

INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR TRAINING for Schools

NEWSLETTER 4 – November 2012

New materials to support international work in schools

<http://school-partnerships.eu>

This website and the resources on it are for teachers and school leaders who coordinate the International work of their schools. The materials presented here form the basis of a Comenius In-Service Training Course developed and tested by the ICTPIED project consortium. These materials

- enable school international co-ordinators to gain intercultural competence
- provide teachers with a range of teaching techniques and best practice to develop intercultural competence with learners
- demonstrate how intercultural issues can affect school partnerships
- offer practical solutions to risk which may arise from these intercultural issues
- develop some of the skills a teacher needs to act as project manager in an intercultural context
- encourage participants to develop their leadership role in school and to become active disseminators for intercultural education for other staff and students

The training uses a range of methodologies including presentations, group work, role-play and open discussion. Inputs on intercultural education, leadership and strategic school development, project management, student voice and the creative use of school partnerships are made. One key feature is the inclusion of a number of intercultural scenarios that feature some of the key issues faced by those in school who manage international activities.

Teachers could use these materials on their own or with colleagues or they could be used in professional development sessions for groups of teachers.

What is the project?

International Co-ordinator Training for Intercultural Education and Diversity (ICTPIED) is a Multilateral Project funded by the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme. The project is coordinated by the British Council, London, and includes the following organisations and institutions:

- > United Kingdom: International Resource Centre for Schools and Colleges (University of Hull)
- > Austria: *die Berater*® (education and training consultancy)
- > Germany: Staatliches Seminar für Didaktik und Lehrerbildung (state seminar for initial teacher training for teachers of secondary schools - intermediate level)
- > Romania: Institutul Intercultural Timisoara (an organisation specialising in training in intercultural education, dialogue and democratic citizenship)
- > United Kingdom: Spiral partnership (experts on curriculum development)

International Co-ordinators

The project addresses the growing the number of teachers who act as 'international co-ordinators' for their

schools (although this term is not used universally across Europe and in the wider world). They coordinate Comenius or eTwinning projects, organise school partnerships and exchanges, or manage other international or Global activities.

ICTPIED is developing and testing a training offer for these officially appointed or informally acting international school coordinators. The training focuses on intercultural and diversity issues, but also on personal and management skills for international cooperation in school education.

Definition of a great school partnership

Based on the results of the survey and on the experiences of the partner organisation, we put together a definition of a great school partnership, in order to help us them define the competences needed by the “international Coordinator”. This is what we came up with.

A good partnership is sustainable, not (entirely) funding led, soundly managed, motivates staff and pupils alike, supported by senior management, involves the wider school community, is integrated in curriculum, strategically planned, addresses global issues, contributes to key competence development of teachers and pupils.

All of these factors contribute to the development of critical cultural awareness and intercultural learning and understanding.

Project outcome

From this we agreed **competency areas** around which our training modules were designed. These are:

- 1) Intercultural communication and cooperation**
- 2) Design and implementation of learning experiences**
- 3) Strategic school development**
- 4) Project management**
- 5) Leadership**
- 6) ICT**

We trialed the materials at an event in York in March 2012 and then refined the materials based on feedback.



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



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And finally.....

This is the final newsletter from the project. We hope you find the materials useful, please give us feedback via <http://school-partnerships.eu>

We hope to run other training courses which will be advertised in the EU catalogue <http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/>

If you are not from one of the 32 countries eligible for EU activities, you might like to take part in British Council Connecting Classrooms activities on schools online <http://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org>

Good luck and best wishes with your international work!

The ICTPIED team.