

CHOIR Meeting in Llanera - minutes/summary

Date and place of working sessions

Tuesday, March 31st, 2009 IES Llanera, Posada de Llanera
Wednesday, April 1st, 2009 IES Llanera, Posada de Llanera
Thursday, April 2nd, 2009 Conference room, Husa Santa Domingo Plaza, Oviedo

All of them Asturias/Spain

Additional group activities

Reception by the principal of IES Llanera
Meeting at the Llanera cultural center – Music school
Ceramic workshop
Arts class
Public Library

Guided cultural tour – Oviedo
Visit to Gijon

Chairman: John Christiansen, overall coordinator of the project

Participants: School coordinators and staff from all participating schools
Kirsten Schneider, PedCen Albertslund – evaluator
Kyran Kennedy, Clare Education Center – webmaster

Agenda, topics, agreements

1.) Cultural box

- a.) Experiences and problems in creating the own boxes**
- b.) How to work on the boxes received until the meeting in Austria**

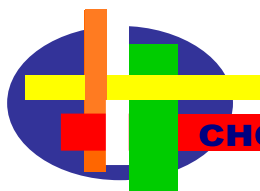
- 1.) prepared “lessons”
- 2.) other topics to deal with - proposed by the different partner institutions

- c.) Working towards creating a common cultural box**

2.) Website

3.) Evaluation

4.) Agreements, additional information



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1.) Cultural boxes

ad 1.a) The coordinators report about the experiences and the problems during creating their cultural boxes.

All of them agree that the amount of work has been underestimated, partly because the schools did not have experience in dealing with a project like this, but partly also because the coordinator's choice was to make no choice and put all the things that were created during the process into the boxes – presenting far more than agreed.

Especially compiling the box took – at least that's what the Austrian partners tell and the others agree on – took much more time than expected.

Maybe we "bit more than we could chew", as Brian from Ireland called it.

There is a vivid discussion about the process of creating the boxes, about obstacles that arose from organization, institution, co-operation among the teachers involved and about how these obstacles have been overcome.

ad 1.b) There is an agreement that a kind of index (what is to be found when in the box and of which arts does each section consist of) like it was in the Austrian box would have helped a lot in having a first glimpse into the various boxes.

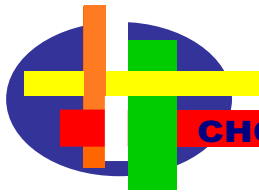
So maybe the schools could send such an index to the partner institutions.

There is so much in the boxes that you are overwhelmed by looking into them and there is certainly not enough time to deal with all the items. (Especially as there are some "for your entertainment")

After some time of discussing there is an agreement that

- Each of the partner institutions should present three items that they want to have to others a look at/to work with.
- One of these items is the one that the "prepared lesson" – instructions on what the item is about including concrete steps and didactic intentions – that each of the partner schools is to present at this meeting is about.
- Two others are chosen by the institutions and prepared in a way that the partners are able to work on without much preparation work of their own.
- These three "instructions" are presented on paper/written to the partner institutions until the 1st of May (deadline)
- It is the responsibility of the school's coordinators to send these instructions to the partner countries and it will be the job of the overall coordinator to supervise this and (if necessary) remind the institutions to do so.
- These three "lessons" are also sent to Kyran who will put them onto the website. (documents should be sent in pdf format, additional pictures in a size of 800 by 600 maximum – audiofiles may be sent as soon as Kyran tells that they can be put onto the site)
- The partner institutions may choose from these "lessons" or other things from the boxes whatever they want to work on – "What you do you do and what you don't you don't"
- But all partners agree to work on "the kiss" (prepared lesson from Austria) and do the "photo marathon" (prepared lesson from Denmark) in order to present the results at an exhibition in Denmark at the final meeting. (This exhibition will – of course - also be provided to the other partners in order to enable them to show the same pictures in their local surrounding)

Each of the partners contribute one Keyword/theme for the "European photo marathon" – so the pupils have five of them to work on. These five themes are (in alphabetic order): **happiness, loneliness, love, pride, relaxation**



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Prepared lessons: (in alphabetic order of the partner countries)

Austria: Gustav Klimt – the kiss

Art/History
Lesson presented
Written information/preparation
Discussion about how to do with pupils

Denmark: Photo marathon

Art/visual education
Lesson presented
Written information/preparation
Discussion about how to do with pupils

Ireland: St. Bridget's Cross

Artcraft/mathematics/history
Lesson presented
Written information/preparation on the DVD – to be sent to the partners
Discussion about how to do with pupils

Italy: A poem –

Literature/history
Lesson presented
Written information/preparation to be sent to the partners
Discussion about how to do with pupils suggestions to be sent to the partners

Spain: unable to prepare because of internal discussion – will be sent to the partners

ad 1.c) As a result of the enormous amount of material within the individual boxes the discussion about if there is a common box and what should be in it is postponed to the meeting in Austria in October.
There are only two items that seem to be without discussion – the two all partners have agreed to work on – the “European Kiss” and the “photo marathon”

2.) The website

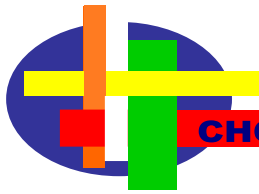
The website is online.

It is hosted by Clare Education Centre in Ennis, Ireland and its address is:

<http://www.clareed.ie/content/publish/Project/index.shtml>

Kyran explains how the site works and asks the partners:

- a.) To send him material for the website – he can only put onto it what he gets
- b.) To have a look at their own parts of the website in order to find faults and report them to him so that he can fix them.
- c.) To avoid “file format trouble”
 - articles/documents should be sent as **.pdf files**
 - Pictures as **.jpeg files** (max. resolution 800 by 600)
 - Texts he might edit (put not all of it onto the site) as
 - Word files = **doc** (word 2003) or **docx** (word 2007)



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The partner come to an agreement that there should be no chatroom and no guestbook at the site, personal contact among students can be easily done in other ways and if someone from the "outside world" wants information he/she better contact one of the coordinators (as there is no moderator/content manager for the CHOIR website and will certainly not be Kyran's job to answer questions or pass them on to someone who them will answer)

The Irish remind the rest to be careful with permission of displaying personal data/photographs of pupil – without parents' "okay" nobody should be displayed on the website.

There will be an internal space/intranet but details are not decided yet and the partners will be informed as soon as decisions have been made.

3.) Evaluation

Kirsten Schneider from the Pedagogical Center in Albertslund – the evaluator of the project – gives a short report on the evaluation forms she has received so far, asks for some more information to clarify some things and gives a kind of schedule for the next steps.

Due to the fire at the Albertslund PedCen on April 1st her work will be a bit more complicated within the months to come – all the evaluation forms will be presented on the website for the partners to download from there.

4.) Agreements, additional information

The coordinator wants to know from the partner countries, if they knew how many of the mobilities they have applied for are still open and how the partners are going to "spend" them.

Austria has applied for 12 mobilities – no pupil mobility included.

There are 7 mobilities left, which will be spent on the project meeting in Italy (3) and the final presentation in Albertslund (4, including the school's principal)

Denmark has applied for 12 mobilities – no pupil mobility included.

There are 7 mobilities left which will be spent on the project meeting in Austria (3) and the meeting in Italy (4, including the school's principal)

Kirsten's mobilities do not count into these, her travels are funded differently.

Ireland has 12 applied for mobilities – no pupil mobility included.

There are 9 mobilities left which will spend on the project meetings in Austria and Italy (3 each) and the final presentation in Denmark (3, including the school's principal)

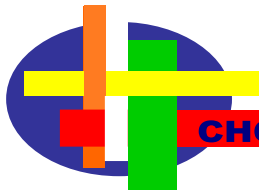
Italy has applied for 12 mobilities – 4 pupil mobilities included

There are considerations to transform the pupils' mobilities into mobilities of staff (of the school and associated partners), but the decision will only be made until the meeting in Austria, depending on the programme and possible pupils' activities at the presentation in Denmark. The partners will be informed in time.

Spain has applied for 24 mobilities – 12 pupil mobilities included.

Enrique tell that he has been in contact with his national agency and informed them that they will probably not use all the mobilities they have applied for – they are aware of the fact that there will be money to be paid back, but the institution has no problems in doing so.

There are considerations to transform the pupils' mobilities into mobilities of staff (of the school and associated partners) The decision about this will be made within the next month, and the partners will be informed in time.



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During discussion it is made clear that there need not necessarily be pupil's mobilities, a school project does mean that they are involved into the project at school. Another thing to consider is the fact that there has to be someone to take responsibility for the pupils during their mobility – the Danish host say that they can't do it and that they can't guarantee accommodation with Danish students' families.

The coordinator will write an information letter to the principals/headteachers of all the partner schools, informing them about the situation, what has been done in the project in all the countries so far, informing them – again – about the funding and mobilities and most of all thank them for their support so far.

Egon asks the partners to tell him the number of participants in the Austria meeting (October 5th to October 9th, 2009) as soon as possible so that he can take care of hotel reservations. He will also inform the partners about how to get to Austria the easiest (and cheapest) way and how to get from the airport/station to the hotel.