



Comenius Life Long Learning Programme

Get Ahead With Europe – What skills do we need?

Workshops in Sweden December 1-5, 2013

Welcome to take part in the Comenius project the next coming years! How exciting that you want to join in on this journey. We are sure you will develop as individuals as well as in groups through this work and will see yourself from a new perspective. Not only does this project contain interesting lectures, discussions, people; it will also give you the possibility to experience new countries. There are 5 countries taking part in this project: France, Germany, Holland, Scotland and Sweden.

Before coming to the first workshop in Sweden you are to make a choice within which field you are particularly interested in. Below are descriptions of the 5 workshops you have to choose from. Read them through carefully and decide on 3 that you could consider working with. Rank them from 1 to 3 and hand in your list to your teacher. You will be given one of your choices and put in groups with pupils from other countries. Through this project you will be assigned to work with at least one other nationality to add an international flavor and knowledge to your work. You will be working with the same subject and persons throughout the project, that is the next coming 1,5 years.

1. The Importance of a European Identity

How European are you??

We all know that:
“ALL FRENCH WEAR BERETS,
EAT BAGUETTES,
SMELL OF GARLIC AND CHEESE
AND DRINK WINE”
...REALLY????



The aim of this workshop is to find out what we have in common and our differences: **WE SHARE MORE THAN CLICHES!** We will be looking at the kaleidoscope of our European identity: music, sports, travel, films, food, exchanges, festivals, fashion.....

What for?

In a global village that's getting smaller, can you be proud to be European, to be actors in the building of a “European dream”?

EUROPE YOU ROCK!

2. Power and Europe: how we influence Europe, and Europe influences the world

The EU made it possible for small countries to increase their influence in the world. While, together we stand strong, it can be challenging to come to an agreement. The 28 different member states all want 28 (or more) different things. How all these desires are met is a day-to-day challenge for our EU representatives. In unity, we give away some of our own power, as a compromise to achieve European goals. What the EU collectively desires, might not be in the interest of the individual EU countries. But in this union, our capacity influence bigger international affairs (projecting power) grow. The power is shifting, from small European states, to Europe. But.... How does representation work?

This workshop focuses on both on theory and on practice. In our workshops, students receive a brief introduction on three philosophers: Mikhail Bakunin, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Thomas Hobbes. Following this introduction, the group will be split up in to three sub-groups. Every group will discuss one of these philosophers, and will put his theories into practice in an interactive and challenging role playing game.

Did we have your curiosity? Do we have your attention? Check out our video!

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/up6rio8xbgy86zp/Beekvliet%20video.mp4>

3. Integration - To be or not to be a part of the European society.

Today we see people moving across countries to start a new life, some by choice and some by necessity. How do we get ahead in a new environment, in a new country? What does it take to be a part of a community? What are the possibilities? To be integrated in society there are several issues to consider and understand when it comes to national identity and typicality. Misunderstandings can occur due to cultural differences. What solutions do the European countries have to questions of inclusion of immigrants?

People can feel excluded for reasons such as being disabled, being a part of a minority or being of the “wrong” sex. How do the different countries work with this question? For example, is there a difference between the genders when it comes to power, salary and possibilities in society? What is important to feel included?

In this workshop you choose one or two angles which interest you. Through, for example, interviews with authorities in your own country, you will find out how these questions are dealt with. In coming workshops you will then share and compare your findings. In the international group you will among other things discuss what changes you see necessary in the nearby future? How do we come about them? Your presentation could be in the form of a debate, a lecture, an interview, a commercial etc. This assignment will give you practical knowledge as well as food for thought.

4. Intercultural communication

Building one Europe is propelled by people of differing cultural identities, with diverse talents and competences and with individual desires and interests. These people have to communicate and cooperate across those various boundaries. This is not easy to accomplish without cultural competence, especially not without understanding the basics of intercultural communication.

The workshop will focus on the following aspects, trying to provide the basics of communication skills:

- What is cultural competence?
- The communication theory of Schulz von Thun
- Intercultural communication – methods, models, examples
- Practicing intercultural communication
- Interaction exercises and games
- Social media – risks and chances

5. Working and studying In Europe – What skills do I need?

Everyone knows there are skills that we need to ‘Get Ahead’ with our lives. Good time keeping, being polite and confident, having an excellent Curriculum Vitae (CV), strong applications to University and jobs as well as performing well at an interview are all part of the process of getting into our chosen careers.

This workshop will concentrate on the transferable skills that will allow students to fully develop their potential and enable them to get have an understanding of comparable career pathways in different countries. For example to study law in a Scottish University you need 5 x A pass Higher grade exams taken in one sitting. Is it the same in Holland? Sweden? France and Germany? If you want to become a teacher in a secondary school and teach in another country is it a straightforward thing to do? What kind of salary can I expect to get in my first year after school /University? Is there a big difference in salaries for comparable jobs across Europe? What does a Primary teacher earn in each of our countries?

Students will be expected to carry out a range of research methods whilst considering job applications, CVs, the interview process and possibly taking part in mock interviews.

There will be a lot of interaction, active learning and fun activities!