Evaluation of Comenius workshop MY -> OURS by 33 participating students from 5 countries.

U. Pihl videregående skole. Bergen, Norway. 22 – 26 April 2013.

The overall impression is that the workshop has been a success.

Quotes:

"I think that I liked almost all about this week here in Norway."

"This week in Bergen has been memorable."

"So far being in Comenius is a good experience I had and I will not forget this good opportunity I got."

"I like that we always had activities to do and everything was prepared so well."

"But otherwise a very interesting, inspirational and good experience that I am glad I could be a part of."

"OK. All in all it has been a nice, but tiring week."

"I worked a lot to participate in this project. I think that migration is an actual problem in our country. I have to know what emigration and immigration are and with this experience I know a lot of important things about it. I like this project because there participate also other countries. The con ferences we had listened to this week were very interesting and simple. It is nice that there are people that explain the theme of migration also to students. I like the visits in the city, the conferences, Norway, the people, the discussions."

Among other positive comments are that the host families were lovely, the city was nice, the food healthy even if served at unusual times (i.e. too early), the lunch breaks were good, so was organization of the workshop. There was a nice and friendly atmosphere and the teachers were helpful. The classes were interesting even though some students would have liked to attend more classes. A number of students highlighted the trip to Mount Fløyen and the visit to the city.

Quotes:

"I like my "parents", they are so fun, and I will miss them a lot, and I love their pets too, I loved the hot tea my "mum" prepared when I arrived at home."

"I liked the hospitality of the families and their friendship."

"I hope I will be in touch with the other people who had participated in this project."

"I love Norway, it has a lot of houses, and a lot of colours in them. I think that is a nice place to live, and I love the brown cheese and the apples."

When it comes to the lectures, more than half of the students found that there were too many of them and that they were a bit too long, at times too scientific ("for older people") and therefore too boring, since they had to concentrate for so long. A few students found the lecture by the police

officer very interesting. Another few students stressed that they particularly liked the workshop at the Rafto House.

A majority would have preferred more interactive lectures and more games and activities to get to know the students from the other countries better. Quite a few students would also have liked more sight-seeing and more spare time to do things together.

Quotes:

"More activities together, f.ex. a movie night, an activity day, take the students to the stadion, go skiing."

"The students were quite stuck in their groups.

There was only a good communication between Italy and Norwegian, the other countries weren't really friendly."

The ppt-presentations were considered educational.

Quotes:

5 different countries working on the same topic and then meeting each other:

"It has opened my eyes and made me think about how much we are really similar even if we speak different languages."

"Help us to focus on our topic of study"

"All of the presentations from each country were good."

But there was also criticism. 8 students stated the following:

Quotes:

"Too many presentations per day, not all of them were interesting to listen to."

"There was quite a lot of theory, so there might be a good idea that all of the different countries' presentation aren't all at the same time, because it's hard to focus and concentrate if we have to sit and be quiet for a long period of time."

"more time to actually experience integration to Norwegian ways, and get a better introduction to the Norwegian culture."

"Try to practice the integration, instead of just hearing lectures about it. Because then we would probably understand it better, and get a better picture as to how we should deal with it."

The feedback on the choice of the topic of *migration* for the Comenius project was positive.

Quotes:

"Good because I will migrate one day, and hope to another country and a better life."

"I'm proud to say that his was the best experience I've ever done in my life!"

"Everything was perfect, there's nothing that I didn't like (only the weather, but it's not up to you"

"Interesting to hear the results from the other countries."

"Interesting theme because it's the future of many people."

"Thanks to this I could know better how the people of the other countries create a relationship with different people."

"Interesting to see that and how other countries work on the issue of immigration."

"In my opinion, this kind of project affects in a positive way my relationship with people from countries different than mine."

"I've had many opportunities to know better the migration phenomenon, its causes and effects and its importance nowadays. To have great awareness on this issue lets us know more opportunities which can change our lives in a better way."

"Thanks to this project I could meet and get in touch with different realities and know more about them. I think it's better know people that have your age, so it's easier to communicate and know each other."

"I've learnt about the situation of each country that has participated in the project and it has been very good for us to know people from other countries and know the information about their country by first hand."

The students considered their mutual English competence in a fairly positive way.

Quotes:

"Norwegian students good at English, cute, polite. "

"Everyone could speak English very well."

"We had spoken a lot of English."

But there was also a student that wrote the following:

"We could speak more English because the first day Spanish students talk in Spanish with Italian students, but their teachers said that they have to speak in English.

It has sometimes been a little difficult to understand some of the other students, especially the ones who do not speak English as well as the others."

The contact with other Comenius students was considered a positive experience by all students.

Quotes:

"I met a lot of new people and made some great friends".

"Great experience to meet a lot of teenagers from all of Europe."

"What I think it's really important to me is the fact that I have met many people with different background and I hope to keep in touch with these people."

"I have learned a lot about different cultures and customs, and feel like I understand other cultures better now. "

"I think the Comenius project was really good and affective. You learned a lot, particularly about migration, but also about the different countries. You saw that there aren't so much stereotypes and that they aren't really true."

One student pointed out that one should have offered water in the classrooms since a few students did not have water with them.

4 students commented the weather as negative - windy and rainy.

One student commented that Norway was expensive, e.g. changing Euro into Norwegian kroner.

Conclusion:

The first year was about finding and analyzing facts about migration in the participant countries.

Relevant institutions were visited and topical lectures were held.

This gives us a good foundation for our final teacher-student workshop in Udine which should focus on integrative and interactive group work between all of the participants, who, based on the work done at their schools during the two preceding years, will develop guidelines on Integration for the Young European Citizen.