

SUMMARY REPORT CONFERENCE HELSINKI SEPTEMBER 2012

ASSOCIATED EUROPEAN SCHOOLS NETWORK

On 20 & 21 September 2012 the annual plenary meeting of the Associated European Schools Network was held in Helsinki. The meeting was hosted by European Schooling of Helsinki and chaired by Teijo Koljonen, director. Participating AES schools were RheinMain, Parma, Strasbourg, and Helsinki as well as the AES projects of Copenhagen, Tallinn and Culham. AES Heraklion, Manosque, The Hague and Dunshaughlin could not attend. A representative of the European Chemicals Agency and of Europol also attended. The European Schools Secretary General's (SG) attendance was much appreciated as an important endorsement of the work of the Network.

In line with the agreement made at Bad Vilbel in September 2011 to have an annually rotating Presidency of the Network of one of the AES (school management and parents' association), ES RheinMain was elected to this position for the school year 2012-2013. The director will therefore represent the interests of the AESN in the Joint Teaching Committee meetings (observer status) and the next annual Network meeting will be hosted by ES RheinMain at Bad Vilbel in autumn 2013. A follow-up meeting with the Secretary-General to discuss the priorities for the school year 2012-2013 would be planned for after the December Board of Governors meeting.

In the first year of the Network's existence considerable progress has been made for the schools in the fields of communication (access to Learning Gateway, access to DOCEE for parents associations); representation (observer status in the Joint Teaching Committee, meetings with the Secretary General), participation in in-service training, contacts between the Type 2 and 3 schools, audit procedures.

Other areas identified last year as priorities need continued attention, in particular: access to teaching resources and to the pupil administration system, visibility on the Eursc website, participation in the ES pupil activities (ESSS, Eurosport, etc.).

Discussions were held in plenary sessions as well as in separate sessions of the directors and parent representatives, both groups being given the opportunity to discuss their specific matters with the Secretary-General. Active participation of representatives of the AES projects and the agencies' representatives was much appreciated. In due course a seat for a parents' representative and a teachers' representative should be established in the Joint Teaching Committee, alongside a seat for the directors' representative.

Key themes and priorities identified for the 2012-2013 school year: 1. **Strengthening of Communication within the Network.** Communication and Learning Gateway: create documentation storage centre on Learning Gateway of AESN documents, mailing list on basis of agreement of participants; log-in required for PAs; table of useful data per school. 2. **Strengthening of Communication within the ES system and with the Office of the SG.** Appointment of liaison person in the Office of the SG. 3. **Promote pupil exchanges** through school management and PAs. 4. **Development by the Office of the SG of a coherent set of documents on Accredited Schools for the AES** - document SG (participation in possible future working group), recognition of AES directors and parents in the JTC. 5. **Access to teaching resources**, (examples of tests and examinations for different year groups in relevant area of LG, careers guidance, examples of oral examinations, pre-Baccalaureate and also harmonised exams). Obtaining samples of harmonised exams might be more difficult as they are largely school based. 6. **Participation in decentralised teacher training.** The ES system has introduced decentralised training by experts, which affects all the relevant teachers directly. AES teachers can participate and invitations have been issued but it is up to the individual AES to contact Type 1 schools for participation. Travel costs could be prohibitive.

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