

## COMENIUS SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

### 2nd MEETING MINUTES in France- Agen( 17th-22nd February2013)



For Multilateral Partnerships  
Approved in 2012

#### General information

**Partnership title** : "NATURE AND ITS MAGIC SOUNDS"

**Partner countries** : Italy, Bulgaria ,Estonia, France (Agen and Guadalupe), Poland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Hungary.

**Attended Meeting** : Second Meeting in France (Agen 17th -22nd February 2013 )

**Partnership type** : Multilateral

#### **Number of attendants in Agen ( France)**

Country	Teachers	Students
Italy	2	6
Bulgaria	2	3
Estonia	2	2
Poland	2	2
Spain	2	6
Turkey	4	12
Hungary	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>36</b>

## **17/02/2013**

Arrival of all the delegations from Italy, Bulgaria, Estonia, Poland, Spain, Turkey, Hungary.

Some students were hosted by French families and others stayed in the boarding school.

Teachers stayed at the hotel "Regina" in Agen except Hungarian colleagues who have chosen another hotel.

### **20:30**

Welcome dinner at a typical and very nice restaurant.

Alain, our French colleague, greeted us with warmth and friendship.

## **18/02/2013**

### **08:30**

Meeting at Lomet school.

### **09:30-11:30**

Teachers and students visited Agen by walking with French students and colleagues as guides.

### **11:30**

Official welcome in Agen Town Hall by Agen Mayor, **Mr Jean Dionis du Sèjour** who offered us a cocktail.

The Mayor expressed his enthusiasm and satisfaction with the project and, above all, with the theme of the project.

He believes, in fact, that environmental issues are very important and that each country should address these issues.

At the end of the meeting, he gave all the partners a reminder of Agen.

### **13:30**

Snacks offered by the hosts

### **14:30**

Official welcome by **Mr Duzan**, the Headmaster and by **Mrs Nativel**, the Deputy Headmaster.

They greeted us with enthusiasm saying to be very glad to welcome us and wished us to spend nice days in Agen.

## **15:00-18:00**

### **Project work**

The students presented in English language their works in power point titled:

**" Deforestation and climate change".**

Each work was made up of 15 slides.

A jury, composed of the coordinators of the partner countries have voted the best slides from the point of view of contents, graphs and pictures.

The Project Coordinator informed the colleagues that the Italian computer technician has created the official Comenius website and its address is :

[www.istitutoleoncaetani.it/comenius](http://www.istitutoleoncaetani.it/comenius).

The coordinator suggested to continue to upload all the works on Google Drive and the Italian computer technician will update the site by uploading the works after each meeting.

## **18:00**

Free time for all partners.

Students went to the host families or the boarding school.

## **20:30**

Dinner

## **19/02/2013**

### **08:30**

Meeting at Lomet school

### **08:30-12:30**

Students were divided into 9 groups, each consisting of four students from different countries.

Each group has selected 15 slides among the most voted the day before by the jury of the coordinators, and 15 more slides among all the presented works.

In this way, the students worked together in "cross-nationalities" and each group has created two Power Point works, each consisting of 15 slides.

Teachers from every country helped the students to work together.

The coordinator country (Italy), according to the decision taken by the partners, will choose the slide in order to upload it, **such as joint result**, on the website of the National Agency in the **"Treasure data base."**

In fact, this is a coordinator country's task.

In the meantime, the coordinators of the partner countries have had a meeting in order to take decisions about the next meetings in Turkey, Poland and Sweden.

We had to consider that some countries didn't get the approval ,so, we made some changes regarding the works to be presented in the meetings.

For example, for the meeting in Greece the coordinator plant a work on renewable and non-renewable energies and it's a pity to miss this opportunity because it is a very interesting topic. For this reason, we decided to work on this topic in Poland.

Besides, the theme of extinction of species is related to deforestation and climate change; in fact, in some works presented in Agen there were information about

extinction of the species. For this reason, we decided not to work on this topic and skip it.

Because some countries have not been approved, we have to make a redistribution of tasks and works choosing, all together, the best of them for the project.

**For the next meeting in Kaiseri( Turkey) from 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013** ,after discussion, the following decisions were taken:

- the students will present in English language a work in power point about "**Pollution of air, sea, soil etc...**". The work must be made of 15 numbered slides except the first one ( presentation) and the last one ( thanks for the attention);
- each partner will bring the results of the evaluation questionnaire about the French meeting in Agen(will be used the same questionnaires for the previous meeting);
- each country is free to plan a video-concert to be shown in Turkey.

During the meeting in Turkey we will also discuss the appropriate time for the presentation of T-shirts with the logo of the project.

**For the meeting in Poland from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2013:**

- the students will present in English language a work in power point about "**Renewable and not renewable energies-Effects of radiations on human health**". The work must be made of 15 numbered slides except the first one (presentation) and the last one ( thanks for the attention);
- each partner will bring the results of the evaluation questionnaire about the Turkish meeting in Kaiseri (will be used the same questionnaires for the previous meeting).

**For the meeting in Sweden from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2013:**

- students will create directly in Sweden artworks, painting, drawing, or will make works using recycled materials etc ....

Freedom of imagination will be given to students .

They will bring in Sweden everything they need for this activity.

We took this decision considering that the meeting in Sweden will be immediately after the summer holidays and, therefore, there is not much time to prepare the works before the meeting.

**A booklet will be created containing photos of all the works and it will be another joint result to be presented to the National Agencies.**

The coordinator country will take this task, but, as it has already been written, we need a redistribution of tasks;

- each partner will bring the results of the evaluation questionnaire about the meeting in Poland (will be used the same questionnaires for the previous meeting).

Nilgun, our Turkish colleague informed us that there is no problem to find Turkish families willing to host students.

Lucyna, the Polish colleague, because she will not attend the meeting in Turkey has given us in advance information and suggestions for the meeting which will take place in Poland after the one in Turkey.

She suggested to the partners to arrive in Krakow on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June (the day before) and spend the night there. On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June we will meet and visit Krakow. In the evening, after the visit, we will go to Staszow by bus.

In this way we can avoid the trip from Krakow airport to Staszow the day before and can also avoid to come back again to Krakow the next day for the visit . Lucyna informed us that it's difficult for her to find Polish families available to host students, so, gave us also information on the prices of hotels and boarding school and she will confirm them later.

Because there was not enough time to compare the results of the questionnaires on awareness of environmental issues and the evaluation of the meeting in Spain, the coordinator suggests to upload on Google Drive the graphs of the results of questionnaires completed by a brief conclusion.

Each partner country is free to organize information campaigns and seminars for students, teachers and families about the topics on which they are less aware.

Anyway, these activities should be organized to make a right evaluation of the knowledge about certain issues before and after the project.

### **12:45**

Lunch in the school canteen

### **13:20**

Visit by coach to the Agen surrounding.

### **14:00**

Visit to a farm where it is produced a vegetable-biological fuel used in substitute for diesel fuel.

3 Kg of sunflower seeds, cold-pressed, produce 1 Kg of vegetable oil.

The use of this bio- fuel is very important for environmental protection because:

- 6 times less CO that is very toxic;
- No SO<sub>2</sub> : it means no acid rains;
- No grounds exhaustion;
- Greatly reduced soot;
- Neutral CO<sub>2</sub> output: status quo for the greenhouse effect;
- No toxic products: no risk of inhaling toxic gas or pollution of water in case of accidental leaking;
- Biodegradable product doesn't ignite, doesn't evaporate, no loss by "volatilization"

Thanks to Alain who translated the explanations of the farmer.

The visit of the farm confirmed that **it's possible to respect the environment if there is the human will** , especially the political will. Unfortunately, the speculation, the " money God " restrains these willingness.

### **16:30**

Visit to the museum of prunes.

Prunes are a specialty of Agen and in this museum we saw a documentary on the production and processing of plums up to final products.

We had the "sweet" opportunity to taste various kinds of products especially prunes covered with chocolate.

### **18:30**

Back to Agen.

Students went back to the host families or boarding school and teachers went back to the hotel.

### **20:30**

Dinner

## **20/02/2013**

### **07:45**

Departure for a trip by coach from Lomet school to a special place of the Atlantic Coast: **the Great Dune du Pyla**.

Since we were very numerous, students and teachers were divided into 2 groups:

1<sup>st</sup> group: teachers and students from Bulgaria, Estonia, Italy and Spain

2<sup>nd</sup> group: teachers and students from Hungary, Poland and Turkey.

### **10:45**

The first group visited in the morning the Teich-Birds Reserve and, after a quick packed lunch offered by the hosts, at **14:00** visited the **Great Duna du Pyla**.

The second group did the opposite and had a lunch at Gujan Mestras school canteen. The **Dune du Pyla**, which is the highest sand dune in Europe, is really a very special place.

We climbed the dune and when we reached the top we were shocked and in disbelief for the beauty of the landscape. In front of us there was the great Atlantic Ocean and small islands of sand.

We really had a close contact with nature.

The weather helped us because it was a beautiful sunny day.

**Many thanks to the French colleagues for organizing this memorable excursion**

### **16:00**

Departure to Agen

### **18:50**

Arrival to Lomet school. Students went to the host families and boarding school.

Teachers went to hotel

### **20:30**

Dinner

## **21/02/2013**

### **08:30**

Arrival to Lomet school and walking to the Local District Council.

Two representatives of the District Council held a conference on the cultivation and production in the area around Agen focusing on the environmental aspects.

After the conference there was an interesting debate thanks to motivated questions asked by students and teachers.

## **12:00**

Students and teachers went back to school .  
Lunch at the school canteen.

## **13:30**

Departure by coach to visit a farm close to Agen dedicated to agroforestry in Le Pech-Laplume.

The Regional Association of agroforestry "**Tree and Agriculture in Aquitaine**" was created in 2011 and aims to co-ordinate development actions of Agroforestry throughout the region.

Is, therefore, an interlocutor between the institutional structures and farmers.

The farm adheres to the Association and its owner is **Mr. Stephane Gatti**.

In the farm are used agroforestry techniques to promote soil conservation and fertility, biodiversity, the proper use of water resources and to ensure durability and productivity.

The agroforestry is able to provide simple solutions, inexpensive, that are used to correct and prevent many dysfunctions at all levels from the small to the large surface area.

In the farm of 115 hectares of agricultural land is practiced agroforestry of second generation that includes the cultivation of mixed plants, rural and forestry, to provide a green plot of land cover.

The soil, subjected to modest surface treatments, has a permanent coverage with a succession of vegetal crops: wheat, corn, sunflowers, etc ...

**Trees and crops** - Producing more and better in the same area.

The presence of trees protects the environment and biological cultures, improves the soil, organic matter content, fertility and their ability storage of water.

Agroforestry diversification of the first productions on the same plot (timber, firewood, BRF, fruit ...), increasing the overall performance up to 30%.

### **Use of wood**

The wood produced by agroforestry, pollarded trees and hedges can be assessed in various ways: timber, wood (poles), energy from wood or fragmented wood.

This assessment is an economic resource for the operator and promotes biodiversity

Thanks to a variety of plants that bloom at different times of year, in succession, the agroforestry systems offer auxiliary crops (insects) the possibility of producing nectar and pollinate throughout the year with huge advantages in the fight against pests.

In conclusion, **the agroforestry is proposed to produce more and better with less.**

## **17:00**

All partners went back to Lomet school.

**17:00-18:30**

French students have prepared choreography with the music of the songs Gagnam Style and One Day and involved other European students to dance together.

**18:30**

The Headmaster of the Lomet school, **Mr Duzan**, invited French teachers and the European partner teachers to enjoy typical wines.

The project coordinator **Mrs. Adriana Di Muro** gave a short speech.

She thanked the French hosts for the warm welcome and thanked also all the other European colleagues for the very interesting and high quality works presented in the meeting stating that this is due to the professionalism of the partners and to a true and heartfelt interest in the project.

In this occasion, all European delegations have received certificates of participation.

**19:00**

Special dinner in the school canteen

**20:00-23:30**

Farewell Party for the European students ( but, also for teachers.....!)

A good DJ has graced the evening with a beautiful music and students and teachers danced together and had a lot of fun.

I'm glad to say again that music, dance and food unite people from all parts of the world and all three of these things were well present.

**22/02/2013**

Departure of all European delegations.

**The project coordinator**

Adriana Di Muro





