

SUMMARY

The basic idea of our project is to achieve and to reinforce tolerance and open-mindedness towards other countries, their population and their cultures. Each school in this project wants to encourage its students to broaden their knowledge about their own and other cultures, to recognize stereotypes and to cut prejudices. The communication, oral and at the same time written, will be in English and this is a significant part in this project. During the project different actions against xenophobia will be carried out, e.g. art-exhibitions or the performance of songs. The participants write, sing and even perform songs against racism and intolerance, which they have composed by themselves, as well as role-plays in which they spread their ideas for integration and ethnic and cultural diversity. In order to introduce themselves, the students will make a film in which they tell about the characteristic features of their schools, their towns and their regions. Furthermore the term "home" will become important for the students in particular. They discuss what home means for them and they will write stories on the theme of their own immigration background. They will present and publish their results with the help of multi-media means during the meetings and in the local press. A further part in this project will be the creation of a logo done by the students that symbolizes the theme of the project. The students widen their communicative and their computer competences as well as their social ones in the course of the project. As English is their language to work and to communicate with, all participants optimize their foreign-language competences and try cooperative working methods together. At the same time geographical, economical and historical knowledge will be consolidated.

RATIONALE

It will be a great opportunity for the students at the partner-schools to broaden their minds, when participating in this project.

A lot of schools are faced with special problems concerning their students, who often are in a disadvantaged situation, whether they had to immigrate with their parents from other countries and now find themselves between two different cultures and backgrounds or they suffer from poverty, because of their parents being unemployed, or a lot of children grow up in single parent families. All these facts can cause risks to be excluded from society and social life. Therefore schools are in the responsibility to integrate these often disregarded children and give them self-esteem as well as self-confidence that they will be able to take over responsibility for themselves and live a self-dominated life after leaving school.

This international project will also help them to gain and to increase their self-esteem. To take part in a project like this the students will be motivated in working harder to get better results at school and better opportunities in life after school. This project in particular will be worth for the children to be part of their own efforts.

It will be a unique and first possibility for many of our students to travel in a foreign-country and to practice the English language in an authentic situation. So they will notice the importance of language skills and how helpful it is to get in contact with other students and their families. It will allow them to act and react in an adequate way in the future. They'll strengthen their intercultural competences living in the families. It'll be a chance to gain insight into their ways of life. This experience will also be very useful in their professional life as they will work in an European society and a global world. For many of our bilingual students it will be a chance to accept their migrant backgrounds because they learn to respect and to enjoy the differences and similarities of the cultures and to value their bilingualism or their multilingualism and -culturalism. This will also be very important for schools with few migrant students, as they will get in contact with others and will experience how to live peace- and respectfully together. So the key-competences of language awareness, multi-media and technical competences will be strengthened, as well as the autonomic and cooperative learning by organizing all parts of the project: meetings, works, shows, publications, mutual visits, contacts by e-media, evaluations and more.

Last but not least, the students, teachers and parents will broaden their cultural expressiveness and accept and respect their roles as a citizen of the EU. This will be important in the sense of lifelong learning. The possibility to work with the Turkish school will also widen the knowledge of different

religious faiths (Christian and Muslim) and to learn about religious traditions. This will be the best chance to overcome religious and cultural prejudices and to respect people as humans with different ways of life. In Poland we will have the chance to work together with students with mental or physical disabilities. This will also give our students the possibility to make experiences with differences and will open their minds.

Finally the objective of our project is to strengthen the gender equality and give boys and girls the possibility to widen their consciousness and to experience who they are and what they want to be in their professional and personal life. Especially the boys will get the chance to appreciate e.g. learning languages as well as other subjects. But also the girls will be integrated in all responsibilities of the project, technical as well as medial or political ones. Our objective is to make them ready and prepared to the demands of life.

