

ASIA-EUROPE CLASSROOM NETWORK (AEC-NET) PROJECTS FOR 2011/2012



PROJECT FACTSHEET

NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS OF PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR(S)

Ms Maria Antonietta Sessa
Teacher
I.I.S. "Galilei – Vetrone" Benevento
Italy
Email: marsed@tin.it

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF HIGH SCHOOL OR SECONDARY SCHOOL:

I.I.S. "Galilei – Vetrone" Benevento
piazza Risorgimento
Benevento 82100
Italy

COUNTRY:

Italy

PROPOSED PROJECT NAME:

A Magic Flight to Berlin

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / SUMMARY

The project aims at creating a communicative "highway" which will allow students from Asian and European countries to get in touch and exchange information about themselves and the countries where they live. The most important final products will be:

- The project website
- The project Social Forum
- The video about Berlin (*whose script will be collaboratively written by the students of all partner schools*), its environmental historical and artistic resources and its youth scene with information about young people's favourite meeting places and fashion trends.

The protagonists of the video will be four (or more) groups of students who go to Berlin on a virtual magic flight in order to visit their friends. During their visit they will explore several aspects of the German culture, history and environment. The aspects which will be highlighted are:

- The environmental resources of Berlin and the area where the city is situated
- The environmental problems of the city and best practices to deal with them
- The artistic heritage of the city
- Popular young people's trends and free time meeting places
- Some hints to Berlin's recent history (the fall of the Wall, for instance).

The video will be subtitled in English so that it may have an added value as Learning Object, destined to all those students and teachers who are interested in Germany and its historical and environmental heritage.

RATIONALE FOR THE PROJECT:

The most important goal is to set up a collaborative learning environment where students from Asia and Europe can exchange ideas and make friends with each other. As in the previous project, the focus is still on a European country since a video about India (*which is the only Asian country in the partnership*) has already been produced. In fact, during the next school year we wish to be able to widen our partnership by including more Asian countries.

The research will cover relevant **topic areas** like, for example, Berlin's **historical background and its environmental resources and historical heritage**. It will also look into the best practices concerning **alternative energies** and management of **environmental problems**. A new interesting topic will first be discussed in the Social Network and then presented in the video: **young people's meeting places in Berlin**. These places are supposed to be some sort of very informal spontaneous youth "fads" and, therefore, totally unconnected to official organizations. The virtual visit to these places will certainly lead to interesting aspects of youth cultures: i.e. trends in young fashion: punks, new hippies, emos, etc.

Main reasons for choosing **the historical heritage and the environment as main topics of the project:**

In I.I.S. "Galilei Vetrone" (*the Italian coordinating school*) there is a strong interest in environmental issues (the Galilei Land Surveying syllabus is centered around **ecological building technologies** and the focal point of "Vetrone" studies is **innovative and non-polluting agricultural techniques**). Some students are chiefly engaged in cultural subjects, which are preliminary to university attendance, like history and arts. Thus, during the whole project development, the Italian students will be engaged in a research that is closely linked to their syllabus. These studies will certainly be the engine for intense and productive communication with their Asian and European friends.

The situations may vary in each partner country but, on the whole, we can say that the environment and historical heritage are common in all European and Asian high school curricula.

Also this year the project will have the technical support of the **C.E.A.S.S. agency** based in Sassari, a city of Sardinia, Italy. The agency is involved in many initiatives and activities mostly concerning environmental education and learning activities for schools.

Finally, the main reason for launching this project (*as it has been with the former "Magic flights' videos"*), is to underline the importance, for European and Asian students to overcome the cultural misconceptions that sometimes may prevent effective communication between young people of the two continents.

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION FROM ASIAN SCHOOLS/STUDENTS:

In each project phase Asian teachers and students will contribute to the project development, on an equal basis with their European partners.

Expected project tasks:

- Participating in the NING Social Network (and also **flickr albums facebook and g-talk chats**) by exchanging messages, uploading photos and contributing to discussion forums
- Communicating through **Skype** (phone calls and video conferences)
- Studying German culture and history (the German teachers and students will suggest areas of particular interest)

- Making suggestions for the storyboard
- Writing some sections of “A magic flight to Berlin” screenplay (*according to what it is stated in the storyboard*)
- Filming, editing and publishing the video.

Each school will only write sections of the final script and not whole scripts. This way they won't produce multiple versions of the screenplay for the same video.

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION FROM EUROPEAN SCHOOLS/STUDENTS:

The same as above.

And in particular:

- The Italian school will coordinate the project work, develop/update the website with the annexed social network and set up the activities on schedule; as regards the video, the Italian coordinator (with help of one of the two Indian coordinators, Mr Swagat Sen) will be in charge of the post production work.
- The German school will lead the research and script-writing processes by suggesting the topics and places in Berlin that will be visited during the “virtual trip”.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SCHOOLS/STUDENTS INVOLVED:

No. of Schools / Students : Approximately 11 Schools (plus new applicants from Asia) / 90 Students
 Students Age Group : 13 - 18
 Level of English : Beginners/ Intermediate

PROPOSED DURATION OF PROJECT (PLEASE STATE TENTATIVE START AND END DATE):

Duration : 8 Months
 Start Date : September 2011
 End Date : June 2012

ICT TOOLS / SOFTWARE REQUIRED:

- Joomla! (Web developing – Content Management System)
- Adobe Flash CS4
- Adobe Dreamweaver CS 4
- NING (Social network)
- Adobe Première CS4
- Photoshop CS4
- CrazyTalkAnimator 4

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED:

- Flickr albums
- Facebook
- g-talk chats
- Google earth
- software for video conferencing
- smart board
- green or blue screen for Chroma key effect