

**REPORT OF THE STUDY VISIT  
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROJECT „REGIONAL SUPPORT OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION”**

**16 – 21 MARCH 2014  
IN THE GRANDE RÉGION**

**ORGANISER:**

- Pedagogical Institute of Rhineland-Palatinate (Germany)
- European Centre Robert Schuman in Scy-Chazelles (France)

**CO-ORGANISER:**

- Rectorat de l'Académie Nancy-Metz (France)
- Ministry of the Government of the Federation of Wallonia and Brussels (Belgium)
- Ministry of the German Speaking Community of Belgium
- Institute for teacher-in-service training of the Education Ministry of Luxembourg
- Institute for Pedagogy and Media of the Saarland (Germany)



**SCHOOLS VISITED BY THE SCHOOL TEAMS**

<b>SCHOOL TEAMS</b>	<b>VISITED SCHOOL</b>	<b>SCHOOL TYPE</b>	<b>REGION</b>
<b>Albania</b>	Athenée Royal Ardennes-Hautes Fagnes	Secondary school (age: 12 – 18)	Federation of Wallonia and Brussels
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	Schengen Lyzeum	Secondary school (age: 11 – 18)	Saarland (Germany)
	Grundschule Dreiländereck	Primary school (age: 6-10)	
<b>Croatia</b>	Ecole Jean Jaurès	Primary school (age: 3 – 13)	Luxembourg
	Atert Lycée Redange	Secondary school (age: 13 – 18)	
<b>Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>	Grundschule Thaleischweiler- Fröschen	Primary school (age: 6-10)	Rhineland- Palatinate (Germany)
	Landgraf-Ludwig Realschule plus Primasens	Secondary school (age: 11 – 16)	
<b>Montenegro</b>	Ecole de Milliaire Thionville	Primary school (age: 6-12)	Lorraine (France)
	Collège de Milliaire Thionville	Secondary school (age: 12 – 16)	
	Collège Charlemagne Thionville	Secondary school (age: 12 – 16)	
<b>Kosovo</b>	Robert Schuman Grundschule Pirmasens	Primary school (age: 6-10)	Rhineland- Palatinate (Germany)
	Integrierte Gesamtschule Thaleischweiler- Fröschen	Secondary school (age: 11 – 18)	
<b>Serbia</b>	Ecole Primaire de la Parotte, Metz	Primary school (age: 6-12)	Lorraine (France)
	Collège Jean Rostand Metz	Secondary school (age: 12 – 16)	
	Collège Taison Metz	Secondary school (age: 12 – 16)	

## THE PROGRAM OF THE SCHOOL TEAMS

### Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> of March

The delegations from Kosovo and Serbia arrived in Metz in the later afternoon and participated in the welcome dinner with Richard STOCK (European Centre Robert Schuman) and Sabine ROHMANN (Pedagogical Institute Rhineland-Palatinate).

The delegations of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro arrived late in the evening; for them a dinner meal was prepared in the hotels.

### Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> of March

At 9 am started the seminar at the House of Robert Schuman in Scy-Chazelles. Bernard HERZOG, vice-president of the Conseil Général (executive body of a French department), welcomed the delegations and wished them a fruitful and interesting stay in the Grande Région.

Richard STOCK and Brigitte BESSON welcomed the delegations and introduced the Robert Schuman House, a museum of the life and European message of Robert Schuman and a centre for encounters of Europeans.

Philippe ALESSANDRONI, inspector of school and head of the teacher-in-service training division in Lorraine, Sabine ROHMANN, head of department "Europe and international cooperation" of the Pedagogical Institute of Rhineland-Palatinate and Carmen SCHÜRNBRAND, responsible for the cross border cooperation of the teacher-in-service training Institute of Luxembourg welcomed the delegations on behalf of the organizers.

Following the welcoming speeches, Richard STOCK highlighted the process of the European integration illustrated by a PowerPoint presentation "The European integration? A revolution for peace!" He addressed the topics "How much Europe?" "Europe, a continent?" "The history of the European integration" "The European values" and "Which Europe?"

In a further step Sabine ROHMANN gave an insight into the Grande Région: its geographical position, its human capital, its institutional context and its education systems. She described the challenges and problems of the education in the Grande Région and mentioned the differences of the education systems in the different regions of the Grande Région.

Jean-Marc MARCHAL, inspector of school, presented the pedagogical approach of inclusive education in France "The inclusive school, the mirror of a society directed to the change". His presentation gave a good overview of the pedagogical approach, the organization and the challenges of an inclusive education.

After lunch Sabine ROHMANN, chair of the "Education and culture2 Committee of the conference of the INGOs of the Council of Europe highlighted the challenges of education in the Europe of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, especially goals for the personal development of each pupil.

Carmen SCHÜRNBRAND, teacher-in-service training institute of Luxembourg, and Brigitte BESSON, European Centre Robert Schuman, prepared with the school teams the school visits. The school teams worked out their questions and their goals for the study visits. They brought out as well their attendances. Each school team presented their topics to the other teams. These topics served as a red line for the school visits.

In the early evening the teams were taken by bus to the school towns. Each team was accommodated in hotels.

### **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> of March & Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of March**

The school teams were welcomed at their hotel by a member of the host school or by a member of the organization staff and taken to the school.

The schools had prepared a dense and interesting program: the focus of the visited lessons was the individual support of each pupil. After the visits of the different lessons the school teams had the possibility to discuss with members of the school staffs and to put all the questions they wanted. There were a lot of professional exchanges, so that they all visitors and hosts had the chance to learn about the education system of the others.

The schools organised as well a cultural program for the school teams, so that they had the possibility to get an insight of the life in the towns they were hosted.

Wednesday in the afternoon all teams were taken by bus to Trier. The evening was free.

### **Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> of March**

At 9 am started the final meeting of the study visit.

The school teams prepared a presentation of the results of their study visits. After this phase of preparation each team presented a poster on which they described their observations and commented or described what they observed, what they experienced and pointed out what was important and remarkable for them.

The presentation was followed by an oral evaluation. An evaluation sheet will be send to the teams some weeks later in order to see the impact of the study visit.

In the beginning of the afternoon Sabine KRATZ, representing the Prime Minister of Rhineland-Palatinate in the Grande Région, gave an insight into the cooperation of the regions of the Grande Région on the political level.

After some free time in the historical centre of Trier, all teams participated in the farewell dinner accompanied by Brigitte BESSON and Sabine ROHMANN.

### **Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> of March**

All delegations were taken to Frankfurt airport by bus.

## THE PROGRAM OF THE POLICY MAKERS

### Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> of March

The delegations from Kosovo and Serbia arrived in Metz in the later afternoon and participated in the welcome dinner with Richard STOCK (European Centre Robert Schuman) and Sabine ROHMANN (Pedagogical Institute Rhineland-Palatinate).

The delegations of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro arrived late in the evening; for them a dinner meal was prepared in the hotels.

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Jean-Marc MARCHAL, inspector of school, presented the pedagogical approach of inclusive education in France "The inclusive school, the mirror of a society directed to the change". His presentation gave a good overview of the pedagogical approach, the organization and the challenges of an inclusive education.

After lunch Julie GRATZ, European Centre Robert Schuman, accompanied the policy makers to the Collège Robert Schuman where they had an exchange with the school head and team, with the inspectors of schools Jean-Marc MARCHAL and Véronique ZAERCHER on the inclusive education in Lorraine.

## Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> of March

The delegation was taken by bus to Saarbrücken (Saarland) where Sabine SEYBOLD-LEONHARD, Pedagogical Institute of Rhineland-Palatinate, joined the group in order to accompany them on their study visit.

The delegation first visited the Institute of Pedagogy and Media (teacher-in-service training) of the Saarland. The director Mr. ADOLPH explained them the work of the Institute with the teacher of all school types and highlighted some special projects (e.g. moodle-platform). Following the delegation was welcomed by Pierre LANG in the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Saarland. He presented the cooperation with the Grande Région, especially the Schuman-Program, a cross border program for individual pupil's exchange for language and intercultural learning.

In the afternoon the delegation continued their travel to Mainz in Rhineland-Palatinate. They were welcomed by Hans-Jürgen BLINN, head of department for European and international cooperation of the Ministry of Education of Rhineland-Palatinate. He explained the work of his department. Following Christine HOLDER, staff of the primary school division, presented the program BISS, a special program for the pedagogical support of language learning and language competences.

The delegation had the possibility to visit the cathedral of Mainz and the historical centre.

## Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of March

In the morning the group was taken to Eupen, German Speaking Community of Belgium. They first visited a school specialized in inclusive education.

Following the school visit the delegation was welcomed by Stephanie PALM in the Ministry of the government of the German Speaking Community of Belgium. Nathalie PETERS gave the delegation a deep insight into the support for integration and language competences of pupils with a migration background.

After the meeting in the ministry the delegation travelled to Trier.

## Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> of March

At 9 am started the final meeting of the study visit.

The delegation had a feedback meeting with the Council of Europe staff.

They participated in the presentation of the school teams.

The presentation was followed by an oral evaluation. An evaluation sheet will be send to the teams some weeks later in order to see the impact of the study visit.

In the beginning of the afternoon Sabine KRATZ, representing the Prime Minister of Rhineland-Palatinate in the Grande Région, gave an insight into the cooperation of the regions of the Grande Région on the political level.

After some free time in the historical centre of Trier, all teams participated in the farewell dinner accompanied by Brigitte BESSON and Sabine ROHMANN.

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**EVALUATION**

## Summary:

All participants were fully satisfied about the results of their study visit:

- ❖ They reflected the European integration process, the European values and the impact for education.
- ❖ They learned to know another European cross border region.
- ❖ They observed different pedagogical approaches of inclusive education, of individual learning support – experiences they can transfer directly to the daily work in their schools.
- ❖ They had intensive and fruitful exchanges and discussions with the school staff of their host schools.
- ❖ They understood that there are the same problems, challenges and questions, only the systems and the cultures are different.
- ❖ They understood the importance of a network and especially of a network of their project.
- ❖ They lived an atmosphere of mutual understanding, where also the host school staff learned a lot. They learned about the school system of their guests, they reflected by the discussions their own system, their own approaches and their own pedagogical work.
- ❖ Both school teams expressed their wish not to have a single visit and dialogue but to establish a real partnership.

The organizer will establish a regional network with the schools which welcomed the school teams and give them the support they need to construct a partnership with the South-East-European school teams.

Finally we can consider the study visit as a successful project with a big impact to all participants and all organizers.

We all did a big step to the European integration, to the mutual understanding and respect, to the breaking down of prejudices and stereotypes which means an important basis for the education of young Europeans.

Sabine Rohmann  
April 2014