



Place de l'Alma, 2, B-1200 Bruxelles, Belgique

Comenius Association Online Meeting - 29th and 30th October 2020

Report

29th October

Welcome and introduction

On 29th and 30th October 2020, the Comenius Association had the online Autumn Meeting, following the postponement of Klingenthal meeting, which should have taken place in the first week of June.

Geneviève Laloy, as President of the Board, greeted all the participants (40 persons, along the 2 days, representing 25 institutions)¹ and contextualized this meeting, taking into account the changes that have taken place, since June, due to the pandemic situation Covid19, in Europe. After the welcome words, each participant introduced himself, very briefly. Then, the President made a brief presentation of the program and the methodology to be followed in the different points of the agenda, during the two days.

Philip O'Neil made a state point regarding the edition of next issue of associations' journal, which should be finalized soon.

¹ For different reasons, the Institut Catholique de Paris – ISFEC LaSalle-Mounier/France; the University of Bergamo/Italy; the InHolland University/Netherlands; the University of Örebro/Sweden; the Haute École Pédagogique du Canton de Vaud/Switzerland couldn't attend this meeting.

Conference and Q&A

“Quo vadis internationalization? Pessimism, optimism or just a change of perspective? Prof (FH) emer. Mag. Eva Werner (Rector emer; Expert for Internationalization of Higher Education and Quality Assurance; European Bologna Expert)

Monika Becker presented Eva Werner and the theme of the conference.

Eva Werner draws the attention of the participants for some important ideas about internationalization:

- internationalization is the intentional process of integrating an international and multicultural dimension in our curricula;
- the institutions should have a comprehensive perspective of internationalization, integrating teaching, research and services;
- it's necessary a total institutional commitment, engagement, a clear leadership and a strategy;
- internationalization should impregnate the DNA of the institution
- internationalization implies cooperation and networks: learning and teaching; joint research; exchanges; projects; benchmarks
- virtual mobility should not replace but complement physical mobility
- two important questions:
 - how much physical mobility is ecologically justifiable?
 - how much virtual mobility is socially desirable?

The speaker also addressed the topics about the skills and competences of 21st century educator and the future of learning.

Information: latest trends from EAIE, INGO Conference and the new Erasmus generation

Monika Becker gave some informations about the activities **in European Association for International Education - EAIE**. This year, the conference took place as a three

day virtual event of very high quality. The big topics of the virtual conference have been blended mobility, COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning), post-Covid19 mobility, and the next Erasmus generation. The next conference and exhibition will be held, in Gotenburg (Sweden), from 7th – 10th September 2021, and the theme is “Bolder. Brave. Go”. It was discussed the possibility the Comenius Association being officially represented in the future. For Gotenburg the deadline is already over.

George Camacho gave some informations about the activities and the participation of the Comenius Association in the **Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe**. The association had been involved in different working groups, distributed by the 3 committees, with different levels of participation:

- Intercultural Cities; Lifelong Learning; Europe of Heritage and Creation; Transversal Group of Digital Citizenship (Education and Culture Committee)
- Freedom of Expression and Media; Transversal Group on Poverty (Human Rights Committee)
- Participation in Democratic Decision Making; Transversal Group on Social and Territorial Cohesion (Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges)

Since June 2020, the association participated in the following virtual meetings:

- 3rd and 17th June 2020: a videoconference organized by Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers “Protection of human life and public health in the context of pandemic”;
- 22nd and 23rd June 2020: special online session of the Conference of INGOs;
- 3rd September: online consultation with the Council of Europe Pompidou Group (cooperation group to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking in drugs);
- 12th – 16th October 2020: Autumn session of Conference of INGOs (videoconference)

(Power Point presentation attached)

George Camacho also gave some informations about the **new Erasmus generation**:

- More digital, more inclusive; more green
- Blended mobility
- International opening of KA103 (in addition to KA107)

Some important dates:

- Learning agreements online(OLA)- compulsory in 2021
- Exchanging nominations online – compulsory in 2023
- Transcript of records online – compulsory in 2023
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Some important links:

Online Learning Agreement (<https://www.learning-agreement.eu/>)

Erasmus Dashboard (<https://www.erasmus-dashboard.eu/>)

MyAcademicID (<https://www.myacademic-id.eu/>)

Erasmus Without Paper (EWP) Knowledge base

(<https://wiki.uni-foundation.eu/>)

(Power Point presentation attached)

International Weeks 2021, mobility Spring 2021, Comenius Association work groups

Each institution has presented some informations about its **Comenius Association International Week** that will be published on the webpage of the association. Antwerpen informed that, due to the pandemic, its international week - *Stretch your Mind* - that should be held from 7th to 11th December was cancelled. Many of the institutions informed that if is not possible to organize a face-to-face international week, due to the evolution of the pandemic, they are studying the possibility of doing it virtually, although with the necessary adaptations. Please refer to the Comenius Association website for the dates, the programmes and the modalities of each week.

It was agreed that the nominations must be send till 15th December 2020 and the confirmations from each partner institution must be done till 31st January 2021.

Other initiatives:

- Ghent – International Day – 16th November 2020

- Stavanger – International Day -27th -29th January 2021

- Winchester and Vac – 10th or 11th March 2021 – Conference “Learning Invention and Creativity. Rethinking Local and Global Education”

- Vilnius – Staff Training Week – 10th – 14th May 2021 (<http://stafftraining.viko.lt>)

Summer School – 9th – 20th August 2021 (<http://summerschool.viko.lt>)

Working groups:

In the association there's the following working groups:

-Migrations (coordinated by Martine Wilmots /HELMO and Niomi Kelly/Thomas More- Mechelen): the 3rd edition of the seminar, that should be held on 11th – 13th March 2020, was postponed due to the pandemic. No specific information for the moment.

-Outdoor Education (coordinated by Els Teunissen and Barbara Dejonge, from Thomas More - Mechelen): the International Week is taking place online, from 26th - 30th October 2020, organized by Santarém Polytechnic Institute

-Languages & Storytelling (coordinated by Chantal Muller/HENALLUX and Jette Laursen /UCSYD). No specific information for the moment.

Social moment

The participants were invited to stay online in a more informal moment, talking about different things that they would like to share.

30th October

Conference and Q&A

“Good practices. Virtual Erasmus”

Prof. Heiko Vogl MA Bed (University College of Teacher Education Styria)

Heiko Vogl draws the attention of the participants for some important ideas about virtual Erasmus and presented different tools :

- MOOCs – European Schoolnet Academy
- Erasmus + Virtual Exchange : intercultural learning experiences
- Virtual Excursions
- Etwinning
- ITC (example: project with Universidad Autonoma Barcelona)

Group work “The virtual Comenius Association”:

Maria Jose Quintana from Universidad Autonoma Madrid - La Salle, presented their experience with **COIL** - Collaborative Online International Learning and will initiate a call for offers and demands of colleagues interested in starting a COIL project with an international partner.

The following working groups, foreseen in the programme, were postponed to be implemented online:

- Internationalization at home
- Virtual International Weeks
- Virtual modules

The objectives of these working groups were to share good practices and develop a resource base.

Perspectives and conclusions

Petra Noskova gave the informations about the **Comenius Association Meeting in Spring 2021: 22nd – 26th March 2021, in Hradec Kralove (Czech Republic).**

Susanne Linhofer – **Come2Graz and ICFE conference in May 2021:**

<https://icfe2019.webnode.hr/>

Garit Jaritz - **Autumn Meeting 2021** – Thurgau /Switzerland – Dates to confirm

Geneviève Laloy – general informations and discussions

The topic of the 2021 Comenius Association journal will be “Creative ways to cope with Covid19 and its challenges for international education”.

During the next month, the Board of the Comenius Association will launch several workshops/meetings with specific topics: “Virtual International Weeks” (December), “International Virtual Modules” (January) and “Internationalization at Home” (February). The invitations will be sent soon.

Annexe

George Camacho

For the Board, 8th November 2020