

INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR TRAINING for Schools

NEWSLETTER 3 – May 2012

What is the project?

International Co-ordinator Training for Intercultural Education and Diversity (ICTPIED) is a Multilateral Project funded by the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme. The project is coordinated by the British Council, London, and includes the following organisations and institutions:

- > United Kingdom: International Resource Centre for Schools and Colleges (University of Hull)
- > Austria: *die Berater*® (education and training consultancy)
- > Germany: Staatliches Seminar für Didaktik und Lehrerbildung (initial teacher training institution)
- > Romania: Institutul Intercultural Timisoara (an organisation specialising in training in intercultural education, dialogue and democratic citizenship)
- > United Kingdom: Spiral partnership (experts on curriculum development)

International Co-ordinators

The project addresses the growing number of teachers who act as 'international co-ordinators' for their schools (although this term is not used universally across Europe and in the wider world). They coordinate Comenius or eTwinning projects, organise school partnerships and exchanges, or manage other international or Global activities.

ICTPIED is developing and testing a training offer for these officially appointed or informally acting international school coordinators. The training focuses on intercultural and diversity issues, but also on personal and management skills for international cooperation in school education.

Definition of a great school partnership

Based on the results of the survey and on the experiences of the partner organisation, we put together a definition of a great school partnership, in order to help us them define the competences needed by the "international Coordinator". This is what we came up with.



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



A good partnership is sustainable, not (entirely) funding led, soundly managed, motivates staff and pupils alike, supported by senior management, involves the wider school community, is integrated in curriculum, strategically planned, addresses global issues, contributes to key competence development of teachers and pupils.

All of these factors contribute to the development of critical cultural awareness and intercultural learning and understanding.

From this we agreed **competency areas** around which our course and training modules will be designed. These are;

- 1) **Intercultural communication and cooperation**
- 2) **Design and implementation of learning experiences**
- 3) **Strategic school development**
- 4) **Project management**
- 5) **Leadership**
- 6) **ICT**

Pilot Course

The pilot training course took place at Easingwold, near York from Monday 19th to Friday 23rd March 2012. There were 25 participants from 7 EU countries and in addition the British Council funded 5 participants from India, Lebanon and Algeria. This move greatly enhanced the intercultural dimension of the course although it was revealing to find that colleagues from outside of the EU experience many of the same challenges when working with international school partnerships!

The course was highly interactive and covered all of the project modules.

During the week members of the project team tested out virtually all of the activities and learning materials developed as part of the project. In addition the cohort visited two schools in North Yorkshire and had the opportunity to talk with the Local Authority adviser who has helped to set up and maintain school partnerships across the world. The course was carefully evaluated and attracted many positive comments. The participants have now formed a cohesive network and set up a Facebook group to maintain contact and possibly plan for future projects. This course has provided the foundation for the two courses in the EU Comenius catalogue – details of these and how to apply are given elsewhere in this newsletter.

Next Steps

The course is now advertised in the Comenius Catalogue online, with full instructions about how to apply. Teachers and teacher trainers can also apply for a Comenius In-Service Training grant to cover travel and accommodation expenses, meals and course fees.

To access the catalogue, please refer to the Comenius website for your own country and follow the links to 'In-Service Training'. There is no need to search the database – please enter the course title and reference number as follows:

An intercultural training course for the School International Co-ordinator UK-2013-1676-002
An outline of the course programme is available at <http://www.school-partnerships.eu>

If you have any problems with this process, please send an email to: r.kirtley@hull.ac.uk

Dates, venues and application deadlines

	Start and end dates (2013)	Venues
Course 1 DEADLINE : 1st September 2012	From: Sunday 24 February (14.00) To: Friday 01 March (14.00)	Landcommanderij Alden Biesen http://www.alden-biesen.be/homenoflash.htm Belgium
Course 2 DEADLINE : 1st September 2012	From: Sunday 14 April (14.00) To: Friday 19 April (14.00)	Intercultural Institute of Timisoara Romania

Spotlight on intercultural resources

In each newsletter, we would like to suggest intercultural resources that may be of interest to you. In previous issues we have mentioned;

Council of Europe 'Autobiography of Intercultural Encounters'.

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/autobiogrweb_EN.asp

The *Autobiography* has been developed by the Council of Europe to promote intercultural dialogue. It is a personal document which encourages users to think about and learn from the intercultural encounters that have made a strong impression or had a long-lasting effect on them

<http://www.global-schools.org/>

This online learning environment provides access to courses for practitioners involved in school partnerships which aspire to be equitable and sustainable and which jointly explore global learning curricular goals. There is something here for schools at all stages of the partnership journey - for those actively engaged in partnership and for those thinking about a new partnership.

In this newsletter we would like to highlight another resource from the Council of Europe.

<http://www.theewc.org/content/resources/new.tool.for.learning.development>

Recognising intercultural competence: What shows that I am interculturally competent?

This new tool supports you to develop your understanding of yourself in the context of diversity. The tool was developed during a long process coordinated by the Pestalozzi Programme and the Intercultural Cities project of the Council of Europe and the European Wergeland Centre.