

Internationalization



Motto:

”International cooperation in education is not a luxury; it is a necessity and the foundation for the future”

Internationalization is about knowledge, skills and attitude. It contributes to the individual development of students and it helps their social formation.

Internationalization helps young people to be prepared for a global society. Finally internationalization is not a luxury thing, but a necessity since it gives a stronger competitiveness of a country in the European and thereafter global knowledge economy with a global labour market especially for higher educated people.

Internationalization has to start from yourself. It is all a matter of education at home as well as at school. Kindergartens should introduce international children songs so that the children get used to other languages. Children who can read already should get international input by watching international television programs with subtitles rather than with dubbing. Children should get informed about countries and cultures by visiting exhibitions and museums about other countries and cultures, by visiting sites about these subjects on the internet (You Tube, Wikipedia). People should be brought up with European, even global citizenship.

Managers of Middle Schools and High Schools should implement internationalization into the whole curriculum. They should install a coordinator at school about internationalization. That person should stimulate and coordinate all projects at school regarding internationalization. Internationalization in the curriculum is something that needs to be planned and supported by the whole school, rather than by individual teachers. Partnerships that start in a burst of enthusiasm can dwindle without whole school support. Schools should collaborate in regional and national platforms about internationalization to work more effectively.

Europe, the European Union and the European Commission



The Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission of the European Union has the following mission:

“To reinforce and promote lifelong learning, linguistic and cultural diversity, mobility and the engagement of European citizens, in particular the young.”

The Directorate-General for Education and Culture has the following tasks:

- education and training
- youth
- culture
- citizenship
- multilingualism
- sport

It has integrated its various educational and training initiatives under a single umbrella, the *Lifelong Learning Programme* (LLP). That programme aims to strengthen the European dimension in education and lifelong learning with the help of a significant budget of nearly €7 billion for 2007 to 2013. Funding is open to any organization involved in education that wants to work with European partners. See http://ec.europa.eu/education/index_en.htm.

The programme enables individuals at all stages of their lives to pursue stimulating learning opportunities across Europe. It comprises four sectoral programmes on school education (*Comenius*), higher education (*Erasmus*), vocational training (*Leonardo da Vinci*) and adult education (*Grundtvig*), and is completed by a transversal programme focusing on policy cooperation, languages, information and communication technology and dissemination and exploitation of results. The final element to the new programme is the Jean Monnet action, which focuses on supporting the teaching of European integration as a subject at universities, and supports certain key institutions and associations active in the field.



The aim of the LLP programme is to contribute, by emphasizing the need for lifelong learning, to the development of the European Community as an advanced knowledge society, with sustainable economic development, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. It aims to foster interaction, cooperation and mobility between education and training systems within the Community, so that they become a world quality reference.

See http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc78_en.htm .

The Fundacja Rozwoju Systemu Edukacji is in charge for initiatives for the *Comenius*, *Erasmus*, *Leonardo da Vinci* and *Grundtvig* programmes of the European Commission in Poland, see <http://www.frse.org.pl/> .

One example of a *Comenius* project is dealing with the subject of sustainable energy. In this project students of a Swedish, Italian, Dutch, Polish and Romanian High School participate in research on sustainable energy in their country and in the European Union. See <http://www.schooljournals.net/> .

The aim of the project is that students learn about their own energy consumption and its effects on their health and the environment. During the international meetings the students will look at the differences in energy consumption between the participating countries. The students of each school are studying this matter during their physics lessons. Every year a delegation of eight students of each participating school is going to visit each other at one of those schools. Purpose of this visit is to compare findings and results of their research on the subject.

One High School in Poland that is participating in the *Comenius* project about sustainable energy is the IV Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. Krzysztofa Kamila Baczyńskiego in Słupsk. See <http://www.4lo.slupsk.pl/> .

For the period 2007 – 2013 that Directorate-General has also started up the following programmes:

- The *Youth in Action Programme* aims to develop among young people a sense of personal responsibility, initiative, concern for others, civic participation and active involvement at local, national and European level. The programme will also help to improve support systems for youth activities.
See http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm .
- The *Culture Programme* aims to enhance the European cultural area. This will be done by developing cultural cooperation between the creators, cultural players and cultural institutions of the countries taking part in the programme.
See http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm .

- The *Europe for Citizens* Programme aims to help to bridge the perceived gap between the general public and the institutions of the European Union. This programme will provide the Union with instruments to promote active European citizenship. It puts citizens in the spotlight and offers them the opportunity to fully assume their responsibility as European citizens. It responds to the need to improve citizens' participation in the construction of Europe, and will encourage cooperation between citizens and their organizations from different countries in order to meet, act together and develop their own ideas in a European environment which goes beyond a national vision, while nonetheless respecting their diversity. Intercultural exchanges will contribute to improving the mutual knowledge of the culture and history of the European people. It will bring our common heritage to the fore and strengthen the basis for our common future. Mutual understanding, solidarity and the feeling of belonging to Europe are indeed the building blocks for the involvement of citizens.
See http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.htm .

Furthermore the Directorate-General of Education and Culture of the European Commission is in charge for multilingualism and for sport. Regarding *Multilingualism* a situation is aimed in which every EU citizen can speak at least two foreign languages in addition to their mother tongue. This follows the call by EU leaders that every child in the EU should be taught at least two foreign languages from an early age. See http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/index_en.htm .

Regarding *Sport* the European Commission acknowledges the essential role of sport in European society. On 11 July 2007, it adopted the White Paper on Sport, its first comprehensive document in this area. The main objectives of the White Paper are to enhance the visibility of sport in EU policy-making, to raise awareness of the needs and specificities of the sector, to ensure that the specificity of sport is taken into consideration in the development and implementation of EU policies, and to promote sport-related action at EU level. See http://ec.europa.eu/sport/index_en.htm .

What could each Middle School and each High School do regarding internationalization?

- organizing trips for each class to other countries.
- organizing exchange trips for each class to foreign schools where the students stay in host-families of those foreign schools (most municipalities do have partnership with foreign towns and have started up twin town committees. Via those committees schools can start up partnership with schools from those towns). The students could carrying out then some exchange projects together.
- starting up **eTwinning** projects that enable students to work with other students of schools of other European countries on a range of exciting curriculum projects (see <http://www.etwinning.net>).



eTwinning is an exciting initiative supported by the European Union's e-learning programme to enable schools in 28 European countries to use ICT to set up partnerships with other schools and to develop a programme of exchange activities. The eTwinning vision envisages long-term educational partnerships in which a large number of teachers, school managers and support staff will engage in exchange activity across a wide range of disciplines, curriculum topics and professional development issues.

Tools for communication between the students from different schools from different countries can be FlashMeeting: FlashMeeting is an easy to use online meeting application, it allows a dispersed group of people to meet from anywhere in the world with an internet connection. Typically a meeting is pre-booked by a registered user and a url -containing a unique password for the meeting- is returned by the FlashMeeting server. The 'booker' passes this on to the people they wish to participate, who simply click on the link to enter into the meeting at the arranged time (see <http://flashmeeting.e2bn.net/>).

Global Gateway brings also internationalization into the classroom, even from outside Europe. The Global Gateway is a new international website which has been developed by the British Council to enable people involved in education across the world to engage in creative partnerships.



It will help ensure that education crosses national boundaries and that young people become truly global citizens. See <http://www.globalgateway.org/> .



iEARN (International Education and Resource Network) is the world's largest non-profit global network made

up of over 20,000 schools and youth organizations in more than 115 countries, a network that enables teachers and youth to use the internet and other technologies to collaborate on projects that enhance learning and make a difference in the world. iEARN provides Learning Circles themes. Learning Circles are highly interactive, project-based partnerships among a small number of schools located throughout the world. There are two sessions held each year, September through January and January through May. A Learning Circle is created by a team of 6 till 8 teachers and their classes are joined in the virtual space of an electronic classroom.

The groups remains together over a 3 till 4 months period working on projects drawn from the curriculum of each of the classrooms organized around a selected theme. At the end of the term the group collects and publishes its work. Then, just as any class of students does, the Learning Circle comes to an end. Each session begins with new groupings of classes into Learning Circles.

See <http://www.iearn.org/> .

See for Poland: <http://webnews.textalk.com/pl/view.phtml?id=1510> .



With eJournals students learn to create and publish, to communicate and to collaborate international partnerships both in spoken and in written language.

See <http://ejournal.eduprojects.net/> .

To start an eJournal see <http://www.schooljournals.net> or

<http://www.ejournal.fi> .

To read about educational and ecological initiatives between Europe and India, see <http://ejournal.eumind.net/> .

DOTACJE NA INNOWACJE



- participating in **THIMUN**, The Hague International Model United Nations, a not-for-profit educational foundation since 1968, is an NGO in Roster Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information. See <http://www.thimun.org/> . The THIMUN Foundation organizes several conferences like:
 - THIMUN, a five-day simulation of the United Nations for High School students, taking place in January each year in The Hague, The Netherlands.
 - MINIMUN, a one-day Model United Nations taking place in The Hague, The Netherlands.



Objectives of THIMUN:

The object is to seek, through discussion, negotiation and debate, solutions to the various problems of the world: e.g. questions of human rights, protection of the environment, economic development, disarmament, the problems of youth and of refugees, as well as the more critical issues of war and peace. The young delegates, in seeking solutions to these problems, can learn to break away from narrow, national self-interest and develop true international cooperation. The research and preparation required, the adoption of views and attitudes other than their own, the involvement and interaction with so many other young people from around the world, all combine to give the young people a deep insight into the world's problems, to make them aware of the causes of conflict between nations and to lead them to a better understanding of the interests and motivation of others. Thus, in a small way, the THIMUN Foundation, through its conferences, attempts to fulfil the aims and goals set by the founders of the United Nations in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations: "to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours."

Participants at THIMUN:

The THIMUN conference now attracts around 3,800 students from more than 200 schools located in countries as far apart as Iceland and New Zealand, Peru and Russia. The students themselves originate from over 105 different countries. The THIMUN conference offers to most of the participants an excellent opportunity to expand, develop and put into practice their English language skills, on an informal as well as on a formal level. All the associated activities such as preparing resolutions, lobbying and debating are carried out in English and a high standard is demanded in the formulation of ideas, whether in the writing of resolutions or in arguing and debating with fellow students.

- participating in The Model European Parliament. The Model European Parliament (MEP) was conceived to foster the development of a fuller European awareness and understanding among the young people of Europe. Created in 1994, it has provided an opportunity for personal growth and communication between the nations of Europe today, to benefit the Europe of tomorrow. By simulating the sessions held in the actual European Parliament, students gain an insight into the process of European integration and a sense of European identity is fostered among young Europeans. At the same time, much attention is paid to the diversity of European cultures and languages and to the fact that diversity should not separate people but enrich their way of life and thinking.

The working language during the session is English. Each political theme has a topical focus that will be studied and debated in the ten committees. Former MEP delegates are chosen to chair the committees, there is also one president and two vice-presidents for the plenary session. In the general assembly, the resolutions are presented, debated and passed or rejected.

The goals of the MEP are:

- training young Europeans in goal-oriented cooperation and in diplomatic techniques
- making students aware of the importance of European cooperation for resolving common problems
- bringing students together in an international conference and making them communicate in adequate English

In 2004 the first MEP in Poland was held in Krzyżowa near Wrocław.

- participating in the European Youth Parliament. The European Youth Parliament is an a-political, multinational and non-profit organization run by young people for young people. It provides a platform for young people to develop their personal skills and to express their own opinions on European issues. See <http://www.eypej.org/> .



- participating in international school sport tournaments.



The ISF, the International School Sport Federation, is an international federation of official school sport organizations in the different countries or of representative organizations where there is no official one. It organizes international competitions in different sporting disciplines and encourages contests between school students with a view to promoting better mutual understanding. It seeks close collaboration with the school authorities of member countries, with the international sporting federations concerned, and with international organizations having similar aims. See <http://www.isfsports.org/> .

- participating in international cultural school events like in the Yokohama Youth Choral Festival for International Friendship, see <http://www.yycf.jp/> .
- participating in the annual international KANGAROO contest in March each year with the aim of promoting mathematics among young people of all levels around the world.

The contest will be held at school. See <http://www.math-ksf.org/> .

This is not an international event as such, since the students only stay at their own school for it, but the whole idea that five millions of students in the whole world are doing the same contest more or less at the same time could to be considered as an activity of internationalization.



See for Poland: <http://mat.umk.pl/kangur/>

- accommodating young people for a period of 5 or 10 months in a host family via a registered exchange organization and let them participate at school.
See <http://www.yfu.org/> and for Poland: <http://www.yfu.org.pl/> .
- stimulating students to go to a school or a college abroad for 5 or 10 months via a registered exchange organization.
See <http://www.yfu.org/> and for Poland: <http://www.yfu.org.pl/> .
- stimulating students to go to work abroad for a while, for example as an au-pair (= max. 12 months) via a registered organization.
See <http://www.aupair.com/> and for Poland: <http://www.aupair.com.pl/> .
- stimulating students and their families to travel via Servas International, so that they can meet the people from a specific country.
See <http://servas.org/> and for Poland: <http://www.servas.pl/> .

What could each Academy and each University do regarding internationalization?

Every university should participate in international platforms of universities like:

* European University Association (EUA)

The European University Association represents and supports higher education institutions in 46 countries, providing them with a unique forum to cooperate and keep abreast of the latest trends in higher education and research policies. Members of the Association are European universities involved in teaching and research, national associations of rectors and other organisations active in higher education and research.

EUA plays an essential role in shaping tomorrow's European higher education and research landscape thanks to its unique knowledge of the sector and the diversity of its members. The Association's mandate in the Bologna process, contribution to EU research policy-making and relations with intergovernmental organisations, European institutions and international associations, ensure its capacity to debate issues which are crucial for universities in relation to higher education, research and innovation.

EUA is the result of a merger between the Association of European Universities (CRE) and the Confederation of European Union Rectors' Conferences, which took place in Salamanca, Spain on 31 March 2001.

See <http://www.eua.be/>.

* International Research Universities Network (IRUN)

The International Research Universities Network is an international network of broad-based research universities. The universities participating in the Network are well known for the international quality of their research and education, and are strongly motivated to improve that quality even further.

The aim of IRUN is to further improve the quality of research and teaching at the universities involved. Within the Network, the exchange of researchers, lecturers and students will be encouraged and facilitated.

See <http://www.irun.eu/>.

See for a little movie about IRUN: <http://www2.ru.nl/cms/irun.wmv>.

* Coimbra Group of Universities

The Coimbra Group of Universities is an association of long-established European multidisciplinary universities of high international standard. The Coimbra Group is committed to creating special academic and cultural ties in order to promote, for the benefit of its members, internationalization, academic collaboration, excellence in learning and research, and service to society. It is also the purpose of the Group to influence European educational policy and to develop best practice through mutual exchange of experience.

See <http://www.coimbra-group.eu/> .

* Utrecht Network Universities

The Utrecht Network is a representative European-wide network of universities cooperating in the area of internationalization. The group is particularly committed to such areas as student and staff mobility, summer schools, the internationalization of curricula, joint curricula and double/joint degrees. The Utrecht Network represents 33 European universities in 28 countries, co-operating in the area of internationalization in the broadest sense of the word.

All members of the Utrecht Network are prominent and broadly based research universities with intensive international co-operation between them and with partners all over the world. This makes Utrecht Network a true European Network with a global outlook.

The database of the Utrecht Network Universities provides access to the following programmes at all Utrecht Network member universities:

- bachelor programmes
- master programmes
- summer schools

All programmes are recognized by the national authorities and linked with the research programmes of the universities concerned. These programmes are also open for students of universities that are not a member of the network, inside and outside Europe. See <http://www.utrecht-network.org/> .

Stimulating students to do a practical training or a part of the curriculum abroad via:

AIIESEC:

Present in over 1700 universities in over 107 countries and territories, AIIESEC, the world's largest student organization, is the international platform for young people to discover and develop their potential so as to have a positive impact in society. Towards this aim, AIIESEC runs more than 470 conferences , provides 5,500 work abroad opportunities, and offers over 7,700 leadership positions to their members each year. Together with a focus on building personal networks and exploring the direction and ambition of their future, AIIESEC has an innovative approach to engaging and developing young people.
See <http://www.aiesec.org/> .

IAESTE:

The aim of IAESTE is:

- to provide students in higher education with technical experience relevant to their studies
- to offer employers well-qualified and motivated trainees
- to be a source of cultural enrichment for trainees and their host communities

IAESTE'S Mission:

To operate a high quality practical training exchange programme between members in order to enhance technical and professional development and to promote international understanding and goodwill amongst students, academic institutions, employers and the wider community.
See <http://www.iaeste.org/> .

NUFFIC

NUFFIC is a leading Dutch organization for international cooperation in higher education. Nuffic's motto is "Linking Knowledge Worldwide. Whichever way you look at it, Linking Knowledge Worldwide means bringing people together, because it is knowledge that makes us unique as people. Linking knowledge means linking people. What we love about knowledge is that you cannot give it away. You can only share it with others. This sharing often leads to the creation of new knowledge. And so we add to the wealth of knowledge on our planet by communicating with each other and by forming networks to share it in. Nuffic is a proud exponent of Linking Knowledge Worldwide."

See <http://www.nuffic.nl/international-students> and <http://www.nuffic.nl/international-organizations> .

Last but not least ...

People should open themselves to other languages, to other cultures. People should start networking with people across borders. People should be willing to be flexible, to be willing to move and to be willing to adapt to new situations. People should be willing to cross borders ...



Borders are in fact artificial, created by human beings ...

Curiosity knows no boundaries ...

Innovation and creativity thrive particularly in climates characterized by openness and diversity ...

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