

Minutes of meeting in Gymnasium Rahlgasse

Topic 1 Presentation of members

Members of Comenius project show their presentations again and discuss them.

Topic 2 Reflection on the EMAS conference

- ❖ All members express their gratitude towards Herbert Wieninger for organising the conference and for linking the management tool EMAS with school purposes, as well as for combining two conferences (EMAS and EMAS at schools) to enhance knowledge and to give the opportunities to build new networks.
- ❖ Additionally, there is common agreement on the success of the conference.
- ❖ Nevertheless, the delegates from Finland reminds the other members to focus on the core activities of school, which is basically teaching, when practising EMAS.
- ❖ The Romanian delegation points out the advantages of meeting other certified partners such as the teachers from Heidelberg.

Topic 3 What has to be said concerning EMAS at our schools

Austria:

- ❖ Most partners have noticed an obvious lack of motivation among staff members as well as students concerning work on topics around EMAS.
- ❖ Especially the role of the principal is mentioned in this context as he / she has noticed benefits for the school for the first time.

Germany:

- ❖ School will undergo a pre-test on May 23rd.

Activities Romania:

- ❖ School will undergo a pre-test after management review this year.
- ❖ They doubt that project will continue without Comenius. Fears: lack of motivation because of lack of money for study visits abroad.
- ❖ Hope that partners of the project will keep in touch although project will end.

Topic 4 Evaluation of the project

Advantages / benefits:

- exchange of ideas, there should be a main focus
- get a backbone for work
- more clearly in mind: management tool can be used for many topics, even for school
- benefit for school: contact with authorities, mutual support, stabilised system at school
- motivation kick
- workshops, meetings, discussions are a simple way of regulation and have made the work easier
- project is a good start
- relaxation: overview on other projects, getting to know other participants, knowledge exchange
- principal promotes project although in a different speed
- feeling of understanding the idea of EMAS, getting familiar with it.

Things to be improved...

- focus could be more on education / teaching
- lack of communication between the meetings
- Organisation within the project should be more on the students' level, students should have the chance to get into the topic
- students should be taken to the conference, but it depends on the costs.
- But: students are often not interested in working on environmental issues, therefore they are not willing to join the conference.
- New ideas should be brought into the project, e.g. exchanges of international schools
- There has often been a lack of time for preparation and implementation of tool.
- Contact via Email is proposed. Difficulties have to be overcome: Students do not know the person who is responsible for EMAS at the foreign school ; motivation

Topic 5 Report on this Comenius year

❖ Achievements:

- EMAS conference in Vienna
- November meeting
- Website:
 - Convenient for schools, motivation to work with because it provides the reader with information on the project.
 - But: personal contact is a more effective mean in order to encourage other schools to join DIR-EMAS
 - Improvements:
 - translations into Swedish, Finnish and Romanian is proposed and will be left to the delegations.
 - Implementation into the school net (intra net etc.)
 - Establishing links on other websites
 - Establishing links in newsletters
 - Publishing website in other networks which are concerned about the environment / sustainable development
 - Agreement: there will be no problem to spread the idea.
 - The means will be left to the possibilities of the individual teams.
 - Solution: website will be updated and small improvements will be made.
 - Germany will use own website with a link to the project's website.
 - All information shall be sent to Ariana (apart from school information). Deadline for update: June 30th 2006.

Topic 6 Common products / common activities

❖ Products:

- Conference on EMAS in Vienna

Topic 7 Miscellaneous

- ❖ Posters which were made for the congress will be published in a poster show / collage. Therefore, the posters have to be digitalised and to be send to Gymnasium Rahlgasse. (Martina)
- ❖ End of meeting with champagne and presents for the delegations.