



## European Elos network (Comenius 3)

### Summary

The network 'Elos' aims at implementing (bottom-up) 'Europe as a learning environment in schools', by exchanging experiences and tools between expert organisations and school networks from 11 European countries. Elos schools offer high quality education, which recognises the European Union as an entity, and prepares pupils for their role as European citizens.

Target groups are pupils (aged 12-19), teachers and management staff from (secondary general) schools.

Main activities include virtual and face-to-face meetings, exchanging information and reporting about innovations in the thematic area, working jointly in development groups on harmonizing existing national concepts and tools, matching and coaching of school networks, and disseminating the network's outputs.

Expected outputs are common tools (standard for Elos schools, description of learner competences, learner portfolio, review and certification procedure), web-based services (including the network website [www.elos.eu](http://www.elos.eu)), studies and other products for dissemination (such as curriculum plans and modules). National advisory panels and a scientific committee will assist the 13 network partners and the schools in reaching these outputs.

The funded network activities will run from October 2005 to September 2008.

### Partners

Coordinator:

NL: EuroSchool, Kirsten Stamm, e-mail [kstamm@euroschool.nl](mailto:kstamm@euroschool.nl)

Partners in alphabetical order of country code:

DE (national coordinator): Schulen ans Netz e.V., Kerstin Ciba, e-mail [kerstin.ciba@schulen-ans-netz.de](mailto:kerstin.ciba@schulen-ans-netz.de)

DE: Netzwerk Europaorientierter Schulen e.V. (NEOS), Jürgen Milchert, e-mail [juergenmilchert@europaschulekoeln.org](mailto:juergenmilchert@europaschulekoeln.org)

ES (Basque country): Dirección de innovación educativa del departamento de educación del gobierno vasco (Innovative educational direction. Department of education of the Basque country), Conchi Bergera Serrano, [Huisrpe3@ej-gv.es](mailto:Huisrpe3@ej-gv.es)

ES (Madrid): Dirección general de promoción educativa, Francisco J. García Tartera, [edu.programasinternacionales@madrid.org](mailto:edu.programasinternacionales@madrid.org)

IE/UKN: Southern Education and Library Board, European Studies Programme, Maxine Judge, [office@esp.dnet.co.uk](mailto:office@esp.dnet.co.uk)

IT: Commissione Italiana "Europa a Scuola" (Italian Commission 'Europe at School'), c/o Patto Territoriale Nord Barese Ofantino, Angela Paganelli, [clubeuropeo@libero.it](mailto:clubeuropeo@libero.it)

LT: Kauno technologijos universitetas (Kaunas University of Technology), Palmira Jucevičienė, [palmira.juceviciene@ktu.lt](mailto:palmira.juceviciene@ktu.lt)

MT: Department of Student Services and International Relations Education Division, Josephine Vassallo, [josvass@vol.net.mt](mailto:josvass@vol.net.mt)

NO: Askim videregående skole (Askim secondary school), Trond Vågmo, [trovag@ostfold-f.kommune.no](mailto:trovag@ostfold-f.kommune.no)

PL: Fundacja centrum Edukacji Obywatelskiej (Center for Citizenship Education), Monika Koszyńska, [monika@ceo.org.pl](mailto:monika@ceo.org.pl)

PT: Centro de Informação Europeia Jacques Delors (Jacques Delors European Information Centre), Filomena António, [fantonio@cijdelors.pt](mailto:fantonio@cijdelors.pt) or [eventura@cijdelors.pt](mailto:eventura@cijdelors.pt)

UK: The International Learning and Research Centre, Mary Rose, [mary.rose@internationallearning.org.uk](mailto:mary.rose@internationallearning.org.uk)

Furthermore, Elos schools have contacts with partner schools from Cyprus, Finland, France, Hungary, Romania, Sweden; the search for national support organisations in these and other countries will continue throughout the network period.

All partners are expected to involve (or create) supportive structures in their own countries, as a basis for the European cooperation. This will include the following activities:

- Advising/coaching new national network of schools that want to implement Elos; or existing networks of schools that want to harmonize concepts and tools with Elos (support try-out of tools, documentation of good practice, (self-) evaluation, organize meetings);
- Building up national advisory panels (identifying national/regional key players (experts, policy makers), organizing communication between them, disseminating results through them);
- Informing new schools about how to join Elos;
- Giving input from the national perspective into the European network, and vice versa (attending Elos network meetings, taking part in virtual information exchange).

Some partners will also take on extra development tasks, depending on their expertise in a specific area (such as IT, research, teacher training, etc.) and capacities.

## Objectives of the network

- To enhance the exchange of information in the thematic area between schools and advisory organisations that are active in the field of internationalisation/European dimension/quality of education across European countries, and thereby profit from each others' expertise;
- To develop common indicators for schools across different European countries who want to provide a truly 'European Learning Environment', and thereby introduce a national and supranational standard; To specifically define European competences for students and teachers (based on the key competences following the Lisbon process), and thereby clarify the meaning of European citizenship and ways to achieve it at school;
- To discuss national aspects of curriculum development, examination and certification within Elos, and thereby reach joint basic procedures among network partners and partner schools, with a longer perspective (while taking into account European developments with regard to the Framework of Reference for Languages, learner portfolios, intercultural learning frameworks, and Europass);
- To disseminate guidelines, materials and tools from a European perspective for schools who want to set up Elos at school, and thereby facilitate the process;
- To provide 'good practices' (standardized case studies of schools that meet the Elos standard) for schools outside the network who also want to prepare their students and teachers for lifelong learning and working in a European context, and thereby increase the number of Elos-schools over time;
- To provide a large pool of schools through the broader national networks who could co-operate in the thematic area also within other Socrates Actions such as Comenius 1, and thereby multiply the findings;
- To monitor the process and evaluate the results of national and European cooperation within Elos, and thereby prove effectiveness;
- To provide input for discussions on national and supranational levels on how to implement 'Europe' at schools, and thereby inform and possibly help define future European programmes and projects.

Specific aims of the Elos variants:

- To motivate more young people to choose studies and careers in the (European) fields of science and technology and thus stimulate the knowledge society;

- To prepare young people for the European job market, especially in pre-vocational training, and thus stimulate mobility and flexibility of the European work force.

General principle:

- To include IT/modern technology in the process of reaching the aims and objectives.

## IT in the network

A network website will be established ([www.elos.eu](http://www.elos.eu); in the meantime see [www.elos.europeesplatform.nl](http://www.elos.europeesplatform.nl)). The website will contain information on the network and its outputs for a broader public, and will also be linked to an interactive communications and working platform for the partners and associated organisations. "Schulen ans Netz" will provide for all partners an English version of its collaborative learning environment [www.lo-net.de](http://www.lo-net.de), which will serve as the central platform for the collaboration of the projects partners, for virtual school projects, for classroom teaching and the development of learning materials.

The development of learning materials by German teachers will be supported by Virtual Seminars, whose outcomes will be at the disposal of the whole network. Furthermore materials from Lehrer Online ([www.lehrer-online.de](http://www.lehrer-online.de)) suited for Elos will be adapted and made available in English language. As Schulen ans Netz is the German NSS for eTwinning, there will be strong synergies between the two actions: Elos schools and teachers from Elos schools will be privileged when applying for eTwinning trainings in Germany, which are free-of-charge and combine intercultural, project management and ICT skills. Similar trainings can also be offered for the European Elos conferences.

## Monitoring and evaluation accompanying the network

Monitoring, quality evaluation and research will include:

- At the beginning, self-evaluation by schools using a checklist with indicators.
- Measuring progress of teachers and students participating in Elos, concerning knowledge, skills and attitudes on Europe/European Citizenship. Instruments will be centrally developed, and then translated and administered by each school involved in the project with the help of the national support organisation. Probably designed as a pre- and post-project (evaluation) tool. The outcomes will be compared internationally.
- In-depth discussions with teachers and school management on effects of teacher mobility and structural school changes through Elos. Guidelines will be developed by a core group concerned with 'evaluation'. Methods can include interviews, focus groups, peer review, action research.
- Laying a foundation for possible follow-up research (e.g. within Complimentary Measures or national research programmes). For example, for future long-term monitoring surveys on study and career choices of pupils who participated in Elos, the network will look into setting up a monitoring system with individual student registration.

As part of the evaluation, a (draft) 'standard' for visitation/certification of Elos-schools and a description of competences for certification of students will have been developed and tried out.

To support monitoring, evaluation and research efforts on a more general level in the thematic area, and possibly initiate additional activities, a scientific committee will be formed, under the chairmanship of dr. Henk Oonk, director of the European Platform for Dutch Education in The Netherlands. The following scientists have so far been approached to consider membership: Prof dr. Jaap Dronkers, European Institute Florence, IT; Yves Bernaert, BE; prof. dr. Brigita Janiunaite, KTU LT; University Groningen, NL; prof. Wolfgang Nieke, Universität Rostock, DE, Frank Heyworth, Equals. Others have been suggested but not yet been contacted. The committee will reflect the diversity of disciplines and countries involved in the thematic area.

The NAs, the national Ministries of Education, and EU institutions such as Eurydice, will be asked to consider certain findings and recommendations in planning their own monitoring, evaluation and research efforts.

## Products for dissemination

The network will develop the following products:

- A manual for schools on how to start up Elos.

- Case studies of 'good practices' for schools.
- Curriculum plans/suggestions; form depending on national context.
- An overview of/links to modules and other relevant teaching/learning materials.
- Articles published on websites and through communication channels of the partners.
- Tools such as a checklist and a learner portfolio.

## Teacher training and conferences

The network will stimulate teacher training colleges and other providers to offer training courses for teachers and school management on different aspects of Elos. Possibly as Comenius 2.2.c course (in English), combined with other training programmes (e.g. e-twinning) and/or within national contexts (in partners' languages). Some partners will offer teacher training in the thematic area themselves (e.g. Ireland/Northern Ireland, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal); others will cooperate with teacher training institutions to provide training (e.g. The Netherlands).

Besides virtual meetings on the Internet platform, conferences/seminars will be scheduled where also necessary basic training for schools can take place. These will be open to all schools that are interested in starting Comenius 1 projects in the thematic area, associated organisations, experts from other networks and policy makers. Institutions that structurally associate themselves to Elos will be regarded as 'members'.

## Cooperation with other Socrates networks

Cooperation is foreseen at least with the following networks, in alphabetical order (some of the Elos network partners or schools are already intertwined with these networks/projects, on a personal level):

Cercles Europe (sometimes also called EuropaClubs): Exists since the beginning of the 90's. French initiative, co-operation between seven European regions: *Pays de Loire, Emilia-Romagna, Balaton, Schleswig-Holstein, Skåne, Northern Ireland and Ireland*. Aims at producing learning materials and training teachers and others interested. Schools use a Europe Module. Steered by the French partner.  
Contact person towards Elos: Annaïck Halais (France).

Clubes Europeus: A school network since 1986, in the beginning with a focus on Portuguese accession to the EU. Grew in the 90's to an example for many other European countries. National co-ordinating points are established (addresses are known to Elos). Since 1998 steered by GAERI, for the Portuguese Ministry of Education. Since 2002 two publications: Newsletters (international) and Bolitims (national network).  
Liaison with Elos: Elvira Ventura (Portugal), Angela Paganelli (Italy).

Europaschulen: Nearly all German federal states have 'Europaschulen'. The concept however differs per state. Numbers of schools: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern 13, Brandenburg 17, Schleswig-Holstein 22, Lower Saxony 40, Thüringen 15, Sachsen-Anhalt 16, Hessen 23. In North Rhine-Westphalia, 14 schools form together with 60 schools in Europe the NEOS-network. Bavaria knows initiatives of individual schools, such as a 'Europa-Zertifikat' for pupils.  
Liaison with Elos: Kerstin Ciba (all states), Jürgen Milchert (NEOS e.V.).

European Studies Programme (ESP): Since 1986, an initiative by the Ministries of Education of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Nowadays schools from the rest of Europe participate as well. Choice for an approach across subjects. Co-operation with the *Cercles Europe* on the Europe Module. Co-ordinators meet yearly. Activities are co-ordinated by the European Studies Office in Northern Ireland. See website: [www.european-studies.org](http://www.european-studies.org).  
Liaison with Elos: Maxine Judge (IE/UKN).

Europe at school: Makes offers on an annual basis to pupils, students (and, of course, teachers) of all school types and age groups; it can easily be integrated into the day-to-day practice in European education. The main instruments are an annual art and essay competition ('European Competition') at primary and secondary school level, the *Europe @t School - Internet Award Scheme*, a series of youth gatherings involving prize-winners, training seminars for youth leaders and teacher seminars.

Participation is open to pupils and students from the Member States of the European Union, the Council of Europe, and from other contracting parties to the European Cultural Convention. Annually more than a half a million young people in

currently 32 European countries participate in the Europe at School activities.

See website: <http://www.europe-at-school.org>

Liaison with Elos: Angela Paganelli (Italy).

Pipe project / Innovation Circle: PIPE (Participation, Identity, Planning, Entrepreneurship) was an Interreg IIIb project including regions around the Baltic Sea, running from 2002 to 2004. PIPE wanted to contribute to a sustainable, polycentric and peaceful development within the Baltic Sea Region, by building an interregional co-operation between regions, municipalities, schools and young people. The project focussed on how young people can influence the local and regional development. The aim was to attract and engage the younger generation in democratic processes, being aware that they are an important resource of new ideas and energy.

A follow-up under the title "Innovation Circle" has been started, the kick-off will be in May 2005, the new working period is 2005 to 2007. Subsidy is given under Interreg by the EU, the Norwegian government, the participating communities and Østfold Fylke among others. The partners are from Norway (Askim and Mysen-area, Notodden and Finnmark), Sweden (Tranamo and Robertsfors), Latvia (Cesis), Finland (Rovaniemi), Lithuania (Alytus), Russia (Murmansk and Pskov), Estonia (Rapla), Poland. The project is based upon small town areas in the Baltic region that are going to cooperate. The purpose is to strengthen innovation, create new ideas, new industry, and different skills in those communities. Also schools in all the areas are involved, especially to work out ideas and new products in "Young enterprise".

Liaison with Elos: Trond Vagmo (Norway).

ISTEPEC (Intercultural Studies for Teacher Education to Promote European Citizenship): This new Comenius 2.1 project aims to develop the democratic, intercultural and pedagogical competences of the European teacher, emphasizing the social, cultural, political, economical, judicial, ethical and pragmatic dimensions of citizenship. Target Groups are teachers and teacher educators in all subject areas. Main activities include: Designing, implementing and assessing teacher training modules; Organizing seminars for lecturers in teacher education; Setting up teachers' and teachers' mobility so as to develop professional competences by observing, teaching and analysing lessons in schools in different countries; Publishing resources, online and traditional. Project partners come from France, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and Poland.

Contact person towards Elos: Rob van Otterdijk, Fontys Tilburg (Netherlands).

## **Sustainability**

Through the integration in curricula and institutional policies, the thematic area will remain present in the schools and support organisations after the Comenius 3 network funding period ends.

The website will be continued (at least) by the core IT group (NL and DE), either as an own domain or included in existing national websites.

The partners will look for national funding to continue their support activities for schools.

The national advisory panels will work during the networks' funding period towards embedding Elos in national educational structures. This should ensure continuation of Elos on a national level.

Elos will lobby for creating possibilities in future European and national or bilateral programmes that encourage innovative work in the thematic area.