



Climate Friendly Management in European Schools

CLIMES, a two-year COMENIUS project, aimed at developing a systemic approach to introduce the topic of climate change in European schools by implementing a functioning climate-friendly management system. The vision related to the implementation of the CLIMES management system is that the whole school community will be induced to behave in a climate-friendly way, i.e. to mitigate damages for the climate, and to adapt to the expected changes in climate. Furthermore, CLIMES intends to promote a European exchange of experience and good practice among participating schools and external stakeholders and will organise European conferences with pupils and teachers of CLIMES partner schools.

CLIMES Final Conference

The project finished in December 2012 with a final conference, to which all partners and award winners of the CLIMES Award 2012 were invited (see previous newsletters). The CLIMES partner schools and the winning teams met in Stockholm for a European event, which was organised by the host school, the Värmdö Gymnasium. The school's "award group", the organising team, set up a two-day programme for the European students. The programme included the CLIMES Award ceremony, workshops, cultural events and also the traditional Lucia parade as well as an exhibition, where all schools had the opportunity to show their climate-friendly activities and projects.

Instead of a lot of words we say it with pictures – this newsletter gives some visual impressions of the final event:

THE PARTICIPANTS





The Award



TED Istanbul College Foundation
Private High School, Turkey

THE WINNER



Aizputes Secondary School, Latvia



THE EXHIBITION

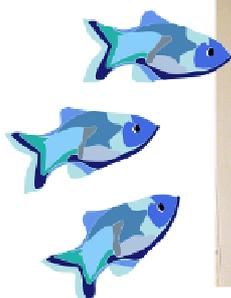
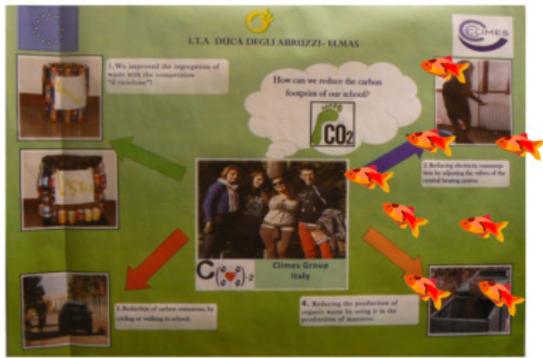


THE EXHIBITION



The exhibition was set up in the big school hall of the Värmdö Gymnasium. Apart from interesting talks and discussions the visit also offered tasting of local specialities that all partner schools had brought to Stockholm, such as Turkish delight, Swedish Santa Lucia saffron buns; Lussekatt, home made dolci from Italy, real German Schwarzbrot and Gummibärchen as well as Austrian Mozartkugeln etc.





Here you can see the contribution from (clockwise):

The Italian partner school IIS Duca degli Abruzzi, Elmas, Italy

The winning team from Aizputes Secondary School, Latvia

The METU Foundation School, Ankara, Turkey

The Värmdö Gymnasium, Stockholm, Sweden

Every school had set up a stand, where visitors could get an idea of the various climate related activities that have been carried out in the framework of the CLIMES management system. The basis for the activities is the Action Plan that all schools had established on the basis for their first climate check. The first climate check was carried out in the first project phase and schools gathered data of their climate relevant operations in order to calculate their carbon footprint. Subsequently, each school defined actions and measures to reduce the carbon footprint.





All students from the six CLIMES partner schools that have been involved in the two-year CLIMES project and that have contributed to implementing the CLIMES management system in their schools have been awarded a certificate in recognition of their great engagement and commitment.

CERTIFICATES FOR ALL



LUCIA CELEBRATION



SOCIAL GATHERING

The first day started with a wonderful celebration – on December 13th, it is Santa Lucia and Sweden traditionally celebrates the day with processions. The school had its own procession and we could admire Lucia with a candle-wreath in her hair accompanied by white-dressed star boys and angles, singing together in an awesome choir. If it had not been so dark, we would have seen some tears here and there...

We were also offered a traditional Christmas dinner with köttbullar, gravad lax, herring, cabbage, ham, Jansson's Temptation, rye bread and many things more. To crown the day we all danced traditional Swedish folk dances around the dinner tables.

A visit to Stockholm with cultural visits and leisure time rounded off the event.





Perspectives

Acting recommendations

CLIMES management is now ready to be transferred to new schools that are interested in becoming climate-friendly, raising awareness on climate change, promoting a healthy life style and saving money on energy consumption.

How to implement CLIMES in a successful, effective and sustainable way? CLIMES partners have gathered lessons learnt and best practices and have summarised them in an overall experience report, which presents clear acting recommendations in implementing the CLIMES management. The acting recommendations are available in all partner languages and in English and can be downloaded from the project website:

Network proposal

CLIMES goes GREEN – no spelling mistake – GREEN stands for Green Environment Education European Network and shall promote the effective integration of climate change education into educational programmes and school curricula, on the one hand, and promote creativity in science education, making science education more innovative and attractive through a centrally important issue, on the other hand.

During the partner meeting in Stockholm, especially against the background of the successful conference and the enthusiasm of teachers, students and administrative stakeholders taking part in CLIMES the decision was taken to further develop the approach to a COMENIUS network. The partnership succeeded to attract a number of highly experienced schools, project partners, intermediate institutions and other networks and to integrate them in the new network concept.

The coordinator of the CLIMES project submitted the network application GREEN on January 31st, 2013 on behalf of all CLIMES partners and new partners. We keep our fingers crossed and wait for a (hopefully positive) response from the European Commission in June 2013.

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