



ECLIPSE - European Citizenship - Learning in a Programme for Secondary Education

517815-LLP-2011-IT-COMENIUS-CMP 2011-3665 / 001-001



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

ECLIPSE Newsletter No. 2 – September 2012

ECLIPSE Project

The project aims to develop, test, implement and disseminate innovative approaches, methods and materials (European Citizenship Education Programme for Secondary schools, student portfolio etc.) to promote active Citizenship in the curriculum. Additionally the ECLIPSE project will plan a teacher conference to promote the necessary skills and background knowledge for implementing Citizenship education in lower secondary education.

The indirect target group of this project, as well as teachers in secondary education, are pupils age 11-14. 2nd Consortium Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal

2nd Consortium Meeting in Lisboa, Portugal

The ECLIPSE partners met in April, for the second time, in order to discuss the further plan for the project, the next steps to find schools and associated partners and to disseminate the project. Furthermore, the partners planned the work with the teachers: selection of the schools, teaching/learning units should be named work units. The University of Lisbon presented their in-service teacher training programme. In this context, the group discussed the curriculum for the in-service training of teachers in March 2013.

School visit in Lisbon, Portugal

During the ECLIPSE meeting in Lisbon, April 2012, partners had the opportunity to visit a school that will participate in the project from September 2012 to April 2013. It is the Escola Secundária de Pedro Alexandrino.

The headteacher, Ms Rosário, welcomed us and gave the first information; Mr João Barros guided us during the visit and other teaching staff were very friendly and hospitable in receiving us and showing the building, the activities, the work and some projects.

Visiting the school helped us to understand something about the Portuguese school system, e.g. the marks of the pupils are public in Portugal. At the end of the visit we left the school with positive impressions and raised curiosity about schools in other countries.





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Summary of the first phase of the project

In order to meet the needs of the ECLIPSE target groups, the project partners conducted an analysis of the current situation of Citizenship Education in all participating countries. It also involves the analysis of e.g. the Report about **Citizenship Education in Europe** (May 2012) where curricular approaches with regard to citizenship education at schools are standing in the focus.

Common part of the PSE

The concept of the ECLIPSE Project is orientated on the definition of the civic competences of the EU and includes knowledge, understanding, attitudes and dispositions, skills and values aiming at these civic competences.

The ECLIPSE group emphasizes elements in the common part of the Programme of Secondary Education (PSE) which are transversal among the partners, but also elements that are specific in relation to the different cultural approaches, keeping in mind concepts, contents and processes. This includes for example skills, values and habits needed to coexist, active participation in the local environment, learn entrepreneurship for employment, Political Culture, active learning and self-planning. Programme for Secondary Education (PSE)

Programme for Secondary Education (PSE) - Aims and Objectives

The Concept for the ECLIPSE Programme was prepared and it has three different parts: Common part for all partners (1/3 of the PSE) - knowledge at least 10 teaching hours, Chosen part for each country (2/3) and Questionnaire and portfolio (3/3).

The Programme should allow responsible Citizenship in a democratic society in the following way.

- ⇒ To learn and appreciate the foundations of the democratic system
- ⇒ To learn about the function of the European Union
- ⇒ To be aware of a common heritage, social and cultural diversity
- ⇒ To reflect on the individual and collective duties and rights

Planned Teacher Conference in Trento (Italy) 12-15 March 2013

The first idea for the Teacher Conference was planned.

Every partner will make a contribution in a presentation form.



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Knowledge Test and Questionnaire of Beliefs are done!

The Knowledge Test and the Questionnaire of Beliefs are important for the European understanding and citizenship. It is a contribution to 'self regulated learning' – to 'transition to work' (autonomy in looking for information, precision in quantities etc.).

The consortium will analyse:

- ⇒ What do students age 11-14 need to know and understand?
- ⇒ What is the common curriculum that students in the Eclipse project will cover?
- ⇒ What would interest them?
- ⇒ Which aspects of the EU are relevant for this age group and for the lives of the students?

The Questionnaire include 37 statements. The pupils should check how much do they agree or disagree with the listed statements.

Topics of the Knowledge Test

1. Human rights today/responsibilities
2. Identity (at local, national, European and global level), social and cultural
3. What the EU is? Europe in daily life
4. European citizenship
5. History of the European cooperation process
6. The work of the European Institutions

The Consortium summarize what ECLIPSE teachers are expected to do

- ⇒ To achieve the key competences (2006): learning to learn, civic and citizenship education in European dimension, entrepreneurship, ICT skills
- ⇒ To encourage students to make themselves aware about possible developments for the own future in the contemporary society
- ⇒ To promote intercultural learning and contribute the development of a European Identity , perceive themselves as active citizens of Europe who share the common European destiny
- ⇒ To empower and enhance skills, civic competences
- ⇒ To engage pupils in greater active citizenship at an international and national level

Upcoming of the forum

The new forum is available. The documents of the private section of the ECLIPSE website are moved to the new online learning environment.

Now it is still possible to download them from the website, but in few weeks they will be available only in the online learning environment, section "Database".

The creation of the Forum encourages the dynamics of relationship and the online work. The Forum will facilitate the common preparation and dissemination of materials and will foster collaboration among teachers. If properly carried out, through this Forum, participants can build and share knowledge, solve common questions, problems and concerns.



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3rd Consortium Meeting in Hannover, Germany

The Consortium met in September 2012 for the third time in order to discuss the PSE and to prepare the teacher training phase for the coming school year. Each Partner will work with three schools. The Project focuses on school years 7, 8 and 9 constituting lower secondary education (although terms may vary from country to country). Four teachers from each country will attend the Trento training. Furthermore, the partners discussed the final version of the teaching material (e.g. Questionnaire, portfolio etc.).

At the third meeting the external evaluator (Peter Wittschorek) presented the Observations and Recommendations of the first evaluation report.

It is very important to use more internal feedback in communication processes and financial management issues. All partners should pay attention of the project objectives.

Next Step!

The next phase of the work will focus on work with teachers at school:

Within the next school year (2012/13) the Consortium start to work with teachers and pupils. They will test the mainlines of the Programme for Secondary Education (PSE) and student portfolio as the basis for the preparation of testing and teaching/learning tools.

Get involved in the project!

- ⇒ We invite all interested stakeholders in the field of citizenship education with regard to the topics learning to learn, initiative, critical thinking and citizenship.
- ⇒ Become an associated partner of the ECLIPSE project and be represented on the website.

Learn more about the project!

- ⇒ Visit our website:
<http://eclipse.lett.unitn.it/>
- ⇒ all documents are downloadable at the ECLIPSE website

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Prof. Olga Bombardelli, Co-ordinator of the project: eclipse@lett.unitn.it