

Thematic Conference: learning, teaching, exchanging – school cooperations in the Danube Region
25 to 26 June 2014, Vienna
Day 1 Bertha von Suttner Schulschiff, Day 2 OeAD-Haus



The seminar organized by the National Agency for Lifelong Learning, the Austrian National eTwinning Support Service and PAC 9 focused on teacher cooperation in the Danube Region. The participants had the possibility to learn more about the Danube Region and its challenges in the 21st century and to create future partnerships.

On the first day the seminar took place at „Bertha von Suttner Schulschiff“. At the beginning, headmaster Harald Schwarz welcomed all participants and stressed the historical background of the venue. Ernst Gesslbauer and Ursula Panuschka from the National Agency for Lifelong Learning informed the participants about Erasmus+, including new possibilities in eTwinning (eTwinning Plus e.g. with Ukraine and Moldova). Furthermore, Jürgen Schick (PAC 9, Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women’s Affairs) gave an overview of the political aims of the EU Strategy of the Danube Region. The keynote „Amaze(ing) for Europe – school cooperations in the Danube Region and beyond“ was held by Robin Gosejohann (Erste Foundation).



Participants included about 40 teachers from nine Danube countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine. For the first time also participants from the eTwinning Plus countries Moldova and Ukraine took part in a seminar like this in Austria. For all sides the exchange was very fruitful.

Participants learned more about the platform (www.etwinning.net) and discussed the following four key questions regarding „Cooperations between schools in the Danube Region“ in four workshops:

- Why do we need to cooperate?
- What are the challenges in cooperation?
- What are successful ways of quality assurance in projects and mobilities regarding the Danube Region?
- What are the challenges of the teaching profession in the Danube Region?



Recommendations from the workshop discussions for future projects in the Danube Region:



Added value of European projects (selection):

- Language learning (not only English)
- Virtual and real mobility
- Intercultural dialogue
- Development of useful skills of pupils for the labour market

Key factors for successful projects (selection):

- Project work should be part of the curriculum to avoid extra work
- Well compiled project management paired with motivation of teachers and pupils
- Regular personal meetings and communication procedures
- Support from headmasters
- Interdisciplinary approach



The thematic conference was extremely successful on all levels and during the conference 13 new eTwinning projects in the Danube Region were created. See a list of projects below:

Links:

www.etwinning.at

www.etwinning.net

www.bildung.erasmusplus.at

<http://www.peopleandskills-danuberegion.eu/>

List of projects founded during the conference:

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| 1. | |
| Title: | Living together with differences |
| Countries: | Austria, Slovenia, Ukraine |
| Aims of the project: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get competences to solve conflicts without violence - Participation and interest in political life |
| Project partners: | <p>Georg Blaha, Höhere Grafische Bundes- Lehr- und Versuchsanstalt Leyerstraße, Vienna - Austria</p> <p>Vladimir Janež, Srednja medijska in grafična šola Ljubljana - Slovenia</p> <p>Olga Shevchenko, Zhmerynka school №4 - Ukraine</p> |

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| 2. | |
| Title: | Goals, points, seconds |
| Countries: | Austria, Czech Republic |
| Aims of the project: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold presentations, learn about presentation techniques - Meetings between Austrian and Czech students - Reports and presentations about sports events and athletes - Glossary of sport-related terms |
| Project partners: | <p>Michael Huber-Kirchberger, Bundeshandelsakademie Linz - Austria</p> <p>Marie Knetlová, Primary school, České Budějovice, Dukelská 11 - Czech Republic</p> |

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| 3. | |
| Title: | We are in the same boat |
| Countries: | Bulgaria, Slovakia |
| Aims of the project: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore animals and plants of the Danube and learn about the dangers of pollution |
| Project partners: | <p>Rozaliya Dimkova, High school Vela Blagoeva – Bulgaria</p> <p>Marcela Čambalová, Základná škola, Rajčianska - Slovakia</p> |

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| 4. | |
| Title: | Let's collect languages |
| Countries: | Austria, Bulgaria |
| Aims of the project: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get in touch with other cultures and languages - Raise the awareness for different cultural backgrounds |
| Project partners: | Judith Leitz, Neue Musikmittelschule Weiz - Austria Tatyana Dimitrova, High school Letec Hristo Toprakchiev - Bulgaria |

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| 5. | |
| Title: | The Home |
| Countries: | Austria, Slovenia, Ukraine |
| Aims of the project: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motivate students to learn and socialize - Raise awareness of different cultural and religious backgrounds - Make people work together |
| Project partners: | Elisabeth Hasiweder, Bundeshandelsakademie Linz - Austria Robert Gašpar, Prva gimnazija Maribor - Slovenia Inka Nose, Srednja šola za gostinstvo in turizem v Ljubljani - Slovenia Maia Seliatina, Specialized school #10 of Odesa - Ukraine |

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| 6. | |
| Title: | UDS – United Danube States – Developing Intercultural Business Skills Across Borders |
| Countries: | Austria, Bulgaria, Moldova, Slovenia, Ukraine |
| Aims: | - Students will create new United States, consisting of all the countries involved in the project, with their own flag, constitution, passport etc. |
| Projectpartners: | Peter Kampner, Höhere Technische Lehranstalt Ungargasse, Vienna - Austria Tatyana Dimitrova, High school Letec Hristo Toprakchiev - Bulgaria Sergiu Jelihovschii, Liceul Teoretic Mesterul Manole s. Salcuta, Causeni - Moldova Vladimir Janež, Srednja medijska in grafična šola Ljubljana - Slovenia Inka Nose, Srednja šola za gostinstvo in turizem v Ljubljani - Slovenia Maia Seliatina, Specialized school #10 of Odesa - Ukraine |

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| 7. | |
| Title: | Once upon a time... |
| Countries: | Hungary, Slovenia |
| Aims of the project: | - Create a better understanding of the participant countries' cultural backgrounds |
| Project partners: | Gábor Kleisz, Public Educational Institution of Baja - Hungary Inka Nose, Srednja šola za gostinstvo in turizem v Ljubljani - Slovenia |

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| 8. | |
| Title: | From me to you - Following the Danube, linking cultures |
| Countries: | Austria, Germany, Ukraine |
| Aims of the project: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compare living conditions, cultures, countries... - Develop plans to improve current situations - Get to know each other - Create intercultural competence and media competence |
| Project partners: | Helga Reisner, Neue Musikmittelschule Weiz - Austria Beatrix Melchinger, Leonardo da Vinci Gymnasium Neckargemünd - Germany Nataliya Orlyk, Specialized school №3 - Ukraine |

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| 9. | |
| Title: | Languages |
| Countries: | Austria, Czech Republic |
| Aims of the project: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teach the basics of the respective language - Get to know each other using the vocabulary learned in the language classes |
| Project partners: | Judith Leitz, Neue Musikmittelschule Weiz - Austria Kateřina Janu, Primary school, Brno, Bakalovo - Czech Republic |

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| 10. | |
| Title: | Trick or treat – present your sweet! |
| Countries: | Austria, Bulgaria |
| Aims of the project: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve English and IT skills - Work on presentation techniques - Learn about national sweets |
| Project partners: | Sonja Pustak, Neue Mittelschule Köflach - Austria Tonka Panajotova, Primary school "D. Debelqnov" - Bulgaria |

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| 11. | |
| Title: | Advertising in the Danube Region |
| Countries: | Austria, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Ukraine |
| Aims of the project: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve foreign language and communication skills - Deepen knowledge in geography, history and social studies |
| Project partners: | Florian Polt, Vienna Business School Mödling - Austria Nina Pippan, Vienna Business School Mödling - Austria Radost Hristova, High school "A.Konstantinov" - Bulgaria Inka Nose, Srednja šola za gostinstvo in turizem v Ljubljani - Slovenia Nataliya Orlyk, Specialized school №3 - Ukraine |

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| 12. | |
| Title: | ESCAPE (Enhanced Skills Competence and Practice for the Economy) |
| Countries: | Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania, Ukraine |
| Aims of the project: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn more about other countries, school systems - Acquire language and ICT competences - Enhance chances to get a Job after graduation |
| Project partners: | Michael Huber-Kirchberger, Bundeshandelsakademie Linz - Austria Marieta Georgieva, Vocational school "Prof. d-r Assen Zlatarov", Vidin - Bulgaria Alena Jandlova, Obchodní akademie a VOŠE Tábor - Czech Republic Adriana Maris, Colegiul National "Coriolan Brediceanu" - Romania Nataliya Orlyk, Specialized school №3 - Ukraine |

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| 13. | |
| Title: | Grenzüberschreitende Kooperationen auf verschiedenen politischen Ebenen |
| Countries: | Austria, Slovakia |
| Aims of the project: | - Realize the importance of international and national cooperation |
| Project partners: | Marta Nasrouei-Penz, Privates Oberstufenrealgymnasium St. Karl Volders - Austria Steinicke Gertrude, Privates Oberstufenrealgymnasium St. Karl Volders - Austria Kamila Bažíková, Obchodná akadémia Bratislava - Slovakia |