



Gender Issues in Schools – Tackle the Problem (GIST)

ESK application for Erasmus Project accepted

In July 2017, we got the information that our application for an Erasmus project (Key Action 2: Strategic Partnerships for Schools Only) was accepted by the German National Agency (Pädagogischer Austauschdienst, PAD).

In our project, the European School of Karlsruhe, Germany, will work together with secondary schools in Sweden (Malgomaj Skolan , Vilhelmina), Bulgaria (SOU Sveti Kliment Ohridski, Dalopol), France (Collège Vauban, Strasbourg) and England (Notting Hill and Ealing High School, London). We all aim at creating and promoting a school with a sense of togetherness and a positive learning atmosphere. Why do we want that? In our different schools there are different problems connected with gender issues that hamper the learning atmosphere and success and a feeling of belonging together. We intend to make gender roles visible, we want to start investigating and drawing attention to this problem and tackle the problems we have discovered.

Each school will have a different focus addressing specific problems connected with gender issues we have discovered by already having conducted surveys among students. We all will try to find solutions and will present and share our experiences:

In Karlsruhe, we will try out different innovative teaching methods and change the learning environment to improve the motivation for learning and also the learning results (esp. of boys). A workshop for teachers will be run on our topic. We also want to think up activities to “unite” the school and develop a “pool of activities”, which help to develop a feeling of togetherness.

Sweden will focus on equal rights (each school in Sweden is obliged to have an equal rights plan) and work against racism, which has increased due to the high percentage of refugees.

The Bulgarian school will aim to build a bridge between Roma students and their parents in order to “emancipate” these girls and women and make both generations realize the importance of having education and career in order to gain equality in society.

The French school will focus on the issues of social inequalities and their different repercussions on the schooling and in the education of boys and girls. The gender roles and inequalities will be framed through the questions of homework, housework, sports practised during free time, chosen orientations after school etc. . They will also set up a study hall once a week: voluntary students or parents will participate.

The English school will focus on improving the independent learning and risk-taking with girls and explore to what extent their learning is different from that of boys. It will aim for the project to be led by the girls themselves in their own exploration of gender issues both at home and abroad.

After the first project year, the findings from each school will be shared and presented during a project meeting with students and teachers at the International Forum Burg Liebenzell, Germany and the ESK. There will also be a big project presentation at the ESK.

The findings will be shared in the group, so that the other schools can profit from them, thus learning cooperatively. In the second year, each school presents the ideas and the materials from the first project meeting to the rest of their respective schools to implement the ideas they found most useful, with a view to creating a school with optimal learning possibilities for gender.

Moreover, we will all work together on one common topic each year. In the 1st year, we want to reflect on our own gender -investigate important role-models for our students in European history and in the present. In the 2nd year the schools will examine together gender roles and issues in society and in the media. All results will be presented at the second project meeting in Strasbourg.

There will be an Erasmus club for students who would like to join the project.

If you want to learn more or have questions, please contact Ines Ladehof (ines.ladehof@teacher.eursc.eu).