

COMENIUS THREE NETWORK: LEARNINGMIGRATION

ISLAND OF IRELAND REPORT 2008

1. PARTNERS AND MEMBERS

Partners

Ulster American Folk Park/Centre for Migration Studies – National Co-ordinator

Southern Education and Library Board, Armagh, Northern Ireland

Loreto College, Cavan, Republic of Ireland

Monaghan Collegiate School, Republic of Ireland

St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon, Northern Ireland

Dungannon Primary School, Northern Ireland

Holy Trinity Primary, School, Cookstown, Northern Ireland

Members

Cookstown Primary School

St Mary's College, Derry.

2. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Ulster American Folk Park/Centre for Migration Studies (UAFP)

- **National co-ordinator of the Project**
 - Co-ordinating partner work plans and reports

- **Exhibitions**
 - Hidden Connections travelling exhibition on display in the Folk Park in December 2007 and January 2008 on the theme of transatlantic slavery.
 - White Star Line exhibition (June 2008 - May 2009) – artefacts from the large trans-Atlantic ocean liners of the late 19th and early 20th centuries – private loan.

- **Conferences**
 - Ulster American Heritage Symposium 25-28th June 2008, a major academic conference on the theme of Emigration was organised by the Centre for Migration studies at the Folk Park.
 - The one day autumn school on the Literature of Irish Exile took place in October 2008.

- **Citizenship Project**

- The Centre for Migration Studies/Ulster American Folk Park worked with students of St Mary's University College, a teacher training college in Belfast, to look at migration past and present as part of the Colleges Project 'The Global Dimension in Initial Teacher Education'. Students visited the outdoor museum to learn about 19th century emigration from Ireland to America, and then participated in a discussion session in the Centre for Migration Studies, where they looked at the issues raised in relation to modern immigration to Ireland. More information can be found in the reports on the College website at <http://www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk/academic/education/gde/default.asp>

- **Museum Programmes**

- In April 2008 the Foodfest event was held in association with Omagh Ethnic Communities Support Group with a discussion of Foodways and sampling of immigrant dishes, as well as traditional Irish and American foods.
- The museum hosted educational visits in 2008 from partner schools, Dungannon Primary School and Holy Trinity Primary School, Cookstown. [more details available in the relevant school section]

- **Learning Materials**

- A Museum trail on Emigration was produced for those with limited skills in English, whether through youth or ethnicity.
- Produced a junior guide book for visiting pupils to share with parents on their return home.

Southern Education and Library Board (SELB)

- **Inclusion and Diversity Service (IDS) for Northern Ireland**

- LearningMigration partners Mary Yarr who has been appointed as Regional Advisor of the new Inclusion and Diversity Service (IDS) and Clodagh Daly, Assistant Advisory Officer, continue to embed their services in schools across Northern Ireland. The work is mainly concerned with enabling teachers to best assist with the induction of newcomer children and their parents into school life.

- **School Support**

- SELB continues to support its schools in Comenius projects, in establishing Comenius partnerships, in linking schools via email and in school exchange programmes.

- **Training**

- The joint North-South Toolkit '**Together Towards Inclusion: A Toolkit for Diversity in the Primary School**' was launched in December 2007, and work continues on the roll-out of training on its best uses.

- **Languages**

- Work on European Language Portfolios (ELPs) to support migrant pupils in schools in Northern Ireland is in progress.

Dungannon Primary School

- **Induction processes for newly arrived migrant children:**
 - Using the toolkit “Together Towards Inclusion: A Toolkit for Diversity in the Primary School” to assist teachers with induction process for newcomer pupils.
 - Provided parents with a translated ‘Induction’ booklet, to assist new parents to become familiar with our school system
 - During the induction sessions with new Primary 1 parents, we used bi-lingual classroom assistants to help with translations.
- **School Activities**
 - On 22nd October the younger pupils visited the Ulster American Folk Park to find out about how we celebrated Halloween in Ireland in the past, and how the emigrants to Pennsylvania celebrated the Harvest Home Festival there.

St Patrick’s Primary School, Dungannon

- **Induction processes for newly arrived migrant children:**
 - Using the toolkit “Together Towards Inclusion: A Toolkit for Diversity in the Primary School” to assist teachers with induction process for newcomer pupils.
- **Language developments.**
 - Familiarising all staff with CEFR Assessment (Common European Framework of Reference) for language development.
 - Adaptations to P.5 planners beginning September 2007, and to P6 from September 2008, in light of revised curriculum for Northern Ireland
 - Adaptations to P.1 planners beginning September 2007, and to P2 planners from September 2008 in light of revised curriculum.
- **School activities**
 - **European day of languages:** the school repeated its celebration of culture on the European Day of languages, with a special assembly, foods, flags, language etc.
- **Comenius Project** –see International section.

Holy Trinity Primary School, Cookstown

- **Induction processes for newly arrived migrant children:**
 - Worked with Surestart (This group is mainly composed of Migrant parents)
 - Using the toolkit “Together Towards Inclusion: A Toolkit for Diversity in the Primary School” to assist teachers with induction process for newcomer pupils.
 - Pupil Profiles completed, including initial baseline assessments and tracking information

- **Language**
 - Organised after-school language classes for EAL children
 - Appointed a language assistant (Slovakian)
 - Appointed an EAL co-ordinator in the school
 - Participate in Primary languages programme
 - Home School Journals in use (Journals facilitate home-school communication through the development of vocabulary etc)

- **Staff Training and dissemination**
 - Prepared presentations for visitors and external groups with particular reference to migrant education
 - Organised Diversity awareness training for all staff
 - Staff attended training on EAL toolkit

- **School activities**

Visits to the Ulster American Folk Park - Over the past three years primary seven pupils have visited the Ulster American Folk Park to find out how the Irish celebrated Christmas at home in Ireland and in their new homes in America. The programme has provided us with opportunities in our follow-up work to compare these old customs with the present day customs in Ireland and in home countries of our newcomer pupils.

Comenius Project –see International section

Loreto College, Cavan

- **Mentoring programme**

A programme has been developed which will involve Transition Year students (age 15-16) acting as mentors for EAL students in order to help them integrate better into school life. The students received training in early September 2008, and the programme has made a successful start.

- **Cross Curricular work and migration**

Much cross-curricular work was done on the topic of migration, especially with the YAM themes in mind.

Students produced art-work relating to migration.

2nd and 5th year music students studied the theme of migration in Irish traditional music.

In European Studies, the Transition Year students used the YAM web-site to:

- test their attitudes towards migrants
- build up their own family tree and look for evidence of migration within their own family history.

- **Parents Evening and Migration Presentation**

The work of the students on their migration and YAM themes was displayed at an evening for parents on Wed. May 21st, 2008.

- **EAL (English as an Additional Language) Provision**

This year the school now has 8 teachers now involved in the provision of EAL.

- Also see International Activities section for more on YES and YAM Projects

3. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Learning Migration conference in Romania**

- 3 persons from the Island of Ireland group attended the Romania conference in June 2008, from Ulster American Folk Park (as group co-ordinator) and from Southern Education and Library Board/Inclusion and Diversity Service (as workshop presenters). Financial constraints limited those who could attend.
- SELB partners Mary Yarr and Clodagh Daly led two workshops at the Romanian conference to present the new Toolkit "Together Towards Inclusion: A Toolkit for Diversity in the Primary School"
- UAFP representative attended Learning Migration co-ordinator's meeting in Romania.

- **YES and YAM projects.**

- Loreto College Cavan are involved in both projects. As all the YES partners were also YAM schools it was decided that the work for this year would all be based on migration and the 4 YAM themes (Love, Death, Religion, Hospitality). Students were asked to produce a video/photo story/ PowerPoint presentation on any combination of these themes. The project culminated with a visit to the coordinating school, Sandnes VGS in Sandnes, Norway from May 13th -18th, 2008. Here a YAM film festival was held, which was an official event of the Stavanger 2008 City of Culture programme. The student films from all the partner schools (21 in all) were screened and Gold, Silver and Bronze awards presented to the winners.

- **Comenius Two Courses**

MiLES Project – the UAFP representative attended working group meetings of MiLES Project in Paris, France in January 2008 and in Ankara, Turkey in October 2008. The five day in-service course, in Berlin has now been arranged for September 2009.

"Together Towards Diversity Toolkit "in service course – Partners Mary Yarr/ Clodagh Daly from IDS are planning to hold a five day in-service course to disseminate the Toolkit

- **Comenius One Projects**

- Holy Trinity Primary School has been working to prepare an application for the Sunrise Project. Progress has been slower than expected due to a number of unforeseen personal circumstances.
- **St Patrick's Primary School**, Dungannon has been developing a Comenius One project. Initial contacts were made with a German teacher at the Sofia conference about a possible project on an environmental/tourism theme. In October 2008 three teachers from St Patrick's Primary school travelled to a meeting in Munich to develop the ideas further. The other countries involved are Greece, Italy, Cyprus, Turkey & Germany.

4. USE OF THE WEBSITE

- Website has been regularly updated by most partners

5. DISSEMINATION

- All personnel involved in the various projects have continued to disseminate information about the Project to other staff in their organisations.
- The theme of the project i.e. Learning Migration is widely disseminated in Northern Ireland, as for all Northern Ireland partners it is an important part of their work.

6. SUSTAINABILITY

- The Ethnic Minority Achievement Unit of SELB has been reorganised as the Inclusion and Diversity Service (IDS) and will continue to work with all schools in Northern Ireland on the theme of Inclusion and Diversity, to lead, support and sustain work with and related to newcomer children. Part of their remit deals with Comenius links. The first Head of this new regional service is a partner in the Learning Migration project.
- The Ulster American Folk Park is part of the MiLES Project which continues to September 2009.

Evelyn Cardwell

Island of Ireland Co-ordinator

30th November 2008