



Gender, ETHnicity, - INtegration, through international school projects

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Get-in network

In this edition you will find information about the first conference of the network in Leicester (UK), June 2005. The next international conference will be in Hannover, Germany, September 2006. The coordination group will have a meeting in Istanbul, December 2005. Teachers from Turkish secondary schools will be informed about the network and invited to participate in new international school projects.

You will also read an article about the eTwining initiative of the EU, this could be interesting for teachers who need a tool for the communication with their partners in Europe. Our website www.get-in.info is on air now and we would welcome your reaction. So we invite you to Get-in.

Jan van den Nieuwenhuizen, coordinator

AGENDA:

- ✦ Kick-off meeting, November 2004, 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands
- ✦ General meeting, June 2005, Leicester, United Kingdom
- ✦ Coordination group, December 2006, Istanbul
- ✦ Applications for Comenius1 – Get-in Projects, 1. February 2006
- ✦ General meeting, September 2006, Hannover, Germany

General Meeting Leicester June 2005

The first Get-in! international conference was held from 16th to 19th June this year in Leicester, a city famed for its harmonious community relations. Over 50 teachers from France, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden & the UK, representing schools with minority ethnic populations, attended.



Leicester Town Hall

The aim of the conference was to facilitate the formation of Comenius 1 projects (for developing school-school links, see back page). There was an introduction about cultural diversity and equality work in Leicester schools. To me it felt like the conference was a model for the inter-cultural work we had come together to set up for our students. For more see: www.get-in.info

Clive Billingham

Angels make school safe

The angels are a specially selected team of pupils from the final classes at the respective schools: grade 9 at Hjulsta and grade 6 at Hyllinge. The concept is based on our perception that children and young people who are entrusted with responsibilities meet up to our expectations. The pupils see and hear a lot more than any adult - they rapidly find out what is going on, whether someone is being badly treated etc, and the valuable information they provide leads to faster measures being taken.



The angel team consists of an equal number of girls and boys. The team is divided into two groups that are on duty every other week. In order to be visible, they wear jackets or jumpers with a special angel logo. For more see the link on www.get-in.info

Urban Astrom

Young, gifted and equal - Racial Equality Standards for Schools

In Leicester schools have been using Young, Gifted & Equal (YGE) as their own self-evaluation tool for race equality/intercultural education for 5 years now. YGE is a set of indicators which cover race equality across the school, dividing institutional life into seven areas:

Policy & Action Planning, Staffing, Involvement (parents, governors, students & community), Curriculum Achievement, Ethos, Racial Harassment.

The concept which underlies YGE is that the race equality is an issue, not so much because of the racist actions of individuals, but more because of the way our institutions have worked historically, & still continue to work, through practices which unintentionally disadvantage minority group members.

Schools evaluate themselves against the indicators, which are concrete criteria, & rate themselves on a 1-4 scale. If they are low on the scale (1), they have to use the indicators to generate action points which go into a plan. There is an external validation of this process, if schools want.

(The whole text on www.get-in.info)

Clive Billingham

Project Partners

• Euroschool, Alkmaar, the Netherlands • Hervion College, 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands • Hjulsta Skolor, Stockholm, Sweden • Integrierte Gesamtschule Hannover-Linden, Germany • Local Education Authority, Leicester, United Kingdom • Menedek, association for immigrants, Budapest, Hungary • Pedagogical Institute NiLS, Hildesheim, Germany • Polytechnic Institute, Leiria, Portugal • Raayland College, Venray, the Netherlands • Rectorat de l'Academie, Lille, France • Rushey Mead Secondary School, Leicester, United Kingdom • Terakki Lisesi, Istanbul, Turkey •

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eTwinning

eTwinning is about collaboration between schools in Europe using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to carry out a pedagogically relevant activity. The eTwinning initiative has a website with useful tools for Get-in schools. In order to be able to use the website's services a school has to register (free of charge).



The tools which can be found at the eTwinning website are, among others, eTwinchat and a forum. Additionally, eTwinning offers helpdesks for their internet services in every European country. For more information you can look at: <http://www.etwinning.net/>

Get-in Girls "GIG" - Exchange Visit to Venray

Travelling abroad on an exchange visit means gaining a lot of insights into the ways of life of our foreign neighbours. This is what our Hannoverian girls learned when going to the Netherlands in September:

"...We were completely overwhelmed by our guest school, Raayland College, which is super-modern and is very attractively equipped with video, personal computers and flat screens in almost every classroom, and, moreover, which is very large as it is a foundation of all the town schools. We loved the lessons as well, for example when our exchange partners had tuition in "householding" in which we learned how to prepare a meal, or to iron, or how to



Raayland in Hannover



Raayland College, Venray, NL

watch television and to surf on the internet, or even how to polish our fingernails. Our guest parents welcomed us kindly and were very friendly and open throughout our visit. One day we went on a rally through the town of Venray on our superb Dutch bikes; everyone owns a bike here because it is the prime means of transport. On our last afternoon we made an excursion to the beautiful town of Nijmegen where we had a lot of free time to look around."

New exchange visits are planned in the early summer next year. Both, the IGS Hannover-Linden and Raayland College would love to invite new partners to join our girls' exchange programme. Contacts to be made to: Ingrid Keller-Russell (kellerrussell@web.de) or Henry Croque (cro@raayland.nl).

Schools and the World of Work

This new school network (Comenius 1) started in August this year with the project coordination undertaken by IGS Hannover-Linden, and with the participation of Raayland College, another lead school of our Get-in-network. Additionally, partnerships with schools in France, Poland and Romania have been formed. Our start-up meeting was concluded very successfully in October, and was technologically supported by our Get-in-internet platform server, the Lower Saxonian Education Council, as well as academically, by the European Studies Section of the University of Hannover. Our first project year will cover e-mail contacts among all our pupils involved (age group 12 to 13 years) on personal data and preferences for their future lives. For more information, contact: kellerrussell@web.de

➤ Manual for schools

On the Get-in website you will find a first draft version of a practical handbook with hands-on information for schools to set up international projects with multicultural classes, especially in lower level secondary education and with minority girls.

➤ Good practice

In the school year 2005/2006, we will publish here 'good practice' examples of schools with intercultural projects. If you would like to share your own project's results, please send an e-mail to janvandennieuwenhuizen@hervion.nl

Outcomes of the Leicester conference: Preliminary project titles

Five new Comenius 1 projects were generated during the conference:

- (1) **Girls Get-in!**, aims to raise the level of girls' achievement & life expectations by setting up girls clubs to email one another & do video exchanges.
- (2) **Get-identity**, aims for young people to value & share their own identities via ICT.
- (3) **Global Opportunities for Additional Learning (GOAL)**, wants to promote learning & teaching relationships with other European schools through developing an intercultural network.



Dance group at a social evening in the Rushey Mead School Leicester

- (4) **My Place in the World**, aims for young people to explain their own culture & understand other cultures, using creative arts & physical activity-based approaches.
- (5) **Breaking Barriers**, plans to facilitate the exchange of different experiences & lifestyles to work against fear of the unknown & racism.

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information

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www.get-in.info

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