

COMENIUS THREE NETWORK: LEARNINGMIGRATION

ISLAND OF IRELAND REPORT 2007

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**

- **Partner meeting** for the East Tyrone group schools (St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon, Dungannon Primary School, and Holy Trinity Primary, School, Cookstown), February 2007.

- **Language translations**

- In order to facilitate immigrant visitors and children to the Folk Park, the introductory map has been translated into five of the most commonly used newcomer languages.

- **Materials**

- **Moving On package** - Flyers for the Moving On Pack were distributed to the nine counties of Ulster and requests for 100 copies were received.
- Copies of the package were placed on the folkpark website at www.folkpark.com and web statistics reports indicate that 3,500 copies were downloaded up to December 2007.

- **New schools programme on Famine Emigration**

- A new on-site museum education programme has been developed around the popular award winning trilogy of novels on Famine Emigration from Ireland by children's author Marita Conlon-McKenna. The programmes have been fully booked and 1,750 pupils have participated in the programme so far. It is planned to repeat this programme in 2008. In depth evaluation on the programme was carried out with teachers and pupils.

- **Lectures**

- In January 2007 a lecture was held by the Centre for Migration Studies on "The Flight of the Earls" 1607. This was a key turning point in the history of settlement and immigration in Ulster and the lecture dealt with the flight of Irish noblemen to Europe, which enabled the Plantation of Ulster to take place.
- The one day autumn school on the Literature of Irish Exile took place in October 2007.

- **Links with Omagh Ethnic Community Forum**

- Links with this group have been further strengthened through the Shared Education Project in November 2007. Seven representatives of migrant families shared with us their experiences of settling in Omagh. They then visited the outdoor museum site in order to learn more about the emigrant experiences of Irish people in the past.

Southern Education and Library Board (SELB)

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

- The Ethnic Minority Achievement Services/EALs in the five area boards have been united into one single service for Northern Ireland, renamed the Inclusion and Diversity Service (IDS). Congratulations to Learning Migration partners Mary Yarr who has been appointed as Regional Advisor of the service, and Clodagh Daly as Assistant Advisory Officer. Both are now heavily involved in establishing the working mechanisms and delivery of the new service.

- **School Support**

- SELB supports its schools in Comenius projects, in establishing Comenius partnerships, in linking schools via email and in school exchange programmes (for details see International Activities).
- SELB supported Learning Migration partner schools St. Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon and Holy Trinity Primary Schools in the production of their Welcome DVDs.

- **Training**

- The joint North-South Toolkit '**Together Towards Inclusion: A Toolkit for Diversity in the Primary School**' has been completed. The toolkit was launched in December 2007, with representation from ministers of education in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.
- The post primary pilot programme: '**The Way In: Accessing Language & the Curriculum in the Post Primary Context**' has been extended beyond pilot schools and phase two of training for post primary schools involved in initial pilot, delivered.

- **Languages**

- Initial investigations on European Language Portfolios (ELPs) to support migrant pupils in schools in Northern Ireland has begun. It is hoped to develop portfolios for primary and post primary over the next two years. These are already in place in the Republic of Ireland.

Dungannon Primary School

- **Induction processes for newly arrived migrant children:**

- Welcome books for newly arrived children were prepared, and amended on a class basis - ready for use in September 2007
- Teachers attended training on Digital Storytelling so as work can begin on producing a CD/DVD about our school and Dungannon in general.
- Initial preparations made for DVD – Primary 7 prepared the Storyboard and began to take pictures and video of the local area.
- Picture dictionaries were purchased to help children with literacy activities and also with other areas of the curriculum

- **School Activities**

- Primary 7 classes studied the Great Famine in Ireland and 19th century emigration.

- **Other**

- Attended LearningMigration Meeting for the Island of Ireland.

St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon

- **Induction processes for newly arrived migrant children:**

- To facilitate migrant children and their parents we prepared a Welcome DVD which focuses on St. Patrick's Primary School, and in addition gives valuable information on key services in the town of Dungannon, including hospitals, Job Centres, post offices, churches, libraries, leisure centre etc.

- We conducted an in – depth review of the settling-in process for the newcomers including recording progress in children’s level of English language, holding interviews with parents and looking at the progress of children who have moved on to secondary schools.
- **Language developments.**
 - Lithuanian library books brought by language assistant were distributed to pupils.
 - Timetables for language assistants/ EAL teacher were drawn up.
 - Existing reading resources available in school were reviewed and a needs list drawn up.
- **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.
 - Primary 7 classes studied the Great Famine in Ireland and 19th century emigration.
- **Other**
 - Attended LearningMigration Meeting for the Island of Ireland, February 2007.

Holy Trinity Primary School Cookstown

- **Induction processes for newly arrived migrant children:**
 - We prepared a Welcome DVD which focussed on Holy Trinity Primary School and the town of Cookstown, to assist newly arrived parents and children.
 - Dedicated induction materials were prepared for EAL (English as an additional language) children.
- **Language**
 - A permanent EAL teacher appointed.
 - Multi lingual promotional materials were produced.
 - An audit of EAL provision in the school completed.
- **School activities**
 - Organised Catholic Education Week, which focussed on diversity.
 - Organised a curriculum night with translators present to assist newcomer parents
 - Organised a cultural night in December 2007.
 - Primary 7 classes studied the Great Famine in Ireland and 19th century emigration. The project included a study visit to the Ulster American Folk Park.
- **Other**
 - Updated Diversity Policy.
 - Attended group meeting in Dungannon.

Loreto College, Cavan

Work on Migration has continued on a number of levels this year, both national and international.

- **International Evening for Parents**

- On October 17th 2007, an International Evening was held for Parents of our International Students. This event will be further expanded in 2008.

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

- This year the school the greatly expanded its EAL programme with up to 8 teachers now involved.

- **Esat BT ‘Young Scientist’ Competition**

- In late 2006 and early 2007 a group of Transition Year students carried out a study on ‘The Changing Faces of Loreto College, Cavan’. The project examined school records over the past 15 years to examine the growing numbers of international students we have had during this time. They have surveyed the current student population (688 students) to determine how many students have moved to Ireland from abroad in recent years, and also to determine the number of students who have moved to Cavan from other parts of Ireland. They examined reasons why the families moved to Ireland and to Cavan in particular and to find out what they found difficult about arriving in a new school.
- The project was accepted for the Esat BT ‘Young Scientist’ Competition, and pupils presented their research at the RDS, Dublin in January 2007. This event attracted thousands of visitors and a lot of media attention.

- **Museum of Europe/European Schoolnet the “50 Years Together in Diversity” competition**

- On 3 September 2007, in partnership with the Museum of Europe, European Schoolnet launched the “50 Years Together in Diversity” school competition that aims to raise awareness about European cultural values, the milestones of European integration and the 50 years of unity in diversity. The competition was intended to enhance and support European citizenship education in schools, in the year when the European Union celebrates its 50th anniversary. Students of Loreto College, Cavan entered this competition and were selected to represent Ireland at the finals in Brussels at Easter.

- **Cross Curricular work and migration**

- Much cross-curricular work was done on the topic of migration, especially with the YAM themes in mind. (see International Activities section)

3. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Ireland of Ireland group is, by the nature of its existence, an international group. Some of the activities listed here are cross border activities i.e. joint initiatives by schools and institutions in Northern Ireland and their counterparts in the Republic of Ireland (ROI).

General

- 9 persons from the Island of Ireland group attended the Sofia conference in April 2007 from Ulster American Folk Park, Southern Education and Library Board, St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon and Holy Trinity Primary School Cookstown.

Ulster American Folk Park/Centre for Migration Studies

- **Network Conference**
 - one person from UAFP attended the Sofia conference in April 2007.
 - UAFP presented the Moving On Pack to the Sofia conference
- **European Links and Activities**
 - Attended Learning Migration co-ordinator's meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria on April 2007.
 - Hosted a meeting of MiLES Comenius 2 Project in Ulster American Folk Park in Northern Ireland in June 2007.

Loreto College

- **YAM project.**
 - In November 2007 Loreto College hosted a meeting in Dublin of some partner schools at which Mr. Gust Helland gave a presentation on the YAM project. This meeting coincided with an International session of the European Youth Parliament (EYP). The YAM partner schools attended a session of the EYP where a presentation was made to teachers detailing the YAM project.
 - Much cross-curricular work was done on the topic of migration, with the YAM themes in mind as follows:
 - 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.

- **YES (Young Europeans? Sure!) project - Year Three**
 - Carmel Gaffney hosted a YES partner meeting in Cavan early 2007.
 - As all the YES partners were also YAM schools we decided that our work for this year would all be based on migration and the four 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 will culminate with a visit to our coordinating school, Sandnes VGS in Sandnes, Norway in May for a YAM film festival.

Southern Education and Library Board (SELB)

- **Network Conferences**
 - Clodagh Daly and Mary Yarr from SELB attended Sofia Conference in April 2007.

- **European Links and Activities**
 - Clodagh Daly is a member of the LearningMigration Transnational group for Education Authorities. SELB report for the Transnational thematic group was finalised.
 - SELB has maintained its links with authorities in Slovenia and Portugal.
 - SELB/IDS supports schools in Comenius projects, in establishing Comenius partnerships, in linking schools via email and in school exchange programmes,
 - **Sunrise Project:** SELB/IDS has supported Holy Trinity Primary School in hosting preparatory Comenius meeting and in developing the application.
 - Encouraged and facilitated **St Patrick's Primary School**, Dungannon to develop the initial Comenius contacts made at Sofia conference.
 - Initial set up of Comenius link for **St Joseph's High School**, Newry as a result of SELB contacts established at Sofia.

- **Cross-Border Links**
 - **All Ireland Conference** on provision for the Early Years (0-6 years), held on 5 June 2007.
 - Joint ministerial launch of the primary toolkit: **Together Towards Inclusion: A Toolkit for Diversity in the Primary School**. The launch took place in Dundalk in December 2007.

Dungannon Primary School

- Initial contacts established with a school in Poland, Portugal and Republic of Ireland with a view to planning a joint Comenius 1 project.

St Patrick's Primary School Dungannon

- **European Conference**
 - 3 teachers attended the LearningMigration Conference in Sofia (April 2007)
- **Comenius Projects**
 - Initial contacts made at Sofia conference re a possible Comenius One project with Germany.

Holy Trinity Primary School.

- **European Conference**
 - three teachers attended the LearningMigration Conference in Sofia (April 2007)
- **Comenius Projects**
 - Holy Trinity Primary School is a member of the Sunrise Project and hosted a preparatory meeting in Cookstown in January to develop the application further. Three teachers attending the Sofia conference did further work on the application. Progress is slower than expected due to a number of unforeseen personal circumstances. It is hoped to resolve these in 2008.

4. USE OF THE WEBSITE

- Hands-on training took place for the new partners at the February group meeting, so all are familiar with its use and their passwords etc
- For a few months in mid 2007 technical problems caused by the upgrading of the Northern Ireland schools email system resulted in the blocking of all communications from the co-ordinator to the Northern Ireland partners. This issue has now been resolved. Personal e-mail communication has proved more reliable and all partners are now using e-mail effectively.
- Although we try to be as transparent as possible not all communication is suitable for posting on a public website. All suitable communications are posted to the LearningMigration website. However we need to put more effort into selling our achievements on the website. This is an objective for the year 2008.

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 in their respective fields, and much time is spent outside of the immediate project on the theme.

6. SUSTAINABILITY

- Partners of the group in general are finding the network to be a very positive experience. Particularly valued is the opportunity to network widely across Europe and to find partners who share their own particular interests and needs, with a view to developing further Comenius One projects. The Stavanger and Sofia conferences have proved to be extremely useful in establishing and facilitating these projects. Although some have experienced what hopefully are temporary difficulties, once established they will last well beyond the life of the LearningMigration project.
- The Ethnic Minority Achievement Unit of SELB as 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

31st December 2007