

Minutes of meeting

Topic 1

Presentation by the partner schools in the assembly hall to the school community about their countries, schools and the environmental situation.

Topic 2

Presentation by the BBS about solar energy plants and information about wind-power.

Topic 3

Reports of the partners about their progress towards EMAS certification

Austria:

- ❖ is continuing to follow the EMAS-programme.
- ❖ introduced a students environmental team last year.
- ❖ has a coaching system for students, including programmes for their personal development.
- ❖ students are responsible for "eco" in their own classrooms.
- ❖ there are students who work with their teachers in the environmental team.
- ❖ the waste disposal system is working, but it is not perfect.
- ❖ the EMAS system is used with other projects, e.g. "Gender", because it can measure any kind of improvement.
- ❖ the main focus is teaching, student's behaviour and social aspects in the EMAS regulations.

Finland:

They have insufficient time and resources for EMAS certification at the present time. Finland has his own environmental system and ISO 9000 is very highly respected there. ISO includes environmental and safety goals. Like Austria the main focus in Finland is on education. Government regulations insist on a certification system for all schools. Teachers are trained how to introduce environmental aspects across the curriculum. Sykli combines its generalized knowledge with the specialized knowledge of schools. The teachers are trained within their normal working hours and the training is free. In this system teachers from other schools are trained and used as auditors.

Romania:

- ❖ The main subject is the educational point of view.
- ❖ There are several environmental themes per year. Teachers are helped to prepare activities about the place where we live, social and environmental problems of the region. There are subjects such as environment in forests, e.g. what can be eaten, protection of the forests and tree planting as an activity. The activities are already prepared, the teacher does not have to do it.
- ❖ Each activity is completed within approximately one or two hours. Three hours per month are allocated to of environmental activities. The teachers can choose social or environmental tasks. They usually take environmental tasks because the papers are already prepared.
- ❖ The handbook is the only thing missing to achieve the EMAS certification.

Sweden:

- ❖ Swedish schools have the Swedish government regulated environmental system. EMAS and ISO 9000 / ISO 14000 are used in the school's partner companies. e.g. SAAB
- ❖ The main task is the training of staff to improve comprehension. The EMAS auditor accepted the booklet, which Trollhättan is using. It is believed that the auditors are unable to measure the learning effect.
- ❖ The Environmental Day in September was organized like a fair and was a great success. Students were responsible for the various stations. New students were shown the building and programmes of the school by senior students. The staff were obliged to go around as well in order to get to know their school, e.g. teachers had to find out who was responsible for special programmes etc.

Germany:

- ❖ Herr Simonsberger is being paid for writing the report and the management review. The handbook is in progress.

- ❖ The handbook describes everybody's responsibilities and procedures.
- ❖ The environmental programme has to be revised.
- ❖ A competition on environmental subjects is planned. Students should practice their know-how in project management and there will be prizes as an incentive to run environmental projects. Internships and job interviews at special partner companies could be the prizes.

Topic 4

Through EMAS-eyes: Walking tour through the BBS

Recommendation and tips from the partners about possible improvements at the BBS OHZ

Strength

- ❖ Advertising pillar in the entrance hall
- ❖ Canopy for bicycles

Improvable:

- ❖ Display of fire regulations
- ❖ During the heating period the porch door should be closed
- ❖ It must be clear who is responsible for laboratories, poisonous or toxic substances, fire Regulations or cleansing agents
- ❖ Tables block the escape route
- ❖ Computer workplace in front of a window
- ❖ Waste disposal must be included in the handbook
- ❖ Environmental friendly and robust floor covering
- ❖ Red border for alarm plan to make it more noticeable

Topic 5

Environmental education – presentation / exchange of ideas of projects / content of environmental education / creation of a joint project with students for all partners.

- ❖ Complaints about environmental problems in the schools should be collected and the number of accidents related to environment, health and security should be recorded. By using key numbers concerning energy, water, detergents etc. are an environmental topic as well through which the schools can be compared. It is important to find out what is working well. If things are unnecessary e.g. waste separation than they have to be changed. The annual report is important to remind the principal of the things which are not perfect yet.
- ❖ Ideas for a joint project with students for all partners:
 1. exchange of teaching ideas,
 2. a joint mind map,
 3. students select materials for recycling,
 4. a chat room to get to know each other via e-mail or
 5. an explanation-booklet of EMAS terms in English, Finnish, German, Romanian and Swedish.

Topic 6

Congress in Vienna

- ❖ From 27th April to 29th April 2006 the Congress for EMAS schools and companies and for EMAN universities all around the world will take place in Vienna.
- ❖ Thursday 27th April starting at 9 am only EMAS schools are going to meet. The official invitation will arrive in due course.
- ❖ For this congress each of the partners is going to produce an exhibition to show their expertise about EMAS within their schools and sustainability at schools as public organisations. This should also cover what schools in Europe need in order to make it more convenient for them to use EMAS and to get good results.
- ❖ Romania needs a list of official tasks to report to the government in order to obtain permission to travel.