

Key Action: Learning Mobility of Individuals
Action Type: School education staff mobility

Project Title

to link hospital school to the outside world

Good practice example

Project Coordinator

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Project Information

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Project Summary

Background

As teachers at L'Ecole Escale, we want to open up our students to a wider world and enable them to play a full part in European society. However, the hospital institutions in which we work are sometimes reluctant to allow us to work with them on projects that lead to greater openness.

In Belgium, there is no specific initial or ongoing training for teaching young people whose schooling is interrupted because of health problems.

Our involvement for over 30 years with the Wallonia Brussels Federation Association of Hospital Teachers has enabled us to identify examples of good practice, but we are looking for more innovative ideas, training and new working methods.

Today, stays in somatic hospitals are shorter but are followed by periods of convalescence at home. During these periods, the young people are more or less cut off from their school, and home follow-up in Wallonia Brussels Federation is very poorly organized. Supporting young people after their hospitalization is one of the objectives of our Steering Plan.

We therefore wanted to see how our European counterparts working in similar structures deal with similar issues.

Objectives

In setting up this project, our first intention was to create links with our European colleagues so that we could continue to exchange ideas on our future practices.

As a second step, we tried and enriched our thinking and our teaching practices. Therefore we wanted to :

- discover new activities carried out by teachers to create an outsider perspective ;
- discover new ideas for paying attention to cultural expressions ;
- enrich our ways of dealing with societal issues in order to awaken our young people to European citizenship ;
- develop our media tools (radio, websites, newspapers, video clips, etc.) ;
- improve the way in which we combat early school leaving ;
- develop our thinking on home schooling and post-hospital support.

Finally, we wanted to improve our day-to-day organization, namely :

- ensuring better, more effective communication with hospital institutions ;
- improving links with multidisciplinary teams ;
- adapting our care to the variability of stays ;
- strengthening our links with home schools.

Implementation

The activities carried out are :

6 job shadowing :

- 1 in Guadalajara (hospital-based school in a multidisciplinary hospital offering home-based teaching) and one day in a school in Madrid located in a psychiatric hospital ;
- 1 in Rouen (school based in a somatic hospital offering post-hospital support and \pm 1 day in a school based in a psychiatric hospital) ;
- 1 in Ljubljana (school located in a somatic and psychiatric hospital and which has developed distance learning) ;

- 1 in Paris (school specialized in home teaching as well as hospital schools located in somatic and psychiatric hospitals) ;
- 1 in Göteborg (schools based in somatic and psychiatric units) ;
- 1 in Reykjavik (schools based in somatic and psychiatric hospitals).

A one-day meeting with Pr. Marcel Rufo and teachers at the Clinique des Trois Cyprès (Marseille). Prof. Rufo has been behind the creation of several innovative psychiatric centers for adolescents in which school is seen as a form of cultural care.

Two teachers from our school took part in a conference in Rouen on the theme of "School drop-out.

Weekly English conversation tables and English language training courses for 4 teachers in Ireland and the UK.

Achievements

Forty staff members from our school were able to play an active role in the project by taking part in a trip to observe the real-life work of our partners abroad and to exchange views with our European colleagues on the very special profession of hospital educator.

Each job shadowing trip gave rise to a detailed report on the observations made, with particular attention paid to the main theme of our project (the link between the hospital and the outside world). These reports were presented in a lively and convivial way during six special evenings organized on our premises in Brussels or Basse-Wavre. They were also published on our school website in the space reserved for staff.

Friendly contacts have been established with our partner schools. These links will lead to future collaborations, some of which are already planned.

Observations in our European partner schools will give rise to projects and changes in our teaching methods, such as the project to write and publish a collective work about our practices as hospital educators, as well as various external communication initiatives.

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