

Comenius Project meeting in Jose Conde, Almansa, Spain – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Attendance: Ireland, Iceland, Spain, Romania, Turkey, England

### **Minutes:**

1. **The webpage:** Everything is there. England passed on a powerpoint to Sirry.
2. **Booklet (Slovenia):** Each country checked their entry in the booklet. England passed on pictures and a short text summary to Branka.

**Action:** Distribute correct information to Branka before the trip to Turkey.

3. **The Democracy Card Game:** Iceland produced a template for the board game and the students are currently working out the questions for this game which can be used in any class setting when it is completed.
4. **Exchange of films:** Each country brought a film to the meeting (except Romania) and these will be distributed among the countries for the students to study and write a critique.

The exchange list is as follows:

- Ireland –Romania
- England – Ireland
- Spain – Turkey
- Slovenia – England
- Turkey – Spain
- Iceland – Slovenia
- Romania – Iceland

### **Actions:**

- Write a film critique (1 paragraph) for the first week in November. Absolute latest is the 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2011. Additional Comenius class for Ireland can be arranged as there is a delay in the film arriving from Romania.
- Each country is to give their partner country a short synopsis of the film. England and Spain have completed this task.

**Action:** Discuss at meeting in Turkey. Consider the option to capture this as a short film of approximately 3 minutes.

5. **E-twinning:** E-twinning is proving to be problematic due to technical difficulties

**Action:** Encourage all students to register and communicate via e-twinning (give it another attempt). This will be discussed at the next meeting.

6. **Work to be completed before the meeting in Turkey:**

- Film Review
- Democracy Board Game
- Booklet

**EU and Democracy:** Discussion focused on future tasks around this subject. Perhaps we could pose some questions or create a research task about how being a member of the EU has benefited each country (or how it could benefit the other countries)? Other ideas include the process of election to European Parliament / what voting will mean for those who are eligible. Final product could relate to: 'Why should I vote?'

**7. Student exploration:**

- Why was the EU founded? What was its vision?
- What benefits has the EU brought to Ireland?
- Language and culture
- Job prospects in the EU?
- Invite an MP to the school
- Student interest in voting in EU elections
- Examine the Irish perspective on the EU
- Raise awareness of next EU elections
- Common ground for all countries
- Benefits and drawbacks of membership of the EU
- Number of EU countries
- Main EU institutions
- Has it achieved its peacekeeping aims?
- Results on film – 2mins, max, 3
- Each country should decide its own format for text

Deadline: end of Feb, 2012

**8. Action Project: Young people having a voice**

- Each country has the opportunity to choose a fundraising project or action project which shows them doing something for others less fortunate than themselves.
- Ireland will use the Sri Lanka orphanages project for this. A page is sufficient plus a short interview with the Fundraising representative. This will be posted to the website.

**Action:** Discuss at next meeting in Turkey.

Comenius Project: Meeting for the Project Co-Ordinators – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011.

1. Discussion about the 'fast pace' of the projects – do we need to slow down the pace of the overall project?
2. Visit to Bacau in Romania – do we want to go Bucharest National Parliament? Concerns expressed regarding the long journey and the financial implications for each partner school. It has been agreed that this visit will not take place.
3. Turkey visit: discussion of arrival dates – importance of all groups arriving and leaving on the same day to make logistics easier.  
Journeys to Antalya and Pamukkale have been agreed.  
Meetings will take place at night due to short daylight hours.  
**Action:** Check Visa requirements.
4. Dictionary: Branka suggested that we put the dictionary of the language for each separate country on the website.

Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2011.

1. E-Twinning discussion – we agreed that Facebook is a better option for the students as it is more user-friendly.  
**Action:** Try with e-twinning once more as Facebook is not part of the Comenius Ethos.
2. Dictionary: students to work on this?  
**Action:** Discuss in Turkey.
3. Evaluation form: Agreement on what needs to be edited to suit the needs of our students and the project.  
**Action:** Email these to Emelda by the end of December 2011.

## **Co-ordinators Meeting: Sat, Oct 1, 2011**

**Attendance: Iceland, England, Ireland, Turkey, Romania, Slovenia and Spain**

Meeting in Romania and Turkey

### General Observations/recommendations

- If the distance to the National Parliament is too long, we should not travel. 3 hours + is too long
- Comenius trips don't have to be so busy. It's important to have time to savour the experience
- Importance of having time to sit and chat with each other
- Turkey
  - Groups must arrive on the 10<sup>th</sup> Nov
  - Request that the teachers stay in a hotel in the city centre
  - Visit to Antalya agreed – one and a half hours – possibly on the last day of the trip (Mon 14<sup>th</sup>). Teachers and students have the option to stay overnight in Antalya
  - Visit to Pamukkale- Denizli agreed if the following day is a relaxing one. (Sat) Journey time is 3.30 h approx. each way.
  - Sun – visit to the lake and the market.
  - England and Romania are already paying for one night in a hotel for the entire group so staying in Antalya would be too expensive. Students may be asked to contribute to the cost of staying in Antalya. Turkish Lira has a very good exchange rate with the euro.
  - Old town in Antalya is lovely to stay in – boutique hotels available. Umran has contacts and can make the booking and arrange transfers.
  - Visas may be required. Each country must check their visa requirements for Turkey.
  - Dictionary for use of each country – perhaps the students will do this at their next meeting. Emine will contact Branka to co-ordinate, Marta has the sound files and they might be uploaded to the website.
- Romania
  - Arrive on 15<sup>th</sup> and depart on 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - Blue Air to Bachau
  - Karen will not be travel to Romania so Turkey so Turkey will be her last visit.
- Final details for transfers to Alicante
  - 11.00 departure on Sun for Turkey
  - 8.30 departure on Monday for the English, Icelandic and Irish Group
  - Romania and Slovenia to leave at 9.30 on Mon.
- Visit to Valencia: Difficulty with meeting times today. Important for everyone to act as a group and respect the arrangements and the people involved.

- Final report – important that we all work together to finish this in Romania so that we get the final 20% as soon as possible. Bertha will write the final report but each country will fill in their own section. Bertha will have a draft ready for the meeting in Romania and each country may decide if they wish to bring their section of the final report to Romania.

Congratulations to Nati on organising a wonderful trip.

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### **International Meeting - Sun Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Ireland, Iceland, Spain, Romania, Turkey, England

#### Minutes

- **e-twinning**
  - Discussion about viability of the e-twinning website due to technical difficulties
  - Facebook better for students but not part of the Comenius ethos
  - One more attempt will be made and if it doesn't work, we will abandon it
- **Turkey's dictionary**
  - Students will do this work at Turkish meeting
- **Evaluation** – one final common report is needed
  - Email Imelda the final report per country by Dec 31, 2011
  - Student for whom English is not their native language: evaluation of their own language ability is possible. EU Form Europass cv. (Doesn't apply to Ireland and England as they are native speakers)
  - Proposed evaluation document is too long. The following are the edits:
  - Section A
    - Skip Q8-10 in Student Evaluation. Section A
    - Section B
    - Omit Q2, 3, 8, 9
  - Section C
    - Culture/Identity: Name 3 similarities and 3 differences between your country and the partner countries
    - Democracy
      - Point 1 can apply to fundraising etc
      - Point 1, 4 and 6 only to be used
    - Participative structures
    - Reverse the order of the questions
  - Section E

- Refer only to the countries in the project
- Teacher's Section
  - Section A
    - Change wording to website on no 2
    - Omit no 7 and 9,
  - Section B
    - All ok
  - Section C omit
- Deadlines
  - Booklet - Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 2011. Helen from England to proof read.
  - Films - First week Nov. Absolute deadline Nov 10<sup>th</sup>
  - EU \_ end Feb 2012
  - Evaluation Dec 31, 2012
  - Charity - end Feb 2012

Meeting ended with the co-ordinator thanking all concerned and wishing everyone a safe journey home.