

THE TRAIN FOR EUROPE STORY

COMENIUS SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

„European CNC-Network – Train for EUROPE - RELOADED“



Dear Johann, dear guests,
dear members of the great organisation team in St.Pölten,
dear students and teachers of the Train Family.

As the responsible project coordinator of this COMENIUS school partnership “European CNC-Network – Train for EUROPE - RELOADED” it’s a great honour to meet you all here in St. Pölten. I was asked to give you a short overview concerning our activities. It’s really difficult to talk about all the things have happened in the last 9 years in only ten minutes, but I will try to do so.

Of course, nine years is the exact period, because the year 2004 is to be named as the year of birth for that project idea. At that time, a German delegation went to our Belgian partner school St. Josef Instituut in Geel for a visit. It was there, when the desire and the basic idea for a close cooperation in the field of CNC technology was first put into words.

In November 2006 we were able to welcome interested partners from fourteen different vocational schools at my school in Germany. All those fourteen participants in the preparatory visit showed a lot of enthusiasm for the idea and the vision of developing a common product in the framework of the „European CNC-Network“. The guests had discussed the different possibilities and options of such a common product and through a democratic voting process the final project idea of a „Train for EUROPE“ was then elected by the majority of the participants.

In a cooperation between trainees from at the end 24 schools out of almost all European countries the students constructed a “Train for Europe” between 2007 and 2009 within an unforgettable project adventure. The wagons were designed to represent the countries they came from. The locomotive on the other hand was a joint project, built by all the countries taking part, and its function was to pull the “Train for EUROPE” reliably along a 6-metre wide rail circuit.

And this is exactly what makes Europe so special. The locomotive stands for European commonalities, the wagons symbolise particular features of European countries and regions. The fact that the wagons are all hooked together shows that the countries are united – despite all the differences.

The new "Train for EUROPE - RELOADED" is meant to be a follow-up of our successful COMENIUS School Partnership "European CNC-Network - Train for EUROPE", which was by the way also the winning project of the EUROPEAN CHARLEMAGNE YOUTH PRIZE 2010. This very famous Prize is awarded to young Europeans who, in the sense of the European idea, realise joint projects. We will never forget the laudation of Mr. Jerzy Buzek, the President of the European Parliament. He described the added value of the winning project "Train for EUROPE" as follows: "The partnership testifies exactly the essence of the European idea: acting together, overcoming the limits of boundaries, the discovery of diversity and its potential".

But the new project adventure "Train for EUROPE - RELOADED" is certainly not just simply a copy of the forerunning school partnership. As the framework of the project and demands on participants have been changed and adopted, the planned school partnership will have a completely different structure and new organisation. Moreover, new impulses are expected because some partners left the project and new ones have joined.

The wagons will consist of standardized undercarriages and specific upper parts connected by a common clicking system. The individual upper parts will have to be designed under a common motto "What we have done to connect people", which was defined at the first meeting in Croatia.

This time the new partnership will also include electro-technical challenges. Therefore a "European Electronic Map" will be developed. The "European Electronic Map" is a map meant to display the geographical outlines of the different European countries and is manufactured as a large jigsaw puzzle on the basis of CNC-technology. Each wagon will be equipped with electronic devices in order to communicate with the "European Electronic Map" and will be able to switch on a flash light for example.

Before the hopefully finished train will presented in the European Parliament in Brussels in April, the Comenius partner schools organised meetings in Croatia, Portugal, Slovenia, Finland and of course this week in Austria. The Final Meeting will be combined with activities in Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg.

The partners are convinced that this partnership is again perfectly suited to work out another successful project supported by the "European CNC-Network". The result of our efforts symbolizes the successful cooperation of the different European educational institutes. We are confident that we have found again an excellent example that will represent and enhance the "European spirit".

Thanks to everybody's commitment in this kind of projects which made those meetings possible and unforgettable! Thanks again to the great organisation team here in St. Pölten. Special thanks to the headmaster Johann Wiedlack and to Günter, Fritz, Bernd, Manfred and all the others. And thanks a lot to Mr. König, Mr. Stadler and Mr. Wilfing for being here this evening and for your interest in our project activities.

Let's run the „Train for EUROPE – RELOADED!

THANKS!

Heinz Wildgrube
CNC-Network Coordinator