

## Project outline

### Duration

Two years 2009-2011

### Working language

English

### Partner schools

Schools applying for the Columbus project:  
Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium, Stuttgart, Germany  
Gabriel-von-Seidl-Gymnasium, Bad Tölz, Germany  
Goldberg-Gymnasium, Sindelfingen, Germany  
Zahles Gymnasieskole, Copenhagen, Denmark  
Tranchellgymnasiet, Landskrona, Sweden  
Balerno High School, Edinburgh, Great Britain (Scotland)  
Eötvös József Gimnázium, Budapest, Hungary  
Grup școlară E.A. Mircea Vulcanescu, Bucharest, Romania

### Potential new partners:

Escola Secundária de Pedro Nunes, Lisbon, Portugal  
Escola Secundária de Santa Maria, Sintra, Portugal  
Liceo Farnesina, Roma, Italy  
Gimnazija Jurija Vege, Idrija, Slovenia  
Siena, Italy  
Kattowice, Poland

At each school an English teacher should be involved in the project.

### Topics

Travelling and tourism – social, ecological, cultural, economic, ... effects (sustainability ...)  
Travelling – individual goals such as “expansion of the human mind”  
Travelling in the past, present, future  
Virtual mobility – the role of the Internet in the world of travel, ...  
Mobility of ideas – exchange of ideas, research, ... on a European scale  
Mobility of ideas – plagiarism, product piracy ...  
Creativity and innovation – new creative developments dealing with mobility  
The role of mobility in combating poverty and social exclusion  
...

### Project procedure

All the partner schools work on the same topics within the same period of time – we have always agreed on deadlines when tasks should be finished.  
For each of the topics we have common tasks provided by a teachers team.  
Most tasks are designed to be dealt with in national groups (classes, extracurricular groups, ...), occasionally we have tasks for international groups.  
The results of the national groups are published on our common website and in other ways (e.g. small exhibitions, calendar, poster, folder, school publications...)



Group photo of the last project meeting in Bucharest in November 2008

Each national group can discuss the results of the project groups and publish new interesting aspects on our website.

Each school/teacher decides how much time they want to spend on the project and to what degree they want to work on the tasks. There are some tasks which all the groups have to work on and others which are optional.

### **Project meetings**

We have two project meetings per school year, usually in October/November and in March/April, with teachers and students (usually there are 2-3 teachers and 3-6 students per school). The first meeting of the Columbus project will be in Stuttgart in October/November 2009. The schools from Landskrona (Sweden), Edinburgh (Scotland) and Budapest (Hungary) have volunteered to host the following meetings. If necessary, we will have an additional meeting for teachers only – like the meeting in Stuttgart in January 2009.

During project meetings with students there are always work sessions for students, where students present some results of their national groups and where they work together in international groups. Of course, there are also sightseeing and social activities. Teachers have extra work sessions where they discuss past and future tasks in the project. Usually meetings start on a Thursday (arrival) and end on a Monday (departure). To get an idea you can visit our present website [www.y-project.info](http://www.y-project.info).

### **Project website**

We have a project website which we use to publish the aims of the project, the project plan, news from the project groups, present tasks and results and, of course, the participating schools and student groups. To get an idea you can visit our present website [www.y-project.info](http://www.y-project.info).

The next project website will include a platform where students can publish individual material (texts, pictures, cartoons, ...). This platform will enable all the students of all the partner schools to communicate with each other, exchange ideas, publish their work, ... . At each school there will be a teacher who is responsible for this school's contributions to the platform. We want this platform to be an interesting website to visit.

### **Teachers' work in the project and responsibilities**

Teachers

- plan the project work together.
- are responsible for certain tasks in the project – they provide material, detailed tasks (e.g. key questions for a film analysis, guidelines for research work) for all the participating students.
- must choose a project group (all students from one class or extracurricular groups).
- have to motivate students of their national groups and encourage and help them to work on the tasks.
- stay in touch with the teachers from the other schools.
- send results of their groups to the coordinating school for publication on the website.
- work on parts of bilingual teaching units.
- are bound to meet the project deadlines.
- should try to disseminate some results of the project work at their schools and perhaps the wider school community.
- should also try to involve other teachers in the project.

#### **Students' work in the project and responsibilities**

Students of the project groups work on the project tasks.

They discuss the results in class and publish them on the website (via coordinating school) if required.

Students prepare presentations for the meetings and for their school community.

Motivated students will exchange emails with students from other project schools.

Students who participated in a meeting will have to report back to their project group at home.

Students are welcome to publish any individual work on the project on the project platform.

#### **Typical tasks and activities**

Analysis of a film or short story related to the topic with common key questions (provided by a teachers' team)

Surveys and interviews

Analysis of newspapers

Research work

Presentation of typical national issues, problems, behaviour, ...

Creative tasks such as: Design a project logo (logo-contest) or a book cover, film poster, drawings, creative writing, ...

Tasks designed to encourage communication between students.

#### **Products**

Website and project platform

Posters, calendars, written reports, folders, ...

Photos, pictures, drawings, paintings, ...

Bilingual teaching units

...

#### **Dissemination**

Exhibitions at school

Information about the project for teachers, students, parents (→ school website, written publications, ...)

Project website

If possible, reports to local/regional Comenius institutions

If possible, reports to local newspapers

#### **Evaluation**

Teachers evaluate the development of the project at each meeting.

There will be an evaluation form for teachers, students, heads at the end of the two-year-project.