

PROJECT COMENIUS. YEAR 2006-2007

REPORT OF EVALUATION VISIT

Düren (Germany) on January 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 2007

There **AIMS:** (to see the work plan sent by the coordinator of the project, Mrs. Agni Bölder) are different aims to achieve in this series of meetings, namely:

1. To carry out the follow-up, to evaluate and to implement the project in process in its second year.

2. To study and to value the possibility of requesting the extension of the project for the next year 2007-2008.

3. To know the German educational centre on the part of the mates who did not visit it in January 2005, its student body, teaching staff involved in the project.

4. To decide the topic to develop during the next year, as well as the set of concrete activities related to each of the agreed points.

PARTICIPANT TEACHERS: they were present at the work meetings, two (2) from the German centre, two (2) from the British centre, two (2) from the Czech centre and two (2) from our centre: David Sabater (Music teacher and Head of the Department) and Luis Gonzalez (Head of Studies and teacher of Physics and Chemistry). We should emphasize the presence of two Czech pupils and two German ones, though they were not present in the work meetings.

PLACE: all the work meetings took place in the educational centre Realschule Düren Nord of Düren's city, during the Friday 12th and the Saturday 13th January, 2007.

DIARY: AGREEMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS: at about 11:00 of 12-01-07 we arrived at the German school centre and we immediately went into the meeting room. We greeted and exchanged impressions with our colleagues of the different delegations and took our places in the desks.

Later we went to an audio-visuals room where we watched the DVD prepared by 15-16-year-old German pupils and coordinated by the teacher Martina titled "Go for the job". It is a series of interviews carried out to people in charge of companies of the city who visited the German school centre during the first quarter of the present school year. In these interviews diverse topics are approached, related to the possibility of finding work by means of the selection of staff through job interviews (psychotechnic tests, suitable clothing and physical presence, how to fill out a résumé, obtaining information about the company, etc.)

After that we went to the meeting room and talked about the materials that we have contributed or approached up to date in the present year. It has been impossible for us to carry out activities given the current situation: moving and beginning of year in the new facilities of the IES Mediterrània.

Mr. Roy Blake proposes to compile a CD with 3 musical pieces coming from 4 associate countries (local, regional or national; probably from our chorus of centre). Once the topics selected, they would be sent to the British centre that would undertake the production and compilation of the audio files. Later a copy would be sent to each of the other three school centres participant. The deadline to send the 3 themes would be the first week of April-07.

Mr. Roy Blake also proposes another activity in the frame of the project: to write three recipes typical of every city or region or country, stating the ingredients, necessary materials and procedure to carry them out; to translate them into English and to send them to the associate centres. They can be sent by e-mail together with some photography of the dish prepared. The term for the sending would finish towards the end of April-07..

At about 12:00, the principal of the German centre officially welcomed all the teachers participant in the meeting. Several photographies of the act and the speech were taken. She told us that the whole educational community was very excited with the Project Comenius: student body, families and teaching staff.

Later there was talk about the possibility of developing an activity related to the degree of satisfaction shown by the workers of similar sectors in the four countries. It would be a matter of elaborating and presenting to diverse workers a simple questionnaire with questions such as: Are you satisfied with your work? Do you consider yourself well paid? What preferences do you have on working schedules and free time? It is agreed to use the same battery of questions in the four countries. A commentary was that it would be very interesting to unify criteria about the questions to ask and that these should be the same in the four countries. Nevertheless, we did not come to an agreement in the matter.

We also agreed to realize the solidary calendar by the end of the present year. In reference to unit number 10 of the planning carried out last year, "Different ways of life: finding the right one", in our centre it will be proposed to teachers of Social Sciences (José Manuel Rodríguez) and of Ethics (Carmen Belén), and it will be sent to the German colleague Martina.

With regard to unit 13 "Design of Pictograms", we are very interested in it, given the situation of our new educational centre and the need of labels and signing of the spaces (Computer classrooms, laboratories, workshops, management zones, kitchens, thematic classrooms, etc) as well as for the planning of the evacuation of the centre in contingency cases (emergency exits, traffic of staff, student body, etc). Activities will be proposed to the teachers of Drawing (Ángela Adrover), Computer science (Begoña Mansilla) and of Audio-visual Communication (David Sabater). The first activity to carry out will be the taking of photographies of pictograms already existing in our city. These photos will be sent to our partners towards the end of January, 2007.

Mr. Roy Blake informed us about the offer of the British centre (Ashford, Kent's county) of carrying out the transnational meeting of end of the school year with the exhibition of the best works produced. After deciding the best dates for it to take place, it was agreed that it would be on the second weekend of May 07 (from Thursday to Sunday as usual). We propose that two teachers involved in the project should travel with 6/8 pupils. Our pupils (those that received foreign pupils during last May 06) would be accommodated in the houses of English pupils during that weekend.

Between 13:30 and 14:30 we had lunch in the school dining room with our colleagues. There was a very good atmosphere of warmth and fellowship.

After lunch we took the work session again with a coffee/tea. The coordinator of the project Mrs. Agni Bölder (Germany) informed us about the new conditions that will be applicable in the new edition of the Sócrates projects, since next year. Nevertheless they will not be applicable to our association since we would be ruled by the previous edition up to the end of the third year (2007-2008). The centres of Germany, Czech Republic and Great Britain were already informed about the new conditions. We were not, and we decided to get in touch with our National Agency Sócrates to make the consultations, or to visit the webpage of the ANS of Spain.

The work session finished at about 15:45 h. Later on we went to the city of Aachen together with our colleagues, where we took the most interesting guided visit to its historicalcultural centre for approximately two hours.

We had dinner in a restaurant of the city with a very pleasant atmosphere.

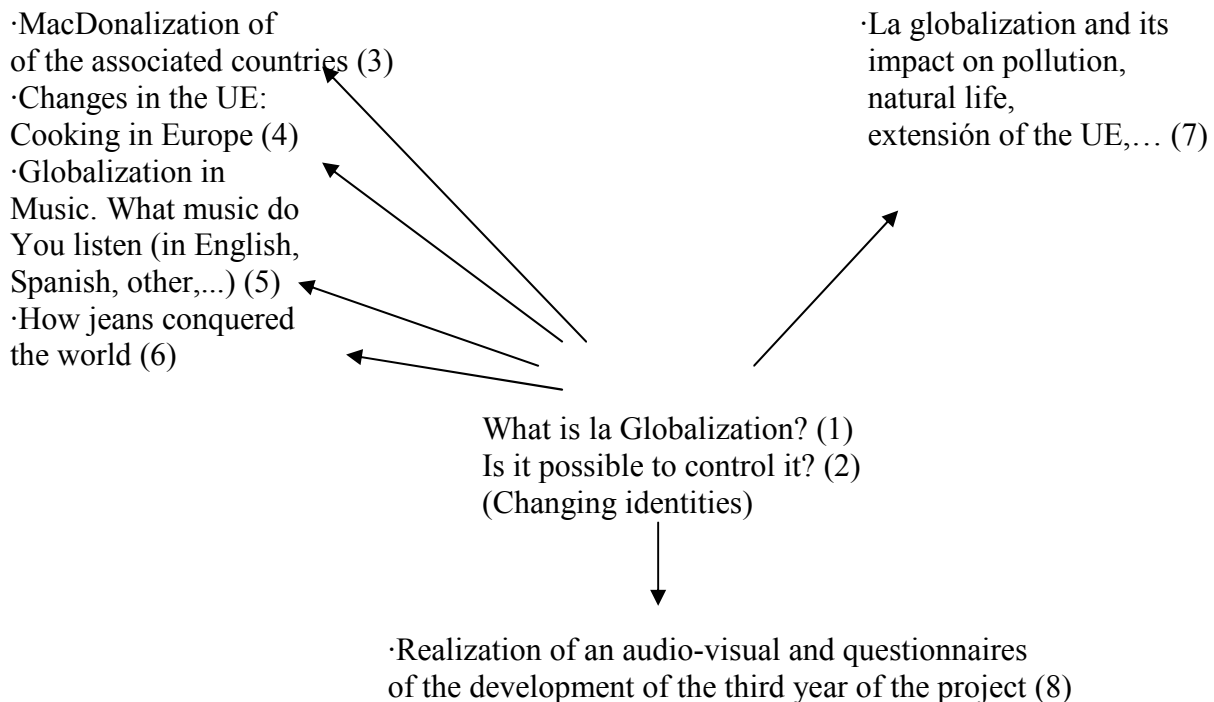
We were accommodated in the house of two of the teachers of the German centre, who treated us with great kindness and warmth.

At 9:30 of the day 13-01-07 began the second day. In the gymnasium of the centre we watched the Power Point presentation of our new facilities, accompanied of soundtrack realized by David Sabater. Our colleagues, among who was the Principal of the German centre, were pleasingly impressed by the buildings and equipment of the new educational centre.

Later we went to the meetings classroom. Once there, the Principal welcomed us officially and addressed a few words to us. She informed us about the acts that would be celebrated in the Centre during the morning and of the way in which we would take part in them.

Mrs. Agni Bölder presented us the work planning of the day, and, next, we went down again to the gymnasium to take part in a very interesting act. In the German high school, during a Saturday, a day of open doors is celebrated for all the parents of pupils who are studying the last year of primary school. During this day are explained the functioning of the centre, their study plans, subjects, academic results of previous years, participation in educational projects, etc. The principal and Agni presented the project Comenius in outline, and later we went out to the scene all the coordinating teachers of the other three Centres. We introduced ourselves (name, country of origin, subject that we teach, etc.). In this act, we gave to the principal of the Centre two presents of marked educational-cultural character. Finished our participation in the act, again we went to the meetings room to continue working.

We began with the planning of the third year of the project. Its title is "Globalization". A "brain-storming" with the topic of work was carried out. In sheets of paper of different colours for the four delegations (beige for Germany, green for CZ, yellow for GB and red for Spain), after several groupings of ideas in vertical panels of work, always in agreement and consensus, we delimited topics and sections, namely:



MacDonalization of the associated countries (3)
 Changes in the EU: Cooking in Europe (4)
 Globalization in Music. What music do you listen to (in English, Spanish, other,... (5)
 How jeans conquered the world (6)
 Globalization and its impact on pollution, natural life, extension of the EU,... (7)
 What is Globalization? (1)
 Is it possible to control it? (2) (Changing identities)
 Realization of an audio-visual and questionnaires on the development of the third year of the project (8)

Later every group analyzed the activities considered possible to be carried out in their educational centre. We used about 45 minutes of work for this.

The relation of activities is the following (between brackets are the numbers that relate them to the items of the previous diagram):

(1) Search of general information about the concept of Globalization (Internet). Collect opinions in the matter. Teachers of Ethics (Carmen Belén) with pupils of 4th of ESO, and of Social Sciences (José Manuel Fernández) with pupils of 1st, 2nd and 3rd of ESO might participate.

(2) Debates on the consequences of Globalization. Social Sciences teachers. Role game of the teacher José Manuel Fernández. It would be translated into English and copies would be sent to the other three school centres in order that they might play there.

(3) Search of the number of MacDonalds Restaurants that exist in Spain, Valencian Community, province of Alicante and Benidorm city. Compare information with that of the other three associates. English teachers such as Miguel Sánchez with pupils of 2nd and 3rd of ESO.

(4) To write typical recipes of the country, region and locality. Translated into English, and illustrated with drawings or photos, they would be sent to the other associate

centres. They can compare ingredients used, systems of preparation, dates of consumption,... Teachers of the English Department (Isabel Montiel, Vicenta Botella and Tomás Dean); French (Elisabeth Soler and Fernando Górriz) and of the CFGM of Cooking and CFGS of Restoration, might carry out these activities.

(5) To select 3 musical pieces coming from every associate centre (including one of the choral group_of our high school). They would be sent to the British centre that would compile a CD. This CD would be delivered to the four centres. Music teachers (David Sabater) and students of the choir and of 4th of ESO will do these activities. Questionnaires will also be prepared on musical tastes of the students, music shopping, downloading, musical supports (mobile phones, i-Pods, discman, MP3 players, PC, etc.)

(6) No activity was decided in relation with this point.

(7) Works on pollution in general, of our concrete zone and its local impact. Studies of the Greenhouse effect, global warming, the Kioto agreements, disappearance of animal species, desertification, etc. Science teachers might carry out these activities (Luis Gonzalez, M^a Luz Villalba)

At about 13:15 the morning work session was finished and we went to have lunch together to the school dining room.

At 14:00 we re-opened the evening session with the proposal of transnational meetings to take place during the third year of the project. The following ones were agreed: January-08, evaluation meeting in Cerna Hora (CZ); June-08, exhibition and final meeting of the project in Düren (Germany).

VISITS REALIZED: during the trip there were two very interesting visits, namely:

- Guided visit with official guide to the city of Aachen.
- Guided visit to the historical centre of the city of Cologne.

We made an extensive photographic report of a great quantity of places, people and situations lived during this visit of follow-up and evaluation of the second year of the project Comenius.

IMPACT IN OUR CENTRE: on having realized the exhibition of all the materials in the centre, we try to obtain also several aims considered among the basic ones of the project:

- To motivate the teachers and pupils participant in the project.
- To open sights among our pupils and to get them used to exchanging images, information, works made by them, etc, with other mates of different countries.
- To have more information about other cultures, customs, climates, geography, educational systems, etc.
- To value positively the tasks carried out in class, increasing their self-esteem and helping them better themselves.
- To exchange information within the managerial team of our educational centre. To get excited about our daily work.
- To be conscious that what we do every day in our work as teachers with our pupils is very positively valued out of the centre, that it extends out of it, beyond our borders.

- To get the students and teachers used to the treatment with professionals and students of other countries with which there is a great contrast.

As final balance, I would like to emphasize the great importance that taking part in these international meetings has for teachers and students, since this allows to open the minds to new fields in the education and integral formation of our pupils and of us as educational professionals.

Luis Gonzalez Cortés
Benidorm, 15th January, 2007