

Abstract of the presentation ClimaSOS

Climate Change PDW - Denmark

Teresa Lacerda – teresalacerda@hotmail.com – coordinator

Gabriel André Ferreira (gabriel.andre.ferreira@gmail.com)

1. Introduction

ClimaSOS is a eTwinning and Comenius project whose focus is the climate changes. This project is coordinate by Póvoa de Lanhoso Secondary School and includes schools from Cyprus (Eniaio Lykeio Kykkoy A' from Nicosia), Hungary (Kölcsey Ferenc Gimnázium, Zalaegerszeg), Italy (Liceo scientifico Statale "Vincenzo Cuoco", Naples), Spain (IES Cieza de León, Llerena), Sweden (Söderskolan, Sandviken) and, recently, from Romania (Liceul Teoretic Al. I. Cuza, Iasi).

This truly international team of teachers, students and local communities has joined to investigate the causes and consequences of the climatic changes. We are also taking a critical look at present practices at various levels, involving people who are ready to change their minds and habits and develop a wiser approach to their environment.

We believe that something must be done now, and we hope that we can reach people, communities and organisations. The students will have the opportunity to compare what is going on in their localities with other realities at a European and global level in order to confront opinions, find out different ways to solve the problems, suggest solutions and act locally in a European citizen's perspective.

The ClimaSOS project work is based on the use of ICT tools and the project is registered as an eTwinning partnership. It has also received Comenius funding for its project meetings organised by the partner schools.

URL of project: <http://twinspace.etwinning.net/launcher.cfm?lang=en&ca=climasos> and **Beta version in** <http://www.climasoseurope.co.cc/>

2. Principal aims

The main objective of this Project is to develop the students environmental consciousness that goes beyond their geographical limits, having always in mind the idea "Act locally, thinking

globally". Having said this, we also want to have thinking and able to discuss students, pro-acting to face and try to solve, as possible, the national problems, the European ones and even the global environmental problems. In this context the aims of the project are wider than the environment, involving some capabilities that we consider essential. The main aims of the ClimaSOS project are presented next in three different levels:

A) Language competence

- Express ideas clearly, both orally and in a written form, both in the mother tongue and in English.
- Learn the basic environment-related vocabulary of the other languages involved.
- Motivate all teachers and learners to increase the number of foreign languages they speak.

B) Awareness raising in various environment-related issues

- Understand and take into serious consideration the role of the increasing greenhouse effect in the climate change.
- Organize campaigns in order to make communities sensible to the importance of protecting the environment.
- Motivate students to find different forms of approaching the issue of climate change in other regions of the world.
- Promote activities involving the school and the local community.
- Reach for conclusions and propose solutions in order to change the general view on sustainable development.

C) Skills development in other areas

- Researching techniques, organizing the information, work field and presentation of results.
- Improving critical thinking.
- Cooperative learning and group work.
- Sharing acquired knowledge with individuals from other communities.
- Developing the taste for environmental journalism.
- Developing skills in the use of information and new communication technologies (ICT tools) to make research, communicate, organize and present information.

- Promoting interdisciplinary activities.
- Promoting transnational cooperation and exchanges between schools and teacher training establishments.
- Encouraging innovation in pedagogical methods and materials.
- Promoting the transnational dissemination of good practices and innovation in the management of schools.
- Developing an active and conscious European citizenship.

3. Activities and pedagogical use of ICT tools

In a multilateral partnership like ClimaSOS, the use of ICT tools is essential, both for the contact and the creation of the project products. We present a list of the most important tools we are using: exchanging e-mails; searching for information in the Internet; taking digital photos and recording videos; audio chat and videoconference; processing the data of surveys and producing graphs; organising the information to present to the public (slideshow); creating a project website; feeding some of the products into TwinSpace.

(<http://twinspace.etwinning.net/launcher.cfm?lang=en&ca=climasos>).

Next, we present the activities / products with more impact:

- The **ClimaSOS website project**, which is planned to be a gradually widening source of information, available for anyone in and outside the project (in construction; Beta version in <http://www.climasoseurope.co.cc/>).
- **Presentations in school events** during which a photo gallery and project results are presented.
- Uploading some of the materials onto **Twinspace**.
<http://twinspace.etwinning.net/launcher.cfm?lang=en&ca=climasos>
- Articles in local **newspapers**, invitations of **media** and other concerned institutions.
- The project is registered on the **Young Reporters of the Environment (YRE)** website and will upload some of the students' articles about various issues on the environment.
- **Blog** ClimaSOS in <http://climasos.blogspot.com/> and <http://rgwclimasos.blogspot.com/>
- **School programs** on various international days (e.g. the Intl. Day for Climate Change”).

- **Calendar** published in a large number of copies for the school year of 2008/2009 with the collaboration of all the schools.

- Video "Pillow to pillow" about environmental awareness.

- There have been four project meetings/mobilities so far, in Portugal, Italy, Sweden and Hungary, and further meetings are planned. During these meetings, teachers and students presented and evaluated the work to do in each school.

- "The Day to Reduce Global Warming" in every country. On this day – 23th March of 2009 – we had conferences by specialists, environmental councillors from each county, videoconference with the different countries, then the award to the best environmental company of the county.

4. Evaluation

Some opinions from the ClimaSOS students:

"We decided we wanted to integrate this project because we really care about the planet. This project has not only allowed us to interact with other countries and to find out about the environmental problems in each of them but mainly to become much more aware of these serious problems. So we certainly make a very positive assessment of a year's work that will be continued by other students in the next two years, which makes the project even richer as it is developed by many people from different countries." - **Students from Portuguese ClimaSOS Team**

"The way we are living with the consequences of decisions made in the last century, the next generation must live with the consequences of ours. The main task of the ClimaSOS team is to make people understand that it is time to change our attitude, and that local actions can also make a difference. Feel your responsibility!" **Students from Hungarian ClimaSOS Team**

"All of us must become aware of the great problem we are facing up to realize that if we work together, we can save our precious planet. Remember: our individual actions can stop the climate change". **Students from Spanish ClimaSOS Team**

"I like this project because we need to be careful about our world. Imagine the whole earth was only grey?" - **Nellie Frank, student from Sweden**

"In the last century, due to the development of technology lots of environmental problems have appeared and now humanity has started to live with the consequences. For example Cyprus, due to the lack of water suffers from drought. Other countries also have different problems like acid rain, environmental pollution and lots of waste. The greenhouse effect and the ozone hole are not

confronted in the correct way from humanity so the problems are getting worse.” - **Students from Cypriot ClimaSOS Team**

“Earth calls, we answer. Together we'll make the difference”. - **Students from Italian ClimaSOS Team**

From the evaluation done by the teachers there are some lessons that came up and can be useful for new projects. Here are some of them:

- The involvement of students in transnational mobility is very important.
- It is essential for the success of the project to carry out the tasks in accordance in all the teams.
- The coordinator of each partner school must respond quickly to emails.
- Create a good planning of activities (rigorous plan) with your description. Propose a reduced number of activities that may be completed by all countries involved. Do not be too ambitious.
- Even distribution of tasks and your schedule.
- Constant communication by mail.
- Have at least one product that can be distributed and shared on paper or the Internet.

Note: Parts of this text are integrated in another that was sent to approval by the organizers of Challenges 2009 congress that will take place at Minho University, Portugal, in May. That text was sent by the teachers Teresa Lacerda and Katalin Fehervary (Fehoka@hotmail.com) of Kölcsey Ferenc Gimnázium, Zalaegerszeg, Hungary, as a proposal to present a poster publicising the Project ClimaSOS.