



Prepared by:

students and teachers from Gimnazjum nr 121,

Warsaw, Poland

June 2015



**Lifelong
Learning
Programme**

Description and aims of the project

SCHOOL IS COOL

Nowadays E.S.L. is a growing problem in Europe. The goal of the EU is to reduce the EU average to 10% by 2020.

Our goal was to contribute in each country by working on prevention by raising awareness.

We believe that students who like to go to school and feel that school gives them the motivation to see the possibilities in the future will not be early school leaving students. Through the project, students learn from each other through a partially-controlled communication on issues that concern young people on Facebook. It helps to ensure with new motivation that students have a positive relationship towards education and not to be early school leaving students.

Our aim was to give these pupils the opportunity to talk about their problems, make them more sociable and create an environment to spend their time effectively instead of wandering in the streets aimlessly, going to internet cafes, shopping malls and billiard clubs. We wanted to achieve this goal by involving these children actively in creative writing activities, music, art, native language, Maths, English, modern foreign languages, drama, sports, ICT, Geography, History and Social Science that also appealed to the multiple intelligences and enabled them to get involved in the interrelated school subjects by using the Cross-Curriculum Design.

This project fostered the variety of languages, religions and ethnic groups. Coming together with 6 different countries, 6 different languages and 6 different cultures, we have formed a cultural diversity. By doing and displaying projects about the partner countries' history, language, geography, religion, culture and traditions, cuisine and by making powerpoint presentations and performing arts, pupils started to become aware of the cultural diversity. Moreover, the teachers had the chance to learn about each others' cultures, school systems and different pedagogical methods.

Schools worked together to elicit the reasons for E.S.L. and used the information to make social campaign to raise awareness among parents, local, regional and European communities which should help prevent the problem.

The children who hadn't gone abroad and couldn't afford this had the chance to see different countries with different languages, religions, ethnic groups and cultures. This increased their tolerance and respect of other nations and, we hope, some prejudices have been overcome.

By actively communicating within the lessons, free-time activities, via internet and on visits, the pupils improved their language skills, self-esteem, raised their awareness of other cultures and broke down barriers between each country. They found common and different points of challenges in different nations and found answers for these challenges.

Participating schools:



Schule im Innerstetal ,
Baddeckenstedt, Germany- the
coordinator of the project



Orgeneral Eşref Bitlis Orta
Okulu, Istanbul, Turkey



Collège Henri Guillaumet,
JOUY-le-Moutier, France



I.S.I.S.S. "Enrico
Mattei", Caserta, Italy



Colegiul Economic „Virgil
Madgearu” Ploiesti,
Ploiesti, Romania

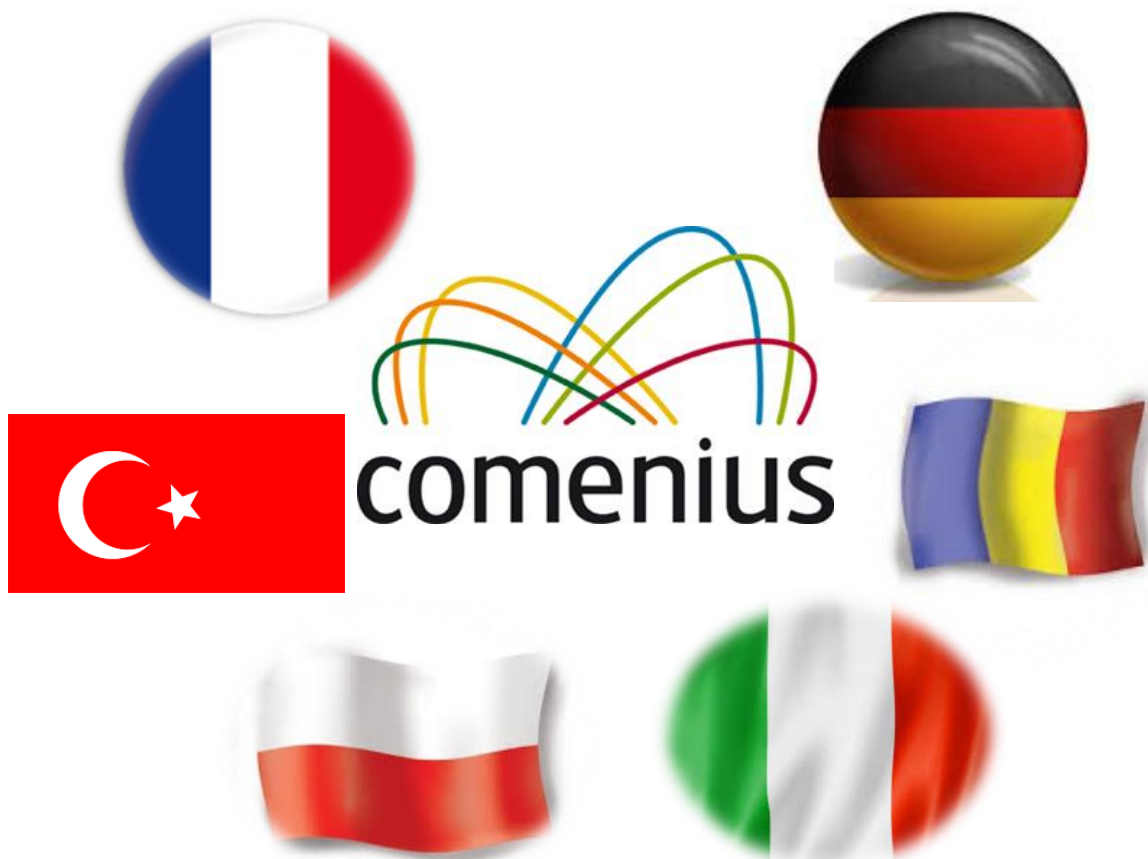


Gimnazjum nr 121 im.
Wojciecha Zawadzkiego,
Warsaw. Poland



Activities and outcomes:

- ✓ Project Facebook group 'School is cool' (Germany)
- ✓ Project website (Romania)
- ✓ Questionnaire about reasons of early school leaving (Italy)
- ✓ Questionnaire about basic knowledge of participating countries (Turkey)
- ✓ A Comenius corner- each partner country
- ✓ A DVD about school, city and country- each partner country
- ✓ A presentation of school systems - each partner country
- ✓ A logo- each partner country
- ✓ The common logo (Italy)
- ✓ A DVD of native language - each partner country
- ✓ Survival dictionary (Italy)
- ✓ Performing the short version of Grease in English - each partner school
- ✓ Performing *Grease* on stage in Italy by international actors
- ✓ Making the film of *Grease* (Romania)
- ✓ Posters about E.S.L - all pupils during the visit in Turkey
- ✓ The posters at pdf-data (Italy)
- ✓ Educational games (cards) about participating countries (Germany and France)
- ✓ The European song performed by all pupils (recorded by Romania)
- ✓ Evaluation of 2 questionnaires- each partner country
- ✓ The booklet with the photos and students' reflections – each partner country (Poland)



Mobilities

FRANCE: 24-30 September 2013- teachers' meeting



GERMANY: 9-14 December 2013- teachers and students' meeting

ROMANIA: 24-30 March 2014- teachers and student's meeting



TURKEY: 19-24 May 2014- teachers and students' meeting

FRANCE: 6-11 October 2014- teachers and students' meeting

ITALY: 13-19 April 2015- teachers and students' meeting



POLAND: 4-10 May 2015- teachers' meeting

Visit to France: 24-30 September 2013

The visit of the persons in charge of the partner countries of the project COMENIUS to Jouy-le-Moutier really launched the project. The professors as the pupils began to decorate and to organize exhibitions.

The program of these 2 years was defined with the timetable.

Visits were organized to allow the partners to prepare the coming in France of their pupils.

All the countries presented during a big meeting with the local representatives their school and education system.

These exchanges were rich and allowed to look from the inside at our school system.

We were also able to exchange during friendly moments, around gastronomic discoveries.

We were very happy to receive twice our foreign partners because we have to compensate for the absence of our Irish partner who had no his authorization;



Visit to Germany: 9-14 December 2013

The coordinator- Matthias Zobjack



Host students' reflections

Before our guests came to Germany, we were all really excited, because for the majority of us it was the first time ever, that exchange pupils came to visit our homes. Furthermore it was the first pupils exchange in this project, so we didn't have the chance to get to know our exchange pupils on other pupils' visits before.

Even though most of us already had contact to their guests through facebook or e-mail, we were all quite curious how our exchange student will be. Will we have something in common? Will it be difficult to communicate? Will we have a lot of fun together?

At the train station where we first met our guests it was quite strange to talk only English (in Germany). It was exciting to meet so many unknown people, with whom we will be together for almost one week. At the beginning our parents were very excited, too, because they didn't know what to talk (in English) and how to behave. Will they like our homes? Will they like the German food?

The first one or two days we noticed that some of the pupils were very shy and preferred to talk only to their friends from their home-country. But after some days they overcame their shyness and we became friends quite quickly. The Comenius Welcome Ceremony was a great opportunity to learn about the different countries and cultures of our guests. Everybody was dancing the Halay or listening to traditional Polish songs.



At the ice-skating we enjoyed ourselves a lot and we realized, that it didn't matter, where you come from because we had fun all together. It was getting easier from minute to minute to communicate with our guests and we made first friends.

In our free time, mostly in the evenings, we tried to meet each other as often as possible, for example on the playground of the school, to play some games, talk to each other or just enjoy our time. The best evening was the one at Valentin's home, where all the pupils met. We were surprised that our guests wanted to learn

some German words. We tried our best to teach them as much as possible and not only bad words. It was a really funny evening.

The trips were quite exciting and we had a lot of fun especially at the indoor pool and the Autostadt in Wolfsburg.

This students' exchange gave us the chance to get to know each other and forget all the prejudices that we had about other countries' people. We hope that our guests do so. It was a very nice week, we learned a lot of new English words and got used to the language a bit better. The week finished quite quickly. Some of us made new friends and were really sad when it was time to say good-bye. We hope to stay in contact and meet our new friends on a future student's exchange during this project in Turkey, France or Romania or Italy again. A big thanks to our teachers who give us the opportunity to be part of such a great project.

Italian students' reflections

I participated in the Comenius 2013/2014, and I have been hosted in **Germany** by a girl, I found myself very well, I was given the opportunity to know new places, cultures, traditions and foods. They are still on good terms with the girl who hosted me, and we decided to meet again soon.

It was a unique experience, and I think everyone should try it at least once. Thanks to my school that gave me this opportunity. **Vincenza Roberti**

The experience of participating in Comenius project was one of the most interesting and enthusiastic things I

ever did. We travelled to **Germany**, completely unknown and unexplored country for me before. There I discovered a lot of traditions, customs and met a lot of amazing people. I liked it so much that I returned in Germany after one year just to meet my



new family again. I'm so grateful to everybody who gave us this possibility, because when we travel we learn so much, and I'm convinced that it makes us better people!

Anna Mostetska

The Comenius was a fantastic experience and unique, almost indescribable. My trip was in **Germany**. When I arrived at the station I was very nervous and excited, it is natural, I think everyone was like me. The family that hosted me was outstanding and polite and I also toward them. The school I really liked it, especially the



structure and the activities they perform. The program of the week was very interesting, I was very impressed the internal structure of a swimming pool, and especially Autostadt because I am passionate about cars. I spent beautiful evenings with lots of guys and I really enjoyed myself.

Amedeo from Caserta-Italy.

Baddeckenstedt, Germany

Two years ago I went to Baddeckenstedt with my Italian schoolfriends and two teachers. We students were 6 and when we arrived there we were accepted by the German students like brothers and sisters.

When we were there we went to Goslar, a beautiful medieval village, where there was a very nice Christmas market. Near the village we went to visit Rammelsberg silver mine. It was a great experience.

Stefano Bernardo



Turkish students' reflections

The Comenius trip to Germany took place on 9th December 2013. We were six students aged between 12 and 14. We were excited that it was the first time we had gone abroad without our families. We would stay with the host families for six days.



Cenk: "After the plane landed at the airport in Hannover, we went to the railway station to arrive Baddeckenstedt. The first thing that I realized everything was punctual. The train came on time. German people were very punctual and disciplined in

their life styles, education, traffic. They obeyed the rules, which in my opinion this makes them live in safe.”

Özlem: “ I loved their education system. When I attended the classes in Germany, I liked their teaching methods. In that methods every student tried to solve the problems themselves by practising it. I thought that I would stay and study there.”

Kenan: “ Baddeckenstedt was a very peaceful and silent place. One could live forever there with nature. As I lived in a big and crowded city, that place made me feel peaceful. ”

Hatice: “ Their education was effective. It found out creavity and ability of the students. The number of the students were less in class.”

Aslı: “ My host family prepared lunch box for me every morning. There were bread, cheese, and fruit and water in it. They were very hospitable.”

Yağmur: “ My host family also prepared lunch box for me every morning. We came together and sat around the table every evening. We talked about what happened today and how our day was. I think by doing this they spent quality hours with each other.”

When we walked on the streets in Germany , we saw that Germans were free, happy and continued their lives in safety.



Romanian students' reflections



"Hello! My name is Postelnicu Bogdan and I am a student from Romania. I participated in the Comenius Project in 2013-2014 and I went to Germany in the process. The activities that were organized by our hosts were really entertaining and I learned lots from my foreign friends. This project helped me develop my personality. I

met lots of interesting people and we visited museums, mines but also did some sport like self defense and swimming. I really wish that more people join this program because it teaches you how to become a better and more communicative person plus it's really funny!"

"Hello! My name is Postelnicu Manuela and my son, Postelnicu Bogdan, joined the project:Comenius School is Cool in 2013-2014. I personally encouraged my son to take part in such activities because in my opinion a young man needs to meet with people of his age to learn, laugh and work with them. I am proud of him and I even got to know myself a young girl from Germany who was very sweet. I encourage every parent who has the possibilities to send their children in this project where teachers and students alike learn how to develop their personality by interaction. It's very educative and satisfying for both parties. Thank you for your time and have a nice day."

Radu Cristina:"The family where I stayed during the "Comenius School is Cool" was very welcoming and friendly, and for this I felt like home. The food was tasty and varied. As a tradition, given that I was in during the winter holidays, they had a December calendar with days scattered, and every day they opened the box of that day , where was a piece of chocolate."



Parents :"We believe that our daughter was very lucky to have been part of this project. She had chance to travel in a highly developed country, to make friends who still keep in touch , to develop her English and to broaden her horizons."

"Hi, I'm Alina Alexe and I'm glad to tell you about my experience from Germany. I was there last year but I remember that I had an lovely family, I met friendly people and I tasted some delicious specialities. Germany people love to party, to travel but they don't forget to go at the church every weekend. Germany it's a beautiful and clean country. When it was my turn to be the guest of my exchange student, I've spend some unforgettable moments. My parents are still amazed by Comenius project because they think it's a great idea to have a foreign member in your family, even if this is just temporary. I love Comenius and I'm happy that I was in it. I'll repeat this experience when I'll have the chance again."



amazed by Comenius project because they think

Hi, I'm Alexandru Borcan and I'm glad to tell you about my experience from Germany. I was there last year but I remember that I had an lovely family, I meet friendly people and I tasted some delicious specialities. Germany people love to party, to travel but they don't forget to go at the church everyweekend. Germany is a beautiful country,full of places to visit and especially full of wonderful people. When it was my turn to be the guest of my exchange student, I've spend some unforgettable moments. My parents are still



it's a great idea to have a foreign member in your family, even if this is just temporary. I love Comenius and I'm happy that I was in it. I'll repeat this experience when I'll have the chance again.I love Comenius because of this project I had an unforgettable experience, and especially I meet the wonderful people that I'm sure I will not forget .

In mobility in Germany have been Autostadt Museumand I like it very much.

For me, the experience was a wonderful a me in Germany. The family when I stayed I was treated very nicely. Whit Doreen, girl that I stayed, I continued to talk and get along great.

French students' reflections



This mobility has been a wonderful experience for the pupils and the teachers who have all discover Germany at this occasion.

All the French pupils were really pleased by the kindness and the friendliness of their hosts.

What they say about this mobility :



Léa : “this project shows that English is essential to communicate with other persons from a foreign country”

Manon : “I was really amazed by their welcome, they were all smiling ! And I really want to deal with my English in depth to be able to discuss as I want and express what I want too.”

Julien : “ What was amazing for me was the

atmosphere in the german school. This travel has increased my motivation to learn English and I loved discovering different life styles”

Pierre : “In Germany, I have been impressed by the high level of English of all the other countries and by the size and the quality of the school equipment”

Benjamin : “In Germany, I was impressed by the freedom of the German students in their school, and by their peacefulness”



Polish students' reflections

One year ago, in December we went to Germany as a participant of Comenius project. We stayed at German families and we spent our time on making interesting things. I liked visiting an old mine, sightseeing in the town of Goslar and fun in Aqua park most. We visited also a hockey hall with a splendid ice rink. Boys were very interested in visiting a car museum called „Autostadt”. There were a lot of old-fashioned and modern cars.



I was very surprised by German education system, different to the Polish one. Primary school lasts only four years. At the beginning of my stay I was a little shy speaking German, but later I was speaking better. My friends didn't have any problems with communication either.

Our trip took place in December, just before Christmas, so we could watch a German shopping Christmas tradition – called „Weihnachtsmark”. It was a large marketplace with a lot of stands specialised in selling different Christmas products. We spent a lot of time shopping. That was even a little bit boring and made me tired.

In my opinion, thanks to the Comenius project, I learnt to communicate with other people from different countries. Certainly it wasn't a waste of time for us. Comenius is cool and if I could, I would take part in that project one more time.

Mateusz



Visit to Romania: 24-30 March 2014

The school coordinator- Iulia Dragomir

Hosts' reflections

„For me, to organize the mobility in my school was a new experience full of emotions.

Follow my friends, my colleagues to be my guests. I discovered that was so touching trying to offer what is the best and the most beautiful traditions and culture of my nation. I would like to repeat this wonderful experience anytime because I learned a lot professionally and personally.”

Best regards,
Monica



”The mobility in Romania was a wonderful opportunity for being a guest for our friends, to show them how Romanian people are, their values. I was impressed that when they left home cried and told us that in Romania was like in heaven. I remember that everybody cried in front of the gate of the school when the moment of coming back home came and I felt that we succeeded to seed in their souls and in their minds something precious from our country, from our soul, our friendship and respect, the possibility of establish new projects where we can add value to our life.”Iulia Dragomir

”I was so impressed about the German friends!! love them forever: Tiana, Doreen, Marie!” Iulia Gradisteanu

„I liked very much that we sang almost every day, that we created together different songs, that we danced and saw beautiful places from our country with our friends from another countries. I like to build memories with people that I appreciate. When I visit again those places I will remember those days and the joy that existed all the time into my soul.”-Bianca Anghel



Italian students' reflections

The Comenius trip To **Romania** was a fantastic experience for me, it was very nice, because I was with new friends of my school. We were out of our comfort zones, staying in host families and had to communicate and make new friends. This experience has given me and my friends the opportunity to get to know a different culture, to taste national typical products, to meet a lot of guys coming from other European countries. But it was very beautiful also to accommodate, to know our country, our traditions, our culture, the beauty of our country. I had the opportunity to meet wonderful people with whom I often talk today. **ALFIERI VINCENZA**



would do it again! :) **MARIA DELLA PORTA**

I have had the opportunity to go to **Romania** through Comenius last year .. there I had the opportunity to know new countries, new cultures, taste new foods and learn more in a small part of the foreign language.

I met new people even in countries other than Romania who like me were there thanks to Comenius, we still keep in touch. With the girl who hosted me was born a great friendship that has grown even more this year when she arrived in Italy with the Comenius project and she was at my house. After one year we met again and it was a fantastic experience that will remain forever in my heart, the friendship was born between me and Amalia knows no boundaries and kilometers. **Anna Anatriello**

I had the opportunity to travel through the Comenius, my first experience took place in **Romania** where I could meet new people, cultures other than my own, typical and important monuments. It was a fantastic experience I will never forget.

With the girl I had the opportunity to host myself again this year thanks to the Comenius trip that took place in Italy where my Romanian friend lived in my house for a week. Cristina and I'll be friends regardless of the kilometers that divide us. An experience that I





24-30/3/2014

Ploiesti-Romania

One year ago I went to Romania with my Italian schoolfriends and two teachers.

During the flight i was really nervous because for me it was the first time in my life.

I remember that when i arrived at the airport i was welcomed by the Romanian boys and on facebook i was always in touch with my roommate Philip Negru.

Philip was like a brother for me, he is a beautiful person and his mother Dorina was like a second mother for me, until today we keep in touch.

This travel was for me a beautiful experience to know the country that is very typical and its people that is very nice.

I saw with Philip and others guys the capital of Romania "Bucarest", and the Dracula's Castle in Transilvana

I ate also the Rumanian typical plates, my favourite was the fish with garlic.

The Romenian school was very nice, especially the moment of lunch because in my school we don't eat.

I remember when i went on the snow because i had never seen it before.

The last day i was very sad because i didn't want to leave, that week was very special for me, i felt like home.



Philip and his mother are still a second family for me.

Rossella Letizia

Turkish students' reflections

The Comenius Trip to Romania took place on 24th March 2014. We were six students from Istanbul, Turkey. When we arrived at the airport in Romania, we got surprised that compared with Atatürk airport in Istanbul, the airport of the capital city was too small and not crowded.



Sinan: " As I was the shortest and cutiest boy among my friends, I became very popular in Ploiesti. Everybody caught my cheek and wanted to take photos of me. I felt myself as a star there. My host friend looked like me, so everybody thought we were siblings."

Türkan: " We showed our folk dance to the other countries, which this was the most exciting moment for me. Everybody watched us with great interest. My host family was very helpful. They made me feel comfortable there. My host family and I went out every evening to have a good time. "

Metin: " My host family was very hospitable. Especially, my host mum made me delicious cakes. It was very difficult for me to say them goodbye."

Dilan: " I sang a song with the other students from different countries. It was the most exciting and honorable moment for me to be involved in that workshop with the students from other countries."

Hazar: " We went to the village museum. That open air village museum was very different from the other museums. There had a warm atmosphere. We sang a folk song there. Although we could not win the song competition, we enjoyed there very much."

Canset: " Our host families were very hospitable. They made us feel comfortable and we went out in the evenings. To say goodbye to them was too difficult for us because we could not keep our tears. We missed them very much."

French students' reflections



5 pupils, 3 guides : Headteacher, Linguistic assistant Canadian and assistant for handicaped children



The stay passed in a very pleasant way. The pupils had already communicated a few days before with their correspondent. Only a pupil had problems of adaptation because he left his sick mom and worried. But after a few days, he was delighted by this experience which made him increase.

Our program was very complete and very diverse: countryside, cities and mountain. The Romanians have a great sense of hospitality. All the students appreciated to be able to walk in the evening quite freely with all the young people of the other countries. Families were very welcoming and very protective. They wanted that everything goes well and the children had a lot of presents.



The young people hold of their stay: the landscapes, the kindness of the Romanians and the good agreement in the group of all the foreigners.

All the French students have been impressed by the architecture of the buildings and the organization inside the classrooms. They all appreciated to discover a country they didn't know and on which they had many preconceptions.

The evening Karaoke was very federative.

Many kept in touch with their correspondent. Some were received in October to Jouy-le-Moutier in family.

All want to begin again and the parents thanked us for this exchange.



Polish students' reflections

I am really happy that I could take part in this incredible exchange because I discovered a



lot of international habits or behaviours. Spending time with people from other countries is perfect both for shy and for sociable teenagers. They can learn more about real friendship. I think I'll never

forget my friends from Romania, Italy, Germany, France and Turkey. I was very surprised that Romanian teenagers can do almost everything what they want.

Wiktorja

In Romania I learned that stereotypes are not a barrier in meeting new people or visiting other countries.

Romanian families make Saturday whole-family dinner, which surprised me a bit.

Marek

Last year in March I visited Romania. It was a great experience. I have a really good time in there. I really enjoyed trips, sightseeing and group competitions. I had no problems with communication even though some students didn't have so good English skills. The most engaging thing was a trip to Bucharest, the capital of Romania. I enjoyed sightseeing Dracula's castle too. The family I stayed

at was kind and helpful. We got on well with each other. I miss them a bit now. I learnt many new words. There was also a possibility to improve my English skills. At the end, I want to mention that I had a great time there. If I could I would definitely come back there again.

Hania

One year earlier me and school mates were in Romania. We went there, because we took part in an

international project "Comenius". I love traveling so it was a really great time for me. I chose



Romania, because I knew that it was the only chance to see and visit this beautiful country. On the first day I was a little bit scared, because all people spoke English and it was something new for me, but later I saw that they were really cool and I had a lot of topics to talk with them. I saw many amazing places and heard interesting stories about Romania. I think that It was a great opportunity to get knowledge about foreign culture and traditions. All people were very nice and friendly, I am in touch with some of those people until present day. I hope that I will have a chance to visit my Romanian friends one day.

Kamila



German students' reflections

Family

The first time we met our families was at school. They picked us up from school. Now everyone was in his own family. It was very exciting and we all were very nervous. It was unusual for us but we all liked our families. Michelle remembers: "All the families are so friendly. We were like family members. Everyone was nice to us and wanted to know a lot about us. When we had to leave at the end we were all sad."

First impressions



Our first impressions were great. We were all excited about the country. But first we had to wait at the airport because Marie's suitcase was still home in Germany. We went to school by bus. When we looked out of the windows we were surprised to see so many homeless dogs in the streets and poor people working and travelling by horse. When we first met our families we were all impressed about the hospitality. Everyone was happy that we stayed at their house. It was very funny being together with Romanian students.

The program

Our first activity was to visit the school. We looked inside the classrooms, the cafeteria and the playground. After that we walked to the teachers hotel in order to watch the welcome ceremony. Tiana also danced at the event and

everyone liked it. On the other days we often were in museums or composed a song together with the other Comenius students. One evening we went to the disco. It was very funny to dance with the other pupils. Every country practised a song to take part in an international song contest. At this song contest we won the first prize.

The programme was a bit exhausting but we enjoyed every single minute!

Food

We want to say thank you to the wonderful mums who cooked every time for us. It was very delicious. On one day we ate pizza in a restaurant and we thought it was funny because they ate pizza with ketchup. Most of the time we ate at our families house. The German students remember: "We had so much food every day and it tasted so good." We were shopping together with our families in order to buy some nice food.



Visit to Turkey: 19-24 May 2014

The school coordinator- Nihal Akarsoy

Host students' reflections

This Project was the first Comenius Project of our school. We hosted students from Germany, Italy, Poland, France, and Romania for the first time. We were very excited. We made our plans and wanted to show them our hospitality, our culture, our lifestyles, cuisine, and the most important places in Istanbul, Turkey. We wanted to make the guests happy. Before the guests came here, our teachers had done meeting with us. Our guests arrived on 19th May 2014. The transportation brought them to our school. We met them in the schoolyard.



On 20th May, we visited Aquarium in Florya. We saw different kinds of fish species there. We enjoyed there very much. We had a boat tour in the afternoon. Our guide mentioned about

the history of Istanbul. We not only learned the history of Istanbul, but also enjoyed the wonderful landscape of Istanbul. We visited Spice Bazaar in order to buy presents. On 21st May, we made a school tour to our guests. The students and teachers from different countries visited the classes. All of the countries showed their national dances and costumes at the Welcome Celebration. Then we went to the Amusement Park. While we had fun there, we also had the opportunity to know each other.



On 22nd May, all of us drew pictures about School is Cool. There were lots of different ideas, drawings. Every picture that we drew was wonderful. Then we visited the hill of Çamlıca. We took wonderful photos of the landscape of Istanbul. We went to the Miniaturk. We had a fascinating time there.

On 23rd May, we visited Historic Peninsula tour which includes Hagia Sophia Museum, Topkapı Palace, Basilica Cistern, Blue Mosque, Grand Bazaar.

On 24th May, we had free time with our guests. Some of us went to the Prince Islands where we rode bikes, we saw the whole landscape of Istanbul. Our guests liked the island very much. Some of us went to Eminönü where we could eat fish sandwiches and had enjoyable hours there with our guests.

On 25th May, it was too difficult to say our guests goodbye because we spent wonderful time with our guests. We had different and good experiences. We promised to see each other again. We hoped that our guests liked us, our culture, cuisine, and Turkey.

Turkish Students

Romanian students' reflections

"First, spring is magical in Istanbul! The city is surrounded by sea, with the Bosphorus cutting right through it. There are flowers everywhere! I love the layers of tulips, pots of geraniums.

Also, the school „Orgeneral Eşref Bitlis Orta Okulu » from Istanbul was a great, new experience. The pupils activities was about arts. On this occasion, I seen and apreciated the work of the students. They were very involved. The hosts were very hospitable and warm people.



Memories, oh, memories...

Bianca: My experience in Comenius „ School is cool” project was unforgettable. We had a lot a fun. We visited some beautiful places:Blue Mosche, Grand Bazar, we had a wonderful trip on Bosphorus.

In the other hand, I've made new friends .With Canset, the girl that hosted me, I keep in touch and she became one of my best friends.



Lidia Alexandra: I was happy that was accepted in Comenius” School is cool!”. Everything was really cool! My mobility was in Turkey. I liked the trip on Bosphorus and Bazaar. I went to shopping, I tasted their great food. The most interesting was the school with arts activities.

The family I lived was very respectful and friendly. I talk with them every week since march 2014 and soon, we visit again.

Gabriel Losif: For me, Comenius meant more than just a project. Here I learn what it means to interact with people around the world, to know their traditions and customs and especially to create your new friends. Besides the fact that you develop the ability to interact with people, you have the opportunity to visit a lot of beautiful places around the world. It is an incredible experience and help you develop as a person and you discover certain skills that you did not know you have.

Vlad Stelian: The mobility in Istanbul was great! I appreciated traditional food. I eat to much, because the plats was very delicious. The family that hosting me was very warm and generous. Tanks for all, Cent!

Alexandru Mihai: In my opinion, this Comenius project was a pleasure and an opportunity to contact and interact with children of similar ages from different country. Together we spent wonderful moments and funny, which I definitely remember them. I hope everyone has had the opportunity to see beautiful places in each country and thus enjoyed taking part in activities organized by the coordinating teachers. Thank you, Comenius „ School is cool!” Love you, guys!



French students' reflections

"Which experience, for us the young to know the possibilities of mobility. Travel and speak with other young even if our English is not very good it is an trump card! "

"Thank you for this experience!"

"To discover this country between the East and the West with nice people, I adored!"

"We saw so many beautiful things that I have images height the head of Turkey for a long time.

I was impressed by the size of the establishment and the number of pupils + of 1000, wouah!"

" Now when I eat a kebab, I think of the family which welcomed me during 7 days, I still thank them. It is good to be able to discover countries which we know less well as Turkey or Romania. Italy and Germany are our neighbors. But we don't speak well English in France. I understood the importance of the foreign languages. Only have some positive during this stay!"

"Here are the words of the young people which traveled to Istanbul. For us adults who accompanied them and who let us participate in the project COMENIUS in France, it was a real delight, for eyes, for the spirit.

Kindness of Turks which welcomed us in a family an evening will stay a strong moment of this stay. We also discovered a school, very different establishment of our by the number of pupils and its way of functioning.

We would like to write a private thank to Yemen Turc who was very present with us and who answered our questions. Istanbul will remain a privileged moment of year 2014."

Polish students' reflections

In Turkey I learned many new things. The culture there was so beautiful and so different! The Turkish people were different, women wore traditional costumes. The most interesting place in Turkey was spice bazar. I think that it was the place, where I saw all the traditional food, costumes or sweets. That was an amazing place. Of course I also saw a lot of beautiful places ,buildings and monuments. The food in Turkey was so tasty and spicy. I have learned a lot of things about Turkish culture.

The people were so friendly and nice. The family which took care of me was so nice. I stayed with three girls and their parents. The communication with them wasn't easy because their English was different than mine.

The trip was very interesting, and I learned a lot.

Kamila

Over a year ago I visited Turkey thanks to Comenius project. I lived in Stambul with a very nice family. I saw a lot of interesting things. What I liked the most was Topkapi palace and a theme park. I fell in love with Jerebaton Palace. The Turkish girl who I lived with tried to teach me



some words in Turkish but I don't remember anything. I learned that Turks like eating greasy food like Baklava and also that they like spending time with their families in parks. Poland differs from Turkey with a lot of things. For example Turkey is really dirty, they throw away rubbish in the streets.



In this country bargaining is on a daily basis. If you don't do it they can feel offended. A Turkish school has a different study path. In my opinion Turkey is a beautiful land and I'm glad that I have seen it.



Karina





The customs in Turkey were astonishing. Every woman had black covering on her head and they prayed few times a day on the special type of carpet. I was favourably surprised because of their warmth and hospitality. I learned a lot of new English words. What is more I learned how to communicate with other people and how to behave in a foreign society. I experienced another culture and I met new people.

One day I went on the boat trip too. I could see the entire Istanbul from there. Moreover I was at Turkish school with the boy from my host family, who was a student there. I was at the maths lesson. It looked a little different than a Polish lesson. The trip to Vialand was the best. The feelings that accompanied riding on the rollercoaster were impossible to describe. That's why I think it's worth trying. In conclusion I think that this trip was the best I've ever had. I've never seen such beautiful monuments like in Istanbul. The Turkish people I met were more kind and warmer than in other countries.

Michał

In my opinion this journey was very exciting. Apart from many adventures in the Vialand or Aquarium I got to know Turkish culture. I visited traditional Turkish buildings like Hagia Sophia and Blue Mosque. At school I took part in lessons and I painted with friends from my group how I see Comenius.

After trips to different parts of Istanbul I spent time with family. I talked to Hasan in English. On the first free day we were at the picnic at the sea and on the last day we were shopping and playing games.

In Turkey I spent a nice time and if I have a possibility to go there one more time, I will certainly go.

Radek

German students' reflections

The Comenius trip to Turkey took place on the 19th May 2014, when 8 pupils from Baddeckenstedt arrived in Istanbul with a hint of apprehensions what to expect. We stayed at host families for one week, experiencing Turkish cuisine, Turkish life and culture. When we were approaching to Istanbul for landing everybody looked out of the windows and was impressed by the largeness of Istanbul.

Host families

After arriving at the airport, we went by taxi to our partner school. There our host families waited for us. When we entered the school ground everybody welcomed us with a big smile. All of them gave us hugs and kisses on our right and left cheek. "A welcome like this is



something surprising for us", remembered Jacqueline. "In Germany we only shake hands." "We were all very amazed and happy that the host families integrated us in their family life so much. The food was very delicious and they cooked for us every evening!!! They permanently offered us more food although we were totally stuffed. It felt as if we were a part of their family. Every time when we think about our time in Istanbul we are very sad, but not because we did not have a beautiful time there but it is because we all had one of the most terrific moments in our lives in Istanbul. We all miss you so much!

Programme

During our stay in Turkey we gained many nice experiences and impressions. The programme contained the visit of great attractions as the grand bazar. At the grand bazar you can buy a lot of different things. The bazar is really colourful and big. Insap: "Without Deleen we would have been lost. Deleen knew her way as if she had been working in the bazar." All of us enjoyed bargaining. It's not typical in Germany. It was funny and a great experience. Another great activity was the boat tour on the bosphorus. The sun was shining and every student enjoyed the time. Lisa: "The bosphorus tour was a highlight for me."

Turkish Wedding

On the first day Deleen was invited to a Turkish Wedding. The Wedding was great and beautiful. Everyone was nice and friendly and they taught me how to dance Turkish dances. The bride was very pretty and wore a wonderful dress. It was funny to get to know the other culture. No one of my friends can say: "I was at a Turkish wedding. Best experience ever."

A day with our families

On Saturday it was the family day. We wanted to do something special with our host families.

For example Deleen went to an island with friends, Lisa went to the grand bazar and Jacqueline and Insap went shopping with their families. All of us did different things, but one moment we shared together was the earthquake. On Saturday morning the whole city trembled. Insap remembers: "I was totally shocked. Nobody could explain to me what was happening. "For

all of us it was the first earthquake and hopefully the last one because in Germany it's very unusual. For all of us it was an exciting day which we will never forget. The German students:" Thank you for the lovely day."



The trip to Turkey was wonderful we want to say thank you, for our fantastic days, to our host families and all the teachers. We will never forget you!

Italian students' reflections



Giusy Carozza, I'm 18 years old and I attend the 5th year of the professional school of Caserta "Enrico Mattei".

Thanks to the Comenius project, last year, namely 19 May 2014, I had the opportunity to visit Turkey and be hosted by a family 'unknown'. Initially I was very anxious, for the prejudices that they feel around, for foreign language, the culture, the customs, but also because I had never been away from home without parents for a week; yet fortunately I changed my mind. **Turkey** is a unique country, full of landscapes to visit but especially the family was very kind and loving towards me and had an amazing time, so much so that we feel more and we have an excellent relationship. I still want to thank the school, the Comenius and professors that have allowed us to make this wonderful experience that I wish you all!!

Giusy Carozza



The Comenius trip To Turkey was a fantastic experience for me, it was very nice, because I was with two classmates. We were out of their comfort zones, staying in host families and had to communicate and make new friends. This experience has given me and my schoolmates the opportunity to get to know a different culture, to taste national typical products, to meet a lot of guys coming from other European countries.

But it was very beautiful also to accommodate, to know our country, our traditions, our culture, the beauty of our country. Moreover, it's very fantastic because we become attached and then would he not go away anymore.

Teresa Vaglivello

Visit to France: 6-11 October 2014

The school coordinator- Jerome Andre

Host students' reflections

For this week, all our middle school lived at the time of widened Europe. In particular, the first day when the foreigners presented their country on panels in school playground.



The evening with all the young people and their host family was a strong moment of this exchange and allowed all to know each other quickly.

We are lucky enough to be near Paris

With the common transport (RER, subway, bus) we were able to make discover to our guests our capital under the sun.

We also have them to show our way of working.

A working meeting on the theme of Early School Leaving in every country took place with the local authorities and the head teachers of the pond to be able to exchange on our approach of the pupils leave school early.

The parents as the pupils were sensitive to this European project and hope that there will be still exchanges of this quality next years.

“SCHOOL IS COOL”!



Polish students' reflections

The best thing for me was the atmosphere in France. The family, that I stayed with, took care of me from the beginning. After a few days I felt like a member of a French family. Other people were really nice for me too, they always smiled and kissed me. The second best thing was Paris which is beautiful.



Communication wasn't easy because a lot of people doesn't speak English in France. After all everybody tried to communicate in different ways for example by showing something with their hands. Only one member of my host family speaks English.



In France you give each other three cheek kisses to say hello, just after you meet each other. Lessons at school are longer, and kids wear jackets during the breaks, because they all spend the break time outside.

I've learned how to cooperate with other people during various activities.

Magda

The trip to France was one of the best trips, that I have ever been on. I've been given a possibility to meet other people, to talk to them and to explore Paris.

Comenius has given me a chance to meet new friends from other countries and improve my English skills.

During the trip I met a lot of incredible people from other countries.

I didn't notice any differences in family life and culture between Poland and France.

It was an amazing adventure.

Dagmara



The trip to France was one of the best experiences in my life. That was an amazing week because I met awesome people and saw wonderful places. I'm so happy that I decided to participate in the Comenius project.

Wiktorja

Family which I stayed with was very nice but I had some problems with communication as they didn't speak English well, like most of the French people I met. I didn't have any problems with communication with people from other countries. We understood each other brilliantly. One of the

traditions which I observed was that the French have some cheese for dessert after dinner. It is quite unusual for me. The thing which I have remembered the most was sightseeing Paris with my new friends.

Asia



German students' reflections

School:

The school is very protected. When entering the school building the students must show a personal ID. In the lesson the students were a bit louder than at home. The relationship between French teachers and students seems to be more relaxed, similar to a friendship. It was funny hearing the French students calling the teachers "Monsieur or Madame".

Food:

The eating habits in France are very different than in Germany. In the morning eating French baguette is typical, which I think tastes better than the German one. Lunch is always at school, which is actually quite ok, but it was unusual eating together with your classmates at school. I really liked the food in the evening. So we were sitting together at the table for two hours-taking out time. Marie:"The French people celebrate their meals."

Transport:

We flew with Air France and the landing was great. From the airport we were picked up by the very friendly French deputy teacher. The parents and the guest students were waiting for us at school. They were happy to see us and we were really exciting about the next days in France.

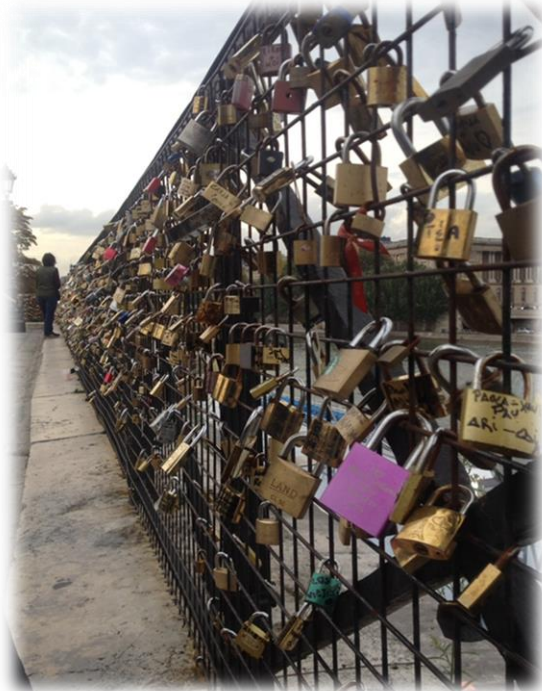
Family:

The families were very nice and hospitable. We were all treated well. The communication was good because the guest families spoke English well.



The activities:

We all saw the Eiffel Tower and Torben could even see it at night. Leo said: "In my imagination the Eiffel Tower was even bigger than in reality, it looked like a souvenir." In Paris we went to a lot of museums, for example the "Les Invalides" and the "Van Gogh museum". "When I saw Napoleon's grave my eyes widened and widened", remembers Niklas. "It is the biggest grave I had ever seen", said Marie. Some of us even had the chance of seeing the Mona Lisa in the Louvre.



Italian students' reflections

The Comenius trip to **France** was a fantastic experience for me.



I have learn a lot over of the six days;that the world is big and beautiful.I knew the French lifestyle, I met new people and having fun together thanks to the family that hosted me.

All the activities organised were excellent and I will take a positive experience back from this trip. Make described it as the best school trip.

Alessandro Tagliafiero

France, October 2014. It was my first trip whit the Comenius and I was a little hesitant at first about the decision to go or not, but in the end of this wonderful trip I changed completaly idea. I loved everything form the italian guys with I formed a great friendship; the girl who as kindly hosted me is fantastic and sweet, even his family was very kind. Activities and organized excursions were very instructive amd interesting and also evening organized

between us guys were great. I had no language and felt really comfortable. It was grat to learn the customs and habits of another country and I'm really happy to have participated in this wonderful adventure.

Chiara Pioggiarella

Comenius is an experience that I would do the other 1,000 times, know new cultures, new people, new places and finally come to home with a family in more.

Dario De Luca



year. Also, I have visited the castle of Versailles and a large shopping center that is located at the gates of Jouy Le Moutier. The week passed quickly. I was very sorry when it was time to departure. I did not want to leave that wonderful family but I admit that I also had a great desire to go home and hug my parents. My French experience was very positive. I would do an experience like this thousands of times. Travel and meet new realities, perhaps different from mine, it's my dream.

Sara



Dear friends

Hi, I want to discuss my experience with our school project called Comenius. I was hosted for a week with the family of Gwen, a French girl who quickly became my friend. The trip was a great experience because I had never got on the plane. In France, I met wonderful people who welcomed me the best way. In the morning I used to go to school with Gwen. We did several activities that kept us busy until the afternoon. Then we walked through the village where she lives and we did long walks. Sometimes we were shooting for shops. In the evening we went home to have dinner and go to bed. With Gwen I visited Paris that is a beautiful city, immense and interesting, full of museums and attractions. No coincidence that Paris is the most visited city in the world with over 28 million tourists a

Turkish students' reflections



The Comenius trip to France took place on 6th October 2014. We were five students from Istanbul, Turkey. We wondered how our days would go in France.

Çağatay: " I admired Paris. This city was like an open-air museum. Every building had a story and a past. I hope I will study at a university in France in the future."

Ünsevin: " I liked their school. It was colourful, and nice. When I looked at the school from outside, the school looked small to me. It was like a maze. Although I lost my way in the school, I enjoyed there very much. I got happy when French students wanted to communicate with us."

Görkem: " I felt myself lucky. Because my host family was very hospitable. We went out and ate outside some time. They made me feel comfortable there. We had a good communication with each other."

Feyza: " We had a boat trip in Paris. I did not want to miss anything about it. I took lots of photos and videos of Paris. It was very fascinating that French people made the railway station which was very huge and regular many years ago."

Buğra: " My host family was very hospitable and very sensitive about me. They did everything to make me feel comfortable there. My host father told me that when he was younger, he had been to Istanbul and Fairy Chimneys in Nevşehir. He had had Turkish fellows there. He had a good memories about Turkey. He wants to come to Turkey again. This made me feel happy. "

Romanian students' reflections

Andrei Cazacu: "I think that the places we visited in Paris and surround it were pretty special and interesting. I met awesome people and my guest family was so kind and they did everything for me. I liked the beauty of Paris and the joy of Montigny-les-Cormeilles. I need to say thank you to all Comenius staff from France and we were a happy big family.



My mother thinks that this project helped me to understand the necessities of other teenager and made me more responsible. My father thinks that I should keep talking with people from this project because international experiences are very useful in our development. And I agree with both of them.

Ionut Radoi : Comenius project gave me the opportunity to live a new experience and the opportunity to make friends, especially my age, very easily. There have been 2 crazy weeks, full of fun and joy. I made friends that I still keep in touch with and I am going to visit them and we'll have a great time together. Considering the conflict of diversity among countries, this experience made me love my country even more, but at the same time it made me want something better for Romania. Communication was not a major obstacle between us, the young ones. We used a universal language for everyone, including gestures, emotions and bad English. I would like to have the chance to participate again in this project!



For us as parents, it was something new, a pleasant experience. We wanted our boy's involvement in this project because we thought it is a way to see new places, different ways of thinking and a great way to form an opinion about life. We support him to participate in projects like this because they make him happy.

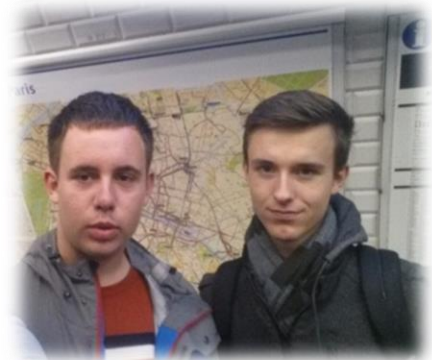
Andreea Barabancea: The experience in France was unforgettable. The family where I stayed was a wonderful one. They offered me an unforgettable week. I was surprised to see how many things they knew about Romania. They believe that our country is one of the most beautiful and has a great history. Both food and traditions which they said were delightful. The food is simple but tasty. We were together at their family friends and they treated me like a family member.

Parents : In every night we were talking with our daughter on the phone. She was very excited by the experience. She did not want to come home. It was an unforgettable experience for her. She saw new things and met new people who still keeps in touch with.

[left side] Pierre – the guy who kept me alive one week in France, and the best host I ever know and his great family (I don't have at this moment a picture with all of them...)

[right side] Torben – the guy from Germany who was sitting at same house, and at the same family ☐, another great guy

[me] I should be somewhere in that picture, oh wait I had closed eyes and I prefer to cut that part...sorry teacher ☐



Btw, my experience in France was a great one, I'm saying this because of the hosted family, which was almost like my family, great people and nice. His mother is a great cooker, she gave us a variety of traditional food, and of course the most beloved stinky cheese.

I spent a lot of time at his school doing stuffs and having fun, but the most important thing is about to start when we left the school and his mother took us to the middle of Paris, and asking what we want to do...



I can't forget our poker face (me and Torben), when we realized that we don't have any idea and still looking for something, and in the end we decide to go at Eiffel Tower, I must mention this cuz was to funny ☐ (Torben spoke maybe more than 30 times about Eiffel Tower, being annoying at one moment).

I spent 6 days from 7 in Paris, thank's to this great family, which was an opportunity to visit more than we could do with Comenius Group. His mother always intend to pay for us, making me feel a little embarrassed, and if I sad no...conflict began, telling us that we are the guest and we don't have to pay, and I insisted to pay for myself, again, again, and again and never finished until I quit (guess I find my mother sister in France). I'm not an avid writer so I decide to end this here for a

while, and maybe in time I will continue writing my memories about France experience.

Flavius Dumitrana

Bianca Grigore: Trought the project Comenius, I had a wonderful experience, it give me the chance to know new cultures. The journey to France give me the opportunity to meet some wonderful persons. The thing which impressed me so much was the school, the activities and the classes. The people are very nice and they help you when you need it. I had the luck to spend a week in a nice family which considered me their child. For sure, it was the most beautiful experience until now.

Grigore Cristina Iuliana : I can say that this project offered to my child the chance to travel around the world. I waa very greatful and excited of Enza, the girl og Italy, who we hosted. At the same time, Bianca came very excited of the whole experience, included the Melys's family. We still keep on with the girls. I hope to organise manu project, because it's are benefits for our childs.

lordachescu Stefan: I think that the landmarks we visited in Paris were pretty awesome. I really liked their arhitecture and uniqueness.



My family thinks that the project was a good experience and that it helped us to improve our social skills.

My experience in Comenius was unbelievable. I can't describe in words how was. I met lots of people, I made new friends from different countries. It was a lot of fun."

Ovidiu Brasov



Visit to Italy: 11-19 April 2015

The school coordinator- Maria Giovanna De Maio

Host students' reflections

When I was asked to host a foreign guy I was not very convinced of what he was going to do, but this experience was one of the most beautiful experiences of my life not only because I met a new culture but also because I found a new friend.

Giovanni Savastano

In April I hosted a French girl who previously hosted me in my first trip with the Comenius. Already knowing we had not communication problem and was immediately integrated into my house where my family welcomed her warmly. I participated with her in all the activities and organized excursions and I must say that I enjoyed it a lot, especially to help



other guys from other countries with communication. It is always nice to deal with people from different countries to open our minds and our thirst for knowledge. I was honored to

participate in travel and have the opportunity to visit the Comenius, and an incredible experience that I will carry forever in my heart.



Chiara Pioggiarella

This experience was very nice. I think that I was very lucky to be chosen, because I had the opportunity to do new amazing things. When I hosted a Romanian student I knew new culture, people and places that change my point of view. I met awesome people. I hope to repeat these experiences because I enjoyed very much. These experiences are very

important for learning new culture, language. **Anna Caso**

I was in Germany but for me the experience of Comenius did not end in Germany, because in Italy I hosted a Romanian guy. The boy was really very nice and polite, a really exceptional guy. The weekly program was exceptional and very attractive to them. We spent unforgettable days, going in pubs, in the city centre, to do shopping in shopping malls, and to do many other stuff. I also liked a lot the performance of Grease that we made in our school, it was perfect. This experience I recommend it to everyone. He made me interact with guys of different cultures, also improve spoken English and make friends with many guys, with whom I speak today and one day we'll meet again.

Thank you Comenius!

Amedeo Taha

Turkish students' reflections

The Comenius trip to Italy took place on 13th April 2015. We were five students and were very excited. While the plane was approaching Naples, we looked around Naples from the plane. We saw that Naples was a small and nice city.



Aleyna: " I ate different kinds of pizza and pasta there. They were all delicious. I loved them very much. I realized Italian students were free to go outside in the evenings."

Hasan : " I got surprised when I saw the stone people in Pompei. It was interesting that the human bodies became stone after erupting of Vezuv

volcano and were kept until today. I think Pompei is the most unique place in the World. So, I felt myself lucky about it."

Melike: " I liked their school very much. Because the number of students were less in the classes, I think that they could learn and practice their vocational classes efficiently."

Müge: " Dancing in the Grease Rehearsal made me feel happy. It was very honorable for me to be involved in that workshop with the students from other countries. It was different experience for me that I would never forget."

Berivan: " My host family and Italians are very friendly like us, Turkish people. My host family was very helpful and kind. I felt that I was at my home."

We all enjoyed the great hospitality of Italians and our host families.

Romanian students' reflections

The 5-nd mobility of the Multilateral Project Comenius „School is cool” held in Caserta, Province of Naples, at I.S.I.S. "Enrico Mattei", between 13-19 april 2015.

During this mobility, the students played the adaptation of the screenplay musical «GREASE». I think that it was the best opportunity for the pupils from all the countries involved to work in mixed team, to prove them creativity, artistic talent, the ability to communicate in English. Some beautiful friendship forever linking!

Who really wants to know „all the dirty details?!” This is the most „sparkling” replica of this screenplay!



„We go together,
Like rama lamma lamma ka dinga da dinga
dong
Remembered forever
As shoobop sha wadda wadda yippity boom
de boom
Chang chang changitty chang shoobop
That's the way it should be, wha ooohhhh,
yeah.”-GREASE



Memories, ohh, memories!

Cristina: To begin with this experience was fantastic for me because I've had the chance to make new friends from foreign countries. Personally, this project was more than time we spend together and trips, we create a family. For me my guest from Italy, Mary Della Porta, is like my sister now and her parents are like my parents too. I would never forget all those beautiful moments and jokes from the bus, the long trips and time that we had spend together. Thank you COMENIUS for a beautiful memory!



Let's prove it!

Philip: I had an amazing experience! The **Province of Naples** is a magical place where colors, flavors, culture and history are intertwined in a charming mix of knowledge, joy and fun. The area is loomed over by **Mt. Vesuvius** and overlooks a marvelous bay. I was impressed by the site of Pompeii, great archaeological value and



are famous worldwide for their astounding number of ruins. But the most beautiful memory is my roommate! She was awesome and she tries to make me feel



good and she did it. Everything in Italy was original!

Teodora: My experience in Comenius was unforgettable, I met lots of people, made new friends from different countries and I learned that differences of habit and language are nothing if our aims are identical and our hearts open.



Lifelong learning programme
COMENIUS



French students' reflections



This mobility in Italy has been a very rich experience for all the French team, students and teachers. We discovered some beautiful places like Naples, Caserta and Pompei, and the pupils have been very pleased by the welcome in the host families. Discovering the school, the teachers and all the job done there about marketing and

creativity was also very interesting.

What they say about this mobility :

Tom : “ What made a deep impression on me in Italy was the landscape and the monuments. I was really happy to discover an other country, the Italian way of life and some places I would probably have never seen.”



Meditation in the park of the Royal Castle of Caserta

Vianney : “I was impressed by the importance of the religion in Italy. But I also faced that my English level is not good enough. Comenius proved me that I still have some work to do to be a good host for foreign persons.”



Walking in the streets of Pompei

Gwenn : “ All the visits made a strong impression on me, it was an exceptional travel. And I also really loved to take part of the show Grease. It was so nice !”

Polish students' reflections

Just before leaving I was extremely nervous. All the time I was asking myself: Will everything go according to the plan? Will I know how to communicate with people from other countries? Luckily, that week exceeded my boldest expectations!

Italians (including my host friend - Rosalena) and all participants of Comenius programme proved



to be incredibly friendly and open.

At the beginning communication seemed to be really difficult but after couple of hours I found out that it is easier when you speak and gesticulate at the same time.

We had to become friends very quickly because we knew that we had little time to know everyone better. The helpful

thing was that from the very beginning we really liked each other!

Except Italians I liked their country too. Thanks to daily explorations of the most beautiful parts of Italy like Vesuvio, Naples and Pompei I could know Italy in a tourist way. Thanks to staying with Italian family I was able to get to know the country in an unavailable way for typical tourists. I fell in love with local food! And what surprised me the most?

Traffic regulations or maybe lack of them!

Anyway, during the stay I learned a lot, especially how to work in a group. It was really necessary while we were preparing Grease musical. I made new friends and I try to maintain written contact with them all the time. It was so hard to say goodbye... But it was inevitable. Luckily, I have amazing memories. I will never forget my Italian adventure.



Zosia



I really enjoyed the trip to Italy. The inhabitants of this country are very open and friendly. They are also sociable and keen on making new friends. I have never met so many great people in so short period of time.

The thing that suprised me the most in Italy was the traffic. They have barely no traffic regulations. It's strange, but I liked that, because it makes the drive exciting and gives you a thrill. I saw vehicles parked in very weird places as well.

Italians don't have habit of eating their breakfast at home. On the way to school or work they usually order some sweet rolls and coffee in the shop.

The other thing, which I think is really adorable, is that when they answer phone call from the other half, the first word they mention is 'amo'. Italians say 'ciao' when they want to greet their friends or say 'goodbye'. I have learnt the word 'seduta' when I was playing with a dog. It means 'sit'. Apart from that, I've found out, that 'coloziane' means breakfast.

This journey put a gloss on Italy - it's a fantastic country, full of marvellous people, delicious food and interesting places to visit.

Ewelina

German students' reflections

On the first day we arrived at 9 o'clock in the evening at the train station in Caserta.

Our host families picked us up there. We all were very tired and excited about our new homes for the week!



Families:

Tim: „My first thought was: oh, god bless, he speaks German!“
(his host father)

Elisa: „Such a lovely family! Every evening we were sitting together and had a lot of fun.“

Ciaran: „They were very nice and my host student Ylenia and I are still friends.“

Antonia: „I'm already missing my host family. They did everything for me that I wanted. I was so happy and had a very good time there.“

LANGUAGE:

Tim: „I didn't understand anything of the Italian language but I was surprised that my host father speaks German so well.“

Ciaran: „Awesome!“

Elisa: „Italian sounds so romantic.“

Antonia: „Beautiful language. I hope to learn some Italian in the future.“

CASERTA-THE CITY:

Elisa: „It's cool that you just have to go out of the streets in the evening and then you meet everybody there.“

Tim: „Big and loud city but very friendly people.“

Antonia:

„Caserta has some beautiful places like the Royal Palace.“

Ciaran: „A lot of people and very noisy, but I really liked it there.“

SCHOOL:

The school was very different to a German school. It was very loud there.



But it's very cool that they have free Wi-Fi at school. It was a surprise that there was a room full of MacBook's!

FOOD:

Elisa: „I really liked the sweet things in the morning. Every day we were eating typical Italian food like pasta.“

Tim: „Special.. I enjoyed every kind of food but I didn't like the austern and pork meat.“

Ciaran: Nutella, nutella, nutella everywhere! Ps: Nice greetings to you Ylenia!“

Antonia: „The pizza was the best!“

IN THE END..

Elisa: „For me it was an interesting time in Italy and I am really miss it!“

Antonia: „I had such an amazing time there with my host student Anna! I really looked her into m heart and hope to see her soon again!“

Ciaran: „The week was awesome and I had a lot of funny moments.“

Tim: „We had to walk a lot, but in the end it was worth it. Such much food every day haha.

Gained a lot of weight. I had an unforgettable trip!“



Visit to Poland: 4-10 May 2015

The school coordinator- Renata Kapica

Hosts' reflections

Only teachers took part in the last Comenius meeting in Poland. First, our guests visited Cracow, Wieliczka Salt Mine and Auschwitz Nazi Concentration Camp.



Then it was time to visit our capital city- Warsaw.





And finally the participants visited our school and watched the show performed by the Polish students.

We were guides for our guests in Poland. We learnt many new words. There was also a possibility to improve our English skills. We think that our guests have benefited from this trip, too. At the end, we want to mention that we had a great fun showing our school to foreign teachers. They were listening carefully and it was our pleasure to take part in this experience.



Hania and Filip



EVALUATION OF QUESTIONNAIRES



Results of the questionnaire about basic knowledge of partner countries

Italian school

The questions were answered by 100 students of mixed classes. We grouped the answers in correct, few errors, 50% errors, many errors. In order to evaluate the answers, we grouped the questions in different categories, according to the arguments.

- A) Knowledge of geography
- B) General Knowledge of the Countries
- C) Culture of the Countries
- D) Typical aspects of the Countries

The students were quite good at answering the questions about geography (100% gave the right answer for the Capital Cities! 80% gave a correct answer about the major Cities). They were weaker on populations and locations. And that is what we have to work upon.



Even the general knowledge had good results: 85 students gave correct answers for the flags, 98% for the license plates and 90% for the currency.

The results were a bit different when it came to the culture of the countries: only 5% got the National dishes right, and nobody gave a correct answer for the famous persons.

The typical aspects of each Country was also quite a challenge. A lot of them made mistakes for the names (40% correct), but almost everybody knew how to say good morning in every language.

Conclusions

What we noticed in this evaluation was the enthusiasm with which the students actually did the questionnaire, caring a lot about correct answers. So the motivation was high, and it was really useful both for them, as a challenge, and for us to test their knowledge of Europe. Of

course there were some weak points, i.e. the knowledge of some typical aspects such as food, foreign names and other.

But what emerged was the willing to learn more about these different European Countries, and this is one of the main objectives of this Comenius project: the possibility to know more about Europe by travelling, getting in touch with girls and boys of their age coming from different countries, having the opportunity to host European students.

Romanian school

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE ABOUT THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE COMENIUS PROJECT SCHOOL IS COOL

After applying the questionnaire about the identity of the countries involved in Comenius Project School is cool we concluded that the students proved a high degree of knowing informations about the cultures that shows the importance of national specific things, in a world in full process of globalisation.

Firstly, the students from focus group involved in Comenius Project School is cool improved their geographical knowledges , the informations about the location of every partner country on Europe's map, the most important cities, capitals too. In the same time, 70% of them proved that they can recognise the licence plates for the cars from every participant country. The mobilities contributed at the improvement of the student skills concerning the recognition of national identity for 80% of the students at the questions about national flags, currency, web countries code.



Secondly, linguistic skills were improved for 90% of them. They comunicated more not just in english, but in national languages of every other participants of the project. They learnt and used often some usual expressions. Not in the last part, the social abilities, of working in team helped, step by step, in every mobility, the knowledge about many names for men and women from every participant country. The students proved an important progress concerning recognition of National Days from France, Germany, Poland, Italy, Turkey, even their importance in Europe history .

In conclusion, the analyse of this questionnaire revealed very good results, proving an improvement for 90 % of students from Romania in knowledge the other cultures and national identity of every participant country.

German school

Nearly 200 students took part in the two surveys. One survey dealt with the cultural knowledge of the partner countries. First of all, we noticed an increasing general interest for other cultures and countries among our students and teachers. The outcome of this survey is that the students' knowledge about our partners is higher than at the beginning of the project.



Why? First, all the visits contributed to this achievement. In addition to that, the communication among the students via internet, the continuous work throughout the project, the Comenius notice-board and the project days after each visit has led to a better understanding. We could, however, notice differences here. For example, students who visited a partner country or students who had intense friendships (additional individual visits of students beside the Comenius project) to students from a particular country had a better knowledge about this specific country.

On European day we had a festival at our school. The students displayed their work about our project partners. This festival was appreciated by the visit of the Minister of Education of Lower Saxony, Mrs Heiligenstadt

Turkish school

Questionnaire about The Partner Countries

111 students took part in the two questionnaires. When we compare the two results of knowledge about the partner countries, the percentage of the of the results were low in the first questionnaire. Most of the students had difficulties answering the questions about the



partner countries. In the second questionnaire students have a higher knowledge about the partner countries with the help of facebook, school websites, photos of each visits, Comenius noticeboard.

TÜRKİYE CUMHURİYETİ
AVRUPA BİRLİĞİ BAKANLIĞI



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY FOR EU AFFAIRS

Polish school

All twelve questions that appeared in the quiz have more “right” than “wrong” answers whereas in the first survey conducted two years earlier only five were “right”.

The most troublesome question seems to be the twelfth one about national days but still it has more “right” than “wrong” answers.

An average Polish student has received 71% of the total points in the quiz. Comparing to the former survey it is over 30% better.

The comparison of the results of general knowledge quizzes conducted in two surveys

To sum up, the results of the quiz show that Polish students’ general knowledge about European countries participating in “School is cool” Comenius project **has significantly improved**. This improvement is a respond to numerous actions taken during the implementation of the project. The main actions were connected with displaying basic information about the countries on the school-wide board as well as on the school website, employing general knowledge games prepared by German and French partners and sharing experiences during presentations given by students and teachers who were in mobilities.



French school

The questions were answered by 130 students in 2013, and 127 in May 2015, after the end of all the mobilities including children. We noticed that the children were quite enthusiastic taking part of this, but the first results were surprising. In fact the survey done in 2013 show us that the level of correct answer was quite good for all the geographical, general knowledge of the countries like location, flag, capital cities (more than 65% of right answer) but was really under our expectations for the other items.

We talked about this with our historical and geographical teachers and they found this result logical, as far as what they teach in class is less about culture and typical aspects than pure geography.

We also extract the surveys answered by the pupils who were taking part of the mobilities and their results were similar to the main part of the group.

The results of the second survey, done in May 2015, are better in every way, and specially the group of 20 students who travelled among Europe. For the total group of 127 children, we arrived at 72% of correct answer in geographical and general knowledge of the countries, but they also reached a 68% of correct answers in culture and typical aspects of the countries.

But the group of “travelers” had more than 80% of correct answer in each category of question.



Our conclusions are that the Comenius project had a significant impact on those 20 students, but also on all the class level who took part in this project in the school. The way they talked between them, with their teachers and with the foreign students during the mobilities made them more curious about their “European neighbours”. And a child more curious is a student who is interested by what he reads, what he sees, what he listens.

More important, they learnt that it’s important to travel to know the world, and that you can find some great persons, discover some beautiful places and eat great dishes where ever you go.



Questionnaire about possible reasons for early school leaving

Italian school

We asked the questions to 100 students of mixed classes. The answers were grouped into **Never, Rarely, Sometimes, Usually** and **Always**.

The main problems were economic (80%), the lack of communication with families and problems connected to relationships within the school. Also school achievements were quite poor (60%) Bullying was another problem for 50% of the students, while drugs and alcohol did not seem to be a problem.

Conclusions

As seen from the questionnaire, integration is a major problem along with economic difficulties in general. Our students, as the majority of young people, have difficulty in talking about their personal problems to adults. Sometimes, their personal problems, or problems with families can cause serious problems at school and, of course, poor achievement. This sometimes brings to early school leaving, and so lack of motivation. I think we should work on this aspect and try to get our students more involved in extra activities at school, in order to raise self esteem and self confidence. Taking part in the Comenius project is surely a great way to raise motivation. That's why we will try to involve the weaker students in the project.

Romanian school

The analyse of the questionnaires "Early Leaving School" that were applied on the focus group from Romania leads us to some conclusions that prove the school progress of the students from Colegiul Economic,, Virgil Madgearu" Ploiesti and a low tendency for early leaving of their studies.



Firstly, the students from Romania have personal problems which influence their feelings and their involvement in following lessons sometimes, they are motivated and they pride in school work usually, they experienced physical or mental abuse sometimes too. Their families influence them with their conflicts or the separation between parents if they are in this situation, the school fees are too high for their families from time to time. Some of the families need an economic

support, so some of the students work in summer for it.

Secondly, they have good relationships with their teachers and their school companions generally, they feel integrated in school classes, they have school achievements which motivate them often. Some of the students have social problems due to economic or personal ones, they hang out with bullies or young offenders and experienced drugs or alcohol very rarely. We noticed that Comenius Project "School is cool" improved the motivation of the students and they became willing to participate in more activities, the lessons became also for them more attractive, their relationships with the teachers and the colleagues and their school achievements were better too, they became more integrated in school timetable, they got also a better self-esteem, team work and communication skills.

In conclusion, the impact of Comenius Project, "School is cool" is a positive one, creating important changes in students' educational behaviour, that find school more attractive, in spite of the social and financial problems.

German school

This survey proved progress as well. We noticed a large improvement on the following questions: better relationship between students and teachers; the students felt more integrated into school and the identification of the students with school has risen; the achievements of the students and the motivation for learning have improved. Moreover, the students learnt sensible free time activities and joined school clubs (music, theatre) as a consequence of the project. As some of our travelling students could visit a foreign country for the first time, we could also cope with economic problems of some families.

Turkish school

According to the evaluation of the problems questionnaire, the students of Org. Esref Bitlis Secondary School do not have any serious problems such as physical or mental abuse at home, school alcohol or drug addiction, or smoking, etc..

The most important point of the survey is the result of feeling more integrated in their school class. In the first survey, most of students do not feel themselves more integrated in their school class. Therefore, the school decided to do more activities, competitions on history, art, football, basketball, table tennis, etc.

Another important point is that most of the students feel themselves inadequate and find difficulties in following lesson. So the teachers decided to give lessons in a simplified and a plain form and also decided to involve the students more into the subjects by practising or doing experiments, trying to solve the problems by their own.



Polish school

The survey on the reasons for students early school leavings conducted for the second time hasn't revealed anything really new as far as personal and family backgrounds are concerned.

The results of the second survey were very similar to the first one. It seems to be understandable since the Comenius project couldn't influence students' private settings.

However, a slight change in the social field deserves attention. The answers to question 8 (Do you feel integrated in your class?) show that a larger number of students feel more integrated in their classes. It is believed that it can have a possible link with Comenius project since a lot of students have participated in preparing numerous Comenius actions such as presentations, surveys, mobilities, etc. These actions have encouraged students to work together and to develop the feeling of integration. Also the students motivation for learning has slightly increased as they got involved in a number of activities which made their learning more attractive (for example, learning English via theatre or music).



French school

The survey on the early school living had been given just after the first one, answered the same day and by the same number of pupils. This survey didn't alarmed us on any item, which is good for the school atmosphere in general.

But between the two years we noticed that the social and economical problems in the families were higher, more of them have difficulties with the school fees.

The most interesting point to discover was the evolution of the group who took part to the mobilities. It seems that they feel more confident in themselves and more motivated for homework and lessons. It's like this week in a foreign country without their parents made them grow personally. They seem to be more integrated in their class, without negative relationships.

Anyway, the parents wrote us some conclusions, about the surveys and about the project in general, and they sum up our feelings: "We find that these Comenius projects should be renewed, above all proposed in each school. It allows us to be more open to the others and to understand them better. Learn to know people from other countries avoid judging them through our own eyes and our own social codes, it's very enriching."

EDUCATION SYSTEMS



Germany

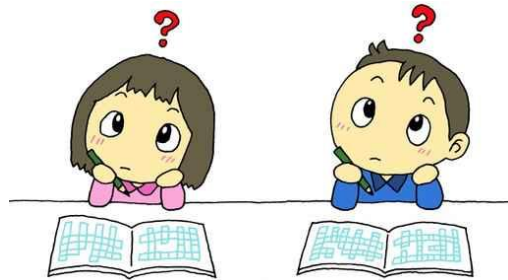
Germany consists of 16 different states with each state having its own educational system. That means that we have got 16 different educational systems and it varies where you live. To give you some examples:

In some states students start learning English in grade 1, in some states elementary school runs from grade 1-4, and in others from grade 1-6.

Teachers may have difficulties in changing their job to another state since each state may require different qualifications.

General information:

- All the students must go to school for 12 years.
- Kindergarten is not compulsory
- The students have a different timetable every day.
- Teachers must stud and teach at least 2 subjects.
- Teachers may be forced to teach subjects they have not studied.
- Usually the students go to school in the mornings (about 8am to 1pm).
- There are some changes meaning that schools have also lessons in the afternoons during the week (especially Gesamtschulen/comprehensive schools)
- There is no school at the weekend.
- Each week entails 20-29 lessons at primary school and 28-32 lessons at secondary level.
- A lesson usually lasts 45 minutes.
- Foreign languages are very important. The students must learn at least one language. Foreign languages are considered as main subject like Math or German. Students learn English, French, Spanish or Latin (sometimes even Russian or Greek). English or French is already taught at primary school.
- Gesamtschulen gain great popularity among German parents since their children are taken care the whole day.



Compulsory Education

Grundschule (primary education)	6-10 years of age (grade 1-4) 6-12 years of age(grade 1-6; Berlin & Brandenburg)
Lower secondary education -Hauptschule (low level) -Realschule (medium level) -Gymnasium (high level) -Gesamtschule (comprehension school)	10/12-15/16 years of age
Upper secondary education -Gymnasium -Gesamtschule	15/16-18/19 years of age

Italy

The Italian school system is offered free to all children in Italy regardless of nationality. Education in Italy is compulsory from 6 to 16 years of age, and is divided into five stages:

- 1) kindergarten
- 2) primary school
- 3) lower secondary school
- 4) upper secondary school
- 5) university

Italy has both public and private education systems.

Primary school

It is commonly preceded by three years of non-compulsory nursery school (or kindergarten). The primary school lasts five years. Until middle school, the educational curriculum is the same for all pupils: although one can attend a private or state-funded school, the subjects studied are the same. The students are given a basic education in Italian, English, mathematics, natural sciences, history, geography, social studies, physical education and visual and musical arts.



Pupils can now enter lower secondary school directly.

Secondary education

Secondary education is divided in two stages:

- 1) **Lower secondary** school, which corresponds to the Middle School grades.
- 2) **Upper secondary** school, which corresponds to the High-school level.

Lower secondary lasts three years (roughly from age 11 to 13), and provides further education on the subjects studied at primary school, with the addition of Technology and a language other than English (typically French, Spanish or German). The curriculum is the same for all schools. At the end of the third year students sit an exam which enables them to continue their education.

Upper secondary school lasts five years with an exam at the end of the final year, required to gain a diploma and have access to further education.

The secondary school situation varies, since there are several types of schools differentiated by subjects and activities. The main division is between the Liceo, the Istituto Tecnico and the Istituto Professionale.

The Italian school system also features the Evening School, aimed at adults and working students.

University

In 1999 the Italian university system switched from the old system (which led to the traditional 5-year Laurea degree), to the new system.

The new system split the former degree into two tracks: a three-year degree (akin to the Bachelor's Degree), followed by the 2-year Master's Degree, (Laurea Magistrale). However, it is now established that there is just a five-year degree "Laurea Magistrale Ciclo Unico" for programmes such as Law and a six-year degree for Medicine.

Romania

In accordance with education Law No1/2011, Romanian educational system is governed by Ministry of Education, Research and Youth Ministry. Each level has its own form of organisation and it is the subject of legislation in force.



The Kindergarden is optional, between 3 and 6 years , the school begins at the age of 7 years old, sometimes to 6 years old and compulsory education lasts until 10-th class, which corresponds to the age 16 or 17 years old.

Primary and secondary education are divided into 12 or 13 classes. Higher Education is aligned to the European Superior Education space.

Romanian educational system is divided in two

levels:

1.Pre-university education , school education is split into 5 cycles:

1.1 pre-primary education (or kindergarden)- takes place over three years and it si organised in three groups: Low, Middle and High Group

1.2 Primary schools with classes between 1 and 4 years(preparatory), with children between 7 and 10-11 years old. They go to school from the morning until 12 a clock usually

1.3 Lower secondary education or secondary school includes grades V-VIII and generally function as educational day form. It ends with supporting papers for classes VII and VIII. Age concluding the gymnasium is 14-15 years old.They go to school at noon between 12 and 17 a clock, or in the morning. The have to pass an exam after these 4 years at romanian literature and grammar, at foreign languages sometimes, depends on the high school that they want to follow in the future. This exam help them to go to different high schools, they choose them and they are accepted after the result of the exam and the school situation from secondary education.

1.4 Upper secondary education includes high schools organizing courses, lasting four years (grades IX-XII) and evening courses or distance learning. The age of the students is between 14-15 years old and 18-19 years old.They go to courses in the morning ,at noon or in the evening. There are some high schools where the students can come from time to time at hours, they just need to pass some tests.There are three levels :



1.4.1Theoretical chain - profiles: sciences and humanities;

1.4.2 Technological chain - profiles: natural resources, environmental protection, services and technical ;

1.4.3 Vocational branch - profiles: artistic, sports and theologically.

Secondary education ends with a national baccalaureate exam.

1.5. Post-secondary education is organized at the initiative of the Ministry of Education or at the request of traders. The studies lasting 1-3 years, depending on the complexity of professions. In post-secondary education admission is by competition.



Higher education is organized in three phases according to Law. 288 of 24 June 2004 on the organization of university studies or undergraduate degree, Master's degree and doctoral studies. Under Article 4 cycle includes undergraduate studies, corresponding to between minimum 180 credits (license 3 years) and maximum 240 credits (Bachelor 4 years), according to the European transferable credits (ECTS). Under Article 8, Cycle II comprises Master's degree which correspond to a number of transferable credits included, usually between 90 and 120. The time education, the normal master studies is 1 to 2 years. Cycle III includes doctoral studies which usually lasts 3 years.

Short-term higher education, held in existing colleges the publication of Law no. 288 of 24 June 2004, it was reorganized into undergraduate studies in areas close to existing and graduates of short higher education degree were given the opportunity to continue their studies to obtain a degree in the cycle I.

Higher Education was reorganised to be in accordance with Bologna principles, the aim being to build an European Area of Higher Education

It is divided in four levels:

1.5.1-Licence degree-3-4 years, for the most universities 3 years (from 2005)

1.5.2-Master degree 1-2 years, for the most specialities 2 years (from 2008)

1.5.3- Doctorate –at least 3 years(from 2006)

1.5.4- Post university,continues trainings

France

Ministry of Education

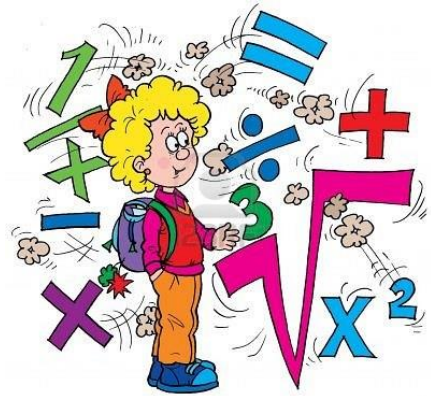
- The french educational system is very centrally driven by the Minister and his services.
- Since 1959, the instruction is compulsory for the children under 16 years old.
- 65 000 schools in France, 15 millions of pupils and students

Levels and kind of schools

- Nursery school, from 3 to 6 y.o.
- Elementary school, from 6 to 11 y.o.
- Secondary school, from 11 to 15 y.o.
- High school, from 15 to 18 y.o., providing general studies or vocational training
- Training center for apprentices

Other kind of schools

- Private schools, from nursery to high school
- French schools in foreign countries



Management of the educational system

- The official texts
- Global evaluation
- Reports coming from the General Inspection Services
- The performance indicators

The actors of the system

- The parents
- The local education office
- The local authorities : the town, the departemental council and the regional council
- The board of directors
- Different committees in each school

Shared skills

- The french ministry of education pays the teachers
- The towns are in charge of the nursery and elementary schools (buildings and some extra activities)
- The departments are in charge of the secondary schools
- The regions are in charge of the High schools

The partners

- Some authorized associations
- The partners in different companies for work experience placement

Europe and international

- The ministry and the international organizations
- The bilateral cooperations
- The european program for education and formation all life long

Official websites of the french government : education.gouv.fr eduscol.education.fr

Poland



According to the Polish Constitution, every citizen of our country has the right to receive education. Education in public schools is free. Parents and legal guardians may be fined for not sending children to school.

Education in Poland is subjected to two ministries - the Ministry of National Education (MEN) and the Ministry of Science and

Higher Education.

In addition, other ministries implement directional education eg. medical, agricultural, etc.

The Polish law distinguishes between two concepts - compulsory learning and compulsory school attendance.

Attending primary and secondary school is a must. Compulsory education starts at the age of 6 and lasts until the age of 18. Because education in junior high school (without repeating the class) finishes at the age of 16, it must be continued in one of senior high schools or in one of other forms of education as set by law, at least until the age of 18.

The school year begins in all schools on September 1 and finishes on the last Friday in June. It is divided into two semesters. In addition to the summer break, students have two holidays to celebrate Christmas and Easter and the fortnight winter holiday.

Age	Name of school			The number of years
3-5	Kindergarten			3
6-13	Primary school			6
14-16	Lower Secondary school (Junior High School)			3
17-19/ 17-20	Secondary school (Senior High school or Vocational school)			2 or 3 or 4
20- ...	College + University	University	Professional qualifying courses	3 or 5 or 2



Turkey

Turkey has the same educational system at primary school and secondary school which means; that does not vary where you live.

We call our educational system "4+4+4" (four plus four plus four). 4+4+4 means primary school lasts 4 years from 1st- 4th grade. Secondary school lasts 4 years from 5th- 8th grade. High school lasts 4 years from 9th- 12nd grade.

Students start learning English in grade 2.

General information :

- Kindergarten is not compulsory.
- All the students must go to school for 12 years.
- The students have a different timetable every day.
- Most of the schools have changes which means some students go to school in the mornings (about 7:10 a.m. to 12:45), some go to school in the afternoons (1:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.)
- Some schools do not have any changes. The students go to school at 9:00 a.m and leave the school at 3:00 p.m.
- There is no school at weekend.



- Secondary and High school have elective lessons. The students can choose art, P.E. ,music, English, Maths, Science ...etc as an elective lessons.
- A lesson lasts 40 minutes.
- In general English is the only one foreign lesson.
- The students have 30 lessons at Primary school and 35 lessons at Secondary school.

Compulsory Education :

- Primary Education : 6-10 years of age (1-4 grade)
- Secondary Education : 11- 14 years of age (5-8 grade)
- High Education: 15-18 years of age (9-12 grade)