructions on how to do the marathon – as presented to the partners as one of the prepared lessons

The Kiss

Partner in charge: **PRHS Trofaiach, Austria**

Each partner sends maximum five items referring to the topic.

This may be photographs of paintings, texts, ... (results as well as documentation of the process) to Trofaiach.

Pictures are expected as .jpg or .gif files

(if not possible as a part of a powerpoint presentation)

No hardcopies needed for the box.

The item will also include the instructions/prepared lessons on how to work on the topic – as presented to the partners as one of the prepared lessons

Everyday's life

Partner in charge: **IES Llanera, Spain**

Each partner presents students'/pupils' everyday life covering

What do you do before school

What happens at school

What do you do after school

in a **two minutes** video (on DVD)

The information should be given in English – if there is spoken text within the scenes it may be in national language.





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The COIR choir/song

This item is new – the song that the children of PRHS Trofaiach have sung at the reception at the school (written by Helga Svazek, teacher at PRHS Trofaiach) will be recorded by all the partner schools and then merged into one international CHOIR choir.

Partner in charge of distribution: PRHS Trofaiach – a recorded version, keys, accompaniment and lyrics will be sent to the partner schools before the end of October 2009.

Partner in charge: **ITCG Piero Calamandrei, Italy**

The partners send their records as a **wav** or/and **mp3** file

The item will also include the keys and text of the song as a word/pdf file

The CHOIR multilingual dictionary

Partner in charge: **St. Mochulla's National School, Ireland**

Brian will send a list of words and phrases to all the partner schools before the end of October 2009.

This list has to be followed accurately when presenting the phrases in the various national languages.

Partners shall send a video of pupil using these words and phrases and also a list of them (mind the spelling)

Ein Freund ging nach Amerika – a friend went to America

Partner in charge: **Pedagogic Centre Albertslund, Denmark**
(substitute: PRHS Trofaiach, Austria)

Maximum five items dealing with this poem – from the literature point of view to the migration theme are to be sent.

This item will also include the original poem by Peter Rosegger in written version and as an audio file, the English translation and the prepared lesson provided by PRHS Trofaiach.

The results – the items of the common box - will be presented to the partners at the meeting in Sesto. This means that we are going to see our common box there for the first time. It does not seem to be appropriate to publish parts of it before that.

The final compilation of the box will be done by Clare Education Centre, IE – Brian and John will talk to Tony Kelly, director of CEC.
Cover layout and design will be provided by Egon Reip, PRHS Trofaiach.

Directly connected to this common box is the presentation at the meeting in Albertslund, DK in May 2010 – hard copies of material will be provided for that exhibition.
Details will be discussed at the meeting in Sesto.

Finally the deadlines are stressed once again.

January 29th, 2010 for sending material to the partners in charge of the various items (the earlier the better)

Friday, February 26th, 2010 for them to have their item ready





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The evaluator's corner

Kirsten reports about the latest evaluation form, which has been out before the beginning of year two – September 2009.

Not all of the partners have sent back their forms in time, but in the meantime this step of evaluation has been completed.

There were some answers in the different countries' answers that need discussion.

In this discussion it turns out that there has been some misunderstanding – sometimes the questions that referred to the project as a whole have been answered only in regard of the very specific own situation.

Kirsten suggest that having and keeping up-to-date a "school owned" log book may be a good help in both keeping on track and reviewing what has been done so far.

The part of the evaluation form that deals with the website is postponed – it is to be discussed along with all the other questions concerning the website.

She also talks about the evaluation steps to follow and the time-schedule for these evaluation steps – they will appear on the website, but – following a wish from the whole group, she will keep on sending the forms to the partners in extra e-mails as well.

The website

The group use the evaluation as a starting point for discussing the website.

Brian tells, that Kyran – who unfortunately isn't able to attend this meeting for personal reasons – has ask him to state, the he is and will be the one in charge of the website.

He also tells, that there have been some major technical problems through the summer and that Kyran has been working hard on updating the website. (Meanwhile it is up to date)

Egon reminds the group of one essential thing: Kyran can only put things onto the website he has received from the partners. So the urge is to provide material for the website.

The discussion spins around the question: "What can/has to be done to make the website attractive to people, to make them look at it."

The problem that there are – almost – no photographs on the website can be solved by putting pictures into a .pdf file so that they can easily put onto the site.

The group also discuss whether it is a good thing that the website – unless you have bookmarked it – is only accessible via the one of Clare Education Centre, so it may be hard to find – if you google "CHOIR" you will get millions of music-sites and the project site gets lost. So it might be a good idea to have a direct accessible site and – even more important – a site that can be found rather easily.

An enormous help would also be, if all of the group promoted the site – tell people, who might be interested not only about the site, but also how to get there – set a direct link onto the schools' sites,

This is important because the website is (and will hopefully be after the project has been finished) our face to the outside world, our business-card.

And the more attractive we can make the website, the more attractive our project will be – especially if we think of the ideas of some follow-ups that have been discussed at the preparatory meeting in January 2008 and that are mentioned in the application.





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The application (and what has come out of it)

Having a look at the application form (that provides the basis for this project) shows that in overall terms we are on a good way – just in time or slightly ahead our schedule.

It also shows that some of the ideas we had when preparing the project and writing this application have turned out not appropriate (like the idea of having students travelling to meetings) or have slightly changed throughout the working process.

And – last but not least – it shows into which direction our work within the months to come should aim.

In the discussion it also turns out that the role of head teachers - “involved in the project as critical friends” - has to be stressed to some of them very clearly, as they have signed the contract and thus signed this definition of their role, too.

It will be the chairman's duty to remind them – if necessary – of what they have signed.

And it will be the coordinator's job to make it clear to them – if necessary – what the grant from the EU is dedicated to – to fund the mobilities and other project activities.

So John will write a letter to all of the head teachers, telling them how far we have got, what is coming up, where it should end up and what they can – might – should - have to do to make this project a success.

Kirsten will add a few lines from the evaluator's point of view.

Another thing is that some countries – especially Spain – should have a close look on the number of mobilities.

Spain has applied for 24 mobilities – up to now they have had 6 of them (2 to Ireland, 4 to Austria), leaving 18 mobilities for two more meetings – the coordinator advises them to get in contact with the Spanish National Agency to find out, how much reducing the number of mobilities will “cost” and if the former coordinator of IES Llanera has made some arrangements already.

Italy has applied for 12 mobilities – they have spent 7 of them so far – leaving FIVE for the meeting in Denmark (as the next meeting is going to take place in Sesto).

All the other countries should have no major problems in reaching their goal of 12 mobilities.

The meeting in Sesto Fiorentino, Italy - outlook

This meeting will take place from March 8th to March 12th, 2010

Main objective at the meeting in Sesto will be presentation of the various parts of our common box. There we will see the complete box for the first time.

So it will be a necessity to have access to computer/beamer and or DVD player.

The second objective will be the detailed planning of the final presentation in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark

This meeting will take place from May 17th to May 21st, 2010

There will be the official presentation of our “European cultural box” and the exhibition of items that are to be found in the – electronic – box.

This should be the opportunity for head teachers from all participating schools to be present.

Another objective will be the final evaluation and planning/sketching possible follow – ups.

