



MINT

Mind the Gap: Migration NEEDS Integration Lifelong Learning Program

Report of the project meeting in the Mercator Berufskolleg

Moers, Germany

9th to 13th December 2009

The fourth transnational management meeting of the project was held at the Mercator Berufskolleg in Moers, Germany from the 9th to the 13th December 2009

Representatives from all the nine partner schools from Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, The Netherlands and Turkey attended the meeting.

The project meeting started on 9th December with ice breaking activities between participants and a “Welcome evening” at the hospitable home of Mr. Waldemar Skorczik – the project coordinator of the German partner school.

Project activities:

10th December - morning session:

The coordinator of European projects - Mr. Waldemar Skorczik welcomed participants at Mercator Berufskolleg. Welcome messages were delivered by the Head of the host school - Mr. Herbert Beck; by the coordinator of the project MINT - Mr. Alberto Cardoso and by representatives of the students - Elena Kremer and Hayat Bazi.

Mr. Christian Graack presented the organizational structure of the Mercator Berufskolleg:

- The part-time co-operative vocational department and its “dual educational system”;
- The full-time general vocational department.

The Deputy Headmaster Dr. Oliver Wolf presented the school’s web-site which targeted the students and teachers and aimed to provide publicity of the life and transparency of the school. He informed the delegates about the web-site history and the team work with students.

All participants of the meeting, divided into four groups named: “politics”, “logistics”, “banking” and “health care” visiting classes and had a guided tour of the school.

The coordinator of the project *MINT* Mr. Alberto Cardoso gave a report of the first project year: module1 – *survey*; module 2 – *laws and rules*; module3 – *experiences*. He demonstrated using a Power Point presentation the teachers’ and students’ project work.

Mr. Andres Brett gave an explanation and recommendations about the structure, content, techniques and the form of video interviews and the other end products.

In the closing session he made an introduction to our afternoon project activities in Duisburg Marxloh.

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Afternoon session:

All participants visited the Mosque of Duisburg Marxloh.

Mrs. Sabrina Vorberg, B.A. cand., from the Central Mosque & Education and Meeting Center told us about its history, interior elements of the Mosque and Muslim religious traditions. She noted the specific openness and tolerance of this Center to non Muslim people.

Project participants were introduced to the project *DITIB* Duisburg. It was financed by the Federal state North Rhine-Westphalia and the European Union. A Power Point presentation was demonstrated by Mrs. Sabrina Vorberg, presenting the educational activities and requirements of the Center including, German courses, integration courses, advices for senior citizens, lectures, discussions and meetings with intercultural, inter religious and social topics. Thanks to the openness of the parish, the support of the administration of Duisburg, the diversity of the society and the support of the EU the *Education and Meeting Center* worked successfully.

The second Power Point presentation – *Referat für Integration* was demonstrated by the member of the local government of Duisburg Mr. Marijo Terzic. He described the way the city of Duisburg tried to improve its integration and their concepts of getting people together and involving them in social life. Delegates, teachers and students asked some questions and discussed the topic *Successful integration in the town of Duisburg*.

All delegates, teachers and students had a dinner at Mrs. Helga Hofmann's hospitable home in a typical Christmas atmosphere.

11th December - morning session:

Dr. Ulrich Steuten presented the photo project *Strangers in the city*, which involved participants from different countries. Their task was to take photographs of places, of objects, of persons in the city which appear strange to them. He presented some interesting photographs taken by the project group.

Mrs. Aldona Moceviciene from the Lithuanian partner school showed a music therapy method which will be possible to use in educational process for better comprehension of the feelings of immigrants, strangers or unaccepted people and how it can help them to involve in classes, in groups and in the community.

The two Bulgarian students: Simona Andonova and Boryana Mileva each presented a theory: *The Theory of Justice* by John Rawls and *Multicultural Citizenship: a Liberal Theory of Minority Rights* by Will Kymlicka.

Afternoon session:

Mr. Alberto Cardoso – the project coordinator discussed with partners the tasks and the plan for next project meeting in Bulgaria, from 24.02.2010. He brought to a conclusion the project activities on the meeting and thanked to participants and to the host Institute - Mercator Berufskolleg.

Participants of the meeting walked to Moers City Christmas market and took part in the unusual Christmas party at Mercator Berufskolleg. The “Amazing Years” Rock-Pop-Group maintained the good mood of the dancing students, teachers and headmasters.

The hospitable partners from Mercator Berufskolleg organised a rich cultural program: a boat trip from Duisburg to Düsseldorf with the Weisse Flotte; a walk to Düsseldorf Christmas Market, sightseeing of Altstadt, and Königsallee guided by German students.

The participants of the meeting had the opportunity to be introduced to the German traditions, lifestyle and culture and to enjoy the beautiful Christmas Markets. They tried traditional German, Moroccan, Turkish and Russian specialties, drinks and sweets prepared by students and their parents.

The students from Mercator Berufskolleg looked after all the partners in a caring and professional manner throughout the meeting. The two Bulgarian students – Boryana Mileva and Simona Andonova had the fortune to be accommodated at the hospitable homes of the German students – Nina Mankertz and Marion Kaczmarek.

2 Thanks goes to the German project team who provided an excellent programme of work and cultural activities in which through the active involvement of all the participants, the fourth project “MINT” meeting was successful and fruitful.