



Summary of P.A.C.T. meeting in GENK Belgium 07 – 11 – 2007

Participants:

DENMARK	FINLAND	SPAIN	HELLAS
Bodil Hansen	Johanna Jussila	Mar Sanchez	Hariales Trakas
Per Rudbaek	Hannu Pulkkinen	Fernando Colomer	Haido Grigoriadou
Mette Larsen	Anna Kaisa Launonen		Babis Karaoglanis
Mark Bjerrum			
HOST COUNTRY	BELGIUM		
Tony Schildermans	Johan Boucneau	Jan Meert	Thea Pipeleers
Femke Croux	Gerits Ilse	Fatma Ozcan	Monique Wijnants
Hubert Crals	Theresa Ubachs	Aelter Tine	Ilse Geboers
Carla Viola	Sonja Neyens	Daisy Wozniak	Bart Michiels

Objectives of this meeting :

- finalising the details of the project
- gaining insight in solution strategies used in Belgian organisations in their battle against the phenomenon of being underprivileged.
- solving practical problems (platform, evaluation,...)

Description of the planned activities :

-Concrete planning of every session :

International visits :

- Svendborg Denmark : 10/3 till 14/3/ 2008-11-18
- Valladolid Spain : 26/05 till 30/05/2008
- Thessaloniki, Hellas : 03/11 till 07/11/2008
- Kuopuo, Finland : /03/2008

-Formulating questions for the research into educational needs

The first forum-meeting, consisted of the deputies of the different countries and invitees of the several organisations in Genk (integration-service of the quarter Kolderbos, youth-service, schoolboard, and Cultural service of the City of Genk). These people are all involved in the project. Via workgroups we've tried to get an idea of the expectations of the project: 'Parents, adults, children and teachers around the table'.

Following topics emerged:

- ? We want to improve the guidance into the various sectors of society for these children and youngsters.
- ? We want to improve social cohesion.
- ? We want to improve the opportunities of participation in society as a whole.
- ? We want to optimise the system of care and establish preventive measures for the children and youngsters.
- ? We want a safer and more stimulating environment for youngsters and children to learn and live in within and outside the school.
- ? We want to improve the opportunities for the youngsters to learn and develop.
- ? We want to find out how we can take care of drop-outs again.

It is necessary for the different countries, that we follow different pads, in order to reach these goals. But in general, following topics emerge:

- ? Making sure community work has a more stimulating influence on the education and integration of children / youngsters
- ? Helping the parents (often socio-emotionally and culturally neglected) to educate their children by providing educational support (through school, community work or youth work).
- ? Better preparing new teachers and educators for this new assignment (through lectures by experienced people, education and support from the teachers' unions)
- ? We all have to face the same direction. Get all community organisations dealing with community life to agree. Not an over-abundance of help but specific help where necessary. Not 'a lot of help is good' but 'good help counts for a lot'. Not working next to each other but working together.
For example: for the local representatives of the quarter-organisations of Kolderbos, we suggested that we use the idea of 'Brede School' (Wide School). In this way, we can stimulate the leisure time of the youngsters, and, for the parents, gain consciousness of their input concerning educational activities, and responsibilities.
- ? Offer insight into the problems to teachers (and all participants involved in education, e.g. unions, colleges teaching educational theory, adult education,...), give them further training (e.g. internships in schools with a large percentage of immigrant students) and offer them solution methods. A lot of field work still has to be done here (lectures by experienced school boards, trainings by the union).
- ? Give the different partners in the project the opportunity to go and study 'good examples' at each other's institution and by means of discussion let them search for opportunities to meet these objectives in real life and work on initiatives. To obtain this goal, we expanded the program by an extra visit to a centre for drug addicts, and a visit to the integration service of the City of Genk, where all the participants got a explanation of how they work.
- ? With the help of community organisations make sure that there is a large offer of sporting and cultural activities so that youngsters are able to spend their free time in a meaningful and constructive way. Als voorbeeld : For the attendees in Genk, we made the proposition that we will try to find out how the City of Genk, together with the school in Kolderbos, can obtain an improvement of the offer of sports(areas).

- Visits :

We've planed a few trips and visits to show some examples of practice of objectives that raised during the forum:

- Visit to the primary school 'Europaschool – Genk'. The guests got an explanation about how the school works, more in particular the work with parents, and the work of prevention. The prevention work tries to offer the disadvantage children the possibility to integrate.
- Visit to the quarter-centre of the City of Genk, where the quarter-managers try to integrate the disadvantage immigrants of the quarter, by certain actions.
- Visit to the anti-drugcentre, a detoxification centre for youngsters. The participants got an explanation about the problems and the work of the centre.
- Visit to the 'Opvoedingswinkel' (Education-store): this 'store' is specialised in the support of parents that have some educational problems concerning their children or youngsters.
- A tour around the quarter Kolderbos, (a 'ghetto-area'). Here they got an explanation about how the city tries to capture the different types of society problems.

-Formulating the tasks for the next meeting + discussing the method of evaluation

1. The aims and objectives of the PACT project:

First and foremost we want to create an ICT platform for discussing and exchanging ideas of "best practise". Each country works accordingly to local conditions and theories. Eventually we might create a concrete product (a parent's guide) or a "best practise" pamphlet.

2. ICT platform:

Finland is responsible and will organize from own local platform. The contributions has to be in TXT-form or as a word document. Shall be sent to Hannu (hannu.pulkkinen@kuopio.fi). For a start we all sent pictures and descriptions of our schools/organizations to Hannu before next meeting in Denmark.

Response and answers in own mail addresses.

3. Method of evaluation :

We will use the evaluation forms as proposed by our friends of Hellas and send all those papers to Tony Schildermans, the coordinator.

General decision of the First exchange:

The First meeting with all the participants of the project was very successful.

It was a rich exchange of ideas, and working methods, which made the participants think. The exchange was experienced as very useful by all the participants.

For the next exchange, we have to pay attention to the weight of the program. This time, participants found the program very tiring and heavy.