



INTRODUCTION

The Comenius Regio Conference 2011 is organised by the European Commission and the Agence Europe-Education-Formation France on 11 and 12 May 2011, for members of regional and local education authorities implementing **Comenius Regio Partnership Projects**. The conference aims to provide opportunities for representatives of these authorities to reflect on the achievements of their projects over the last 2 years. It also provides a chance to discuss the challenges which lie ahead for school education in Europe, and in which regional and local authorities play a crucial role. Above all, the conference is designed to facilitate the creation of networks of regions, in order to lay the foundations for future collaboration between European regions and to give better visibility to the policy innovations developed through their partnerships.

Taking place in the heart of Bordeaux, France, **the Comenius Regio Conference 2011** will provide opportunities for formal and informal networking and dissemination of **the Comenius Regio partnership projects' outcomes**. More than this, the conference will allow participants to explore ways to make their partnerships even more successful in the future.

PROGRAMME

The two-day programme, including panel sessions and thematic workshops, will provide participants with a forum to discuss numerous topics relevant to their partnerships and the added value of regional cooperation in school education. Project exhibitions will be an opportunity to share good practice and «coffee corners» will create a networking environment to discuss common issues, exchange experiences or identify partners for future cooperation.

• Plenary Sessions and Workshops

The plenary sessions of **11 May 2011** will focus on introducing the aims of the conference by providing information on the policy behind some of the most popular themes selected by **the Comenius Regio partnership projects**. We will also be pleased to welcome external speakers to receive their expert perspective on these themes. Just as importantly, the first day will be an opportunity to meet other participants and to begin networking in preparation for the second day's discussions.

The thematic workshops of **12 May 2011** are the core of the conference and give the chance to share the challenges and achievements of **the Comenius Regio partnership projects**. Workshops will be held on the four themes that were the most popular in **the Comenius Regio partnership projects**; the discussions of each workshop will be reported back in the afternoon plenary session. We invite conference participants to raise challenges they have faced, to share the issues and innovations developed around the themes and to consider the future of these issues in education in their regions.

The plenary session in the afternoon will begin with feedback from the morning's thematic workshops followed by a panel discussion on how to encourage the creation of networks of regions interested in developing future collaboration in school education. This will be followed by a presentation of the administrative and financial aspects of conducting a **Comenius Regio partnership project**, followed by a question and answer session.

Languages. In the plenary sessions, English, French and German may be used; interpretation between these languages will be provided. In the thematic workshops interpretation English and French will be provided.



• Networking

There will be many opportunities for conference participants to engage in informal networking. Discussions start in the exhibition areas or coffee corners, where you will find examples of educational themes and successful **Comenius Regio partnership projects**; discussions can continue during the conference lunch and the dinner.

The Exhibition area is home to a variety of displays about the workshop themes (Key competences; Inclusive education and preventing early school leaving; teachers and school leaders; school cooperation with local community and business). Conference participants are invited to explore the exhibition areas between sessions: these areas will offer the chance to make European contacts and to build collaborative relationships with other regions.

Coffee corners provide an opportunity to network informally and to discuss the proceedings of the conference, as well as the experiences of the last two years of partnership projects. More than this, we hope that the coffee corners will be a space where participants can meet new potential partners and develop their relationships with existing ones, to lay the foundation for more successful regional cooperation in the future. Panels for sticking post-it messages are available and allow people to identify partners and opportunities for regions to cooperate.

Materials from participating partnerships. Regional and local authorities have been invited to submit partnership project materials that could be used in the exhibition area for the benefit of other participants. Participants are encouraged to make use of this space to publicise and to disseminate their project results, as well as to help promote good practice between regional and local authorities.

Internet connection. A number of computers with free access to wireless internet connexion are available in the exhibition areas.

Dinner on 11 May. All participants are invited to a dinner in the restaurant of the conference venue, **on the 7th floor, in the evening of 11 May.** It will be another chance for attendees to meet informally, with the aim of facilitating discussions and providing an excellent networking environment.

Lunch will be provided to all participants at the conference venue, **in the exhibition area, on 12 May.** This will be an opportunity for the participants to reflect together on discussions and to finalise plans for future collaboration.

The prize-giving ceremony of the Hippocrene Foundation and cocktail dinner on 12 May. The Mayor of Bordeaux, Alain Juppé, invites participants to **the City Hall**, to the prize-giving ceremony of the Hippocrene Foundation in cooperation with the French Ministry of Education and the European Association for Education (AEDE). The ceremony will be followed by a cocktail dinner, hosted by the Mayor, in the beautiful, historic grounds of the City Hall building, the Hotel de Rohan.

Later in the evening, **the CAPC – the Museum of Modern Art** home to one the finest collection of modern art nationwide – will be reserved for a **private viewing by conference participants.**

1st DAY, 11 MAY 2011

12:30 – 15:00 Registration

15:15 – 16:00 **PLENARY SESSION – GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE CONFERENCE**
Room SYLVOS

Chair: Adam POKORNY, Head of the Unit for School education policy and the Comenius programme, Directorate General for Education and Culture, European Commission

- **Opening and welcome from the European Commission**
- **Alain ROUSSET**, President of the Regional Council of Aquitaine, President of the Association des Régions de France.
- **Alin Adrian NICA**, Chairman of the Commission for Education, Youth, Culture and Research, Committee of the Regions

16:00 – 16:45 Coffee break and networking: exhibition areas and coffee corners

Room GUYOT

16:45 – 18:00 **PLENARY SESSION – «SCHOOLS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY – THE ROLE OF REGIONAL COOPERATION»**
Room SYLVOS

- **Jerzy WISNIEWSKI** – “Key competences for lifelong learning – how can schools change to respond to the challenges” of the 21st Century?
- **François DUBET** – “The role of school education in enhancing social inclusion in an increasingly diverse society”.

19:30 Dinner

Jefferson Restaurant, 7th floor

2nd DAY, 12 MAY 2011

09:00 – 09:15 **PLENARY SESSION – «THE ROLE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES IN BUILDING A EUROPEAN AREA OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING»**
Room SYLVOS

Chair: Antoine GODBERT, Director, Agence Europe France Education

- **Philippe RICHERT**, Minister for Local Authorities in the French Ministry of the Interior, Overseas, Local Authorities and Immigration

09:15 – 09:30 **INTRODUCTION TO THE THEMATIC WORKSHOPS** Room SYLVOS

09:30 – 11:00 **THEMATIC WORKSHOPS** Rooms ROYAT
WORKSHOP 1: KEY COMPETENCES, OPENING SCHOOLS TO A NEW WAY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

- **Ann LOONEY**, Chief Executive, Irish National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
- **Risto JAAKOLA**, representative of the Future Learning Environment partnership
- **Anne Kari THORSRUD**, representative of the Increasing Literacy Skills partnership

WORKSHOP 2: INCLUSIVE, SUPPORTIVE AND MOTIVATING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL AND HOW TO PREVENT EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING

- **Paul DOWNES**, Director, Educational Disadvantage Centre, St Patrick’s College, Dublin
- **Theo VAN DE VEERDONK**, representative of the Dropout Prevention in Schools partnership



- **Ana TURIEL PINTADO**, representative of the SPICE, a cooperative project involving students, parents, intercultural, community and education partnership

WORKSHOP 3: EQUIPPING TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LEADERS FOR A CHANGING SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

- **Ursula UZERLI**, Head of Unit EU coordination and international recognition, Board of Teacher Education, Hessen
- **Rimvydas ZAILSKAS**, representative of the Performance Management and Self Evaluation for Qualified Education in Europe partnership
- **Bhavani SHARMA**, representative of the Career Pathways in the Education Sector partnership

WORKSHOP 4: SCHOOL COOPERATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS

- **Kevin SMITH**, Chief executive, Young Chamber UK
- **Gisella LANGÉ**, representative of the Milan-Paris: the Thread of Fashion partnership
- **John RULLESTAD**, representative of the CREATE; Collaboration in Education Aiming Towards Employment partnership

11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break and networking: exhibition areas and coffee corners	Room GUYOT
11:30 – 12:45	THEMATIC WORKSHOPS CONTINUED	Rooms ROYAT
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch	Room GUYOT
14:30 – 16:00	PANEL DISCUSSION ON FUTURE NETWORKING INCLUDING FEEDBACK FROM THE WORKSHOPS	Room SYLVOS
16:00 – 16:45	Coffee break and networking: exhibition areas and coffee corners	Room GUYOT
16:45 – 17:30	PLENARY SESSION- PRESENTATION ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL REPORTING ISSUES	Room SYLVOS
	• Margarita LAGO , Deputy Head of Unit - Comenius coordinator, Directorate-General for Education and Culture, European Commission	
17:30 – 18:15	CLOSING OF CONFERENCE	Room SYLVOS
	Chair: Adam POKORNY , Head of the Unit for School education policy and the Comenius programme, Directorate General for Education and Culture, European Commission	
	• Alain JUPPÉ , French Minister of State in charge of Foreign and European Affairs, Mayor of Bordeaux	
	• Jan TRUSZCZYŃSKI , Director General, Directorate-General for Education and Culture, the European Commission	
	<i>In the presence of Laurent WAUQUIEZ, French Minister in charge of European Affairs, under the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs</i>	
19:00 – 19:30	Prize-giving ceremony of the Hippocrene Foundation,	The City Hall
19:30 – 20:15	Cocktail dinner	The City Hall, Hotel de Rohan
20:30	Private viewing at the Museum of Modern Art	CAPC

PLENARY SESSION CHAIRS AND SPEAKERS



Adam POKORNY has been Head of the Unit for School education policy and the Comenius programme, in the Directorate General for Education and Culture of the European Commission since 2007. Between 1990 and 2001 he worked for the Department for Education in London on dossiers including further education reform, education finance, school curriculum and examinations, and reform of teachers' pay. From 1995 to 1998 he was seconded to the European Commission, where he worked on the Erasmus Programme. He joined the European Commission in 2001 and worked on the preparation and negotiation of the Lifelong Learning Programme, the coordination of education and training policy.



Alain ROUSSET has been President of the Regional Council of Aquitaine since 1998 and a Deputy in the French National Assembly since 2007. He has also been the President of the Association des Régions de France since 2004.



Alin Adrian NICA has been Mayor of Ducești Noi, Romania, since 2004. In 2007 he became a member of the Committee of the Regions, after having had observer status there from 2005. Since the beginning of 2010, he has been chair of that Committee's Commission for Education, Youth, Culture and Research. He is also Vice-President of the Association of Communes of Romania.



Jerzy WISNIEWSKI is an expert in education, a member of the Governing Boards of CERI and of the European Training Foundation. He is also a member of the High Level Group of Experts on Literacy. He was Director of the Polish Ministry of Education in 1998 and Head of the Strategy and Structural Funds Department from 2003 to 2006. He coordinated a study on cross-curricular key competences in Europe («Key Competences in Europe: Opening Door for Lifelong Learners across the School Curriculum and Teacher Education»).



François DUBET is a sociologist and professor at the Université de Bordeaux Segalen. He is also a director of studies at the Paris Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and researcher at the Centre Emile Durkheim and the Centre d'Analyse et d'Intervention Sociologiques. His current work focuses on education, the world of work, the feelings of justice and sociological theory.



Antoine GODBERT has been Director of the Agence Europe Education Formation (2E2F) in Bordeaux, France, since November 2010. Beforehand, since 2009, he was diplomatic adviser to Luc Chatel, French Minister of National Education. He is also an affiliate professor at ESCP Europe, where he is responsible for the department «European Geopolitical Studies». A graduate of the ENA (the National School of Administration) and Normale Sup Saint Cloud, Antoine Godbert began his career as a journalist and has held executive positions in the consulting firms Anthenor Public Affairs and AGMA Consulting.



Philippe RICHERT is Minister for Local Authorities in the French Minister of Interior, Overseas, Local Authorities and Immigration, within the Government of François Fillon, since November 2010. He is in charge of the implementation of the reform of local and regional authorities. He is also President of the Regional Council of Alsace.



Margarita LAGO is Deputy Head of the Unit “School policy and Comenius”. She is particularly in charge of the coordination of the Comenius programme. She has been working on the European programmes of education and research during the last 24 years, as a responsible for programmes and projects evaluation. She has also been responsible for contracts and financial management and has set up a Total Quality Management approach.



Jan TRUSZCZYŃSKI, has been the Director-General in the Directorate-General for Education and Culture at the European Commission since May 2010, when he came from the position of Deputy Director-General in the same Directorate-General. He joined the European Commission in January 2007, when he was appointed a Deputy Director-General for Enlargement, with responsibility for enlargement strategy and communication. From 2001 to 2005 Mr Truszczyński was first Undersecretary of State, then Secretary of State in the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this capacity, he was Poland’s chief negotiator during its EU accession negotiations. Prior to that, Mr Truszczyński was Ambassador of Poland to the EU in Brussels from 1996 to 2001.



Alain JUPPÉ has been the French Minister of State in charge of Foreign and European Affairs since February 2011 and is also Mayor of Bordeaux. He was Prime Minister of France from 1995 to 1997 and has held several ministerial posts: Minister of Defence and Veterans’ Affairs 2010 - 2011, Minister of Foreign Affairs 1993 - 1995, and Minister of the Budget and Government Spokesman 1986 - 1988.

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



Ann LOONEY, formerly a post-primary teacher of Religious Education and English, joined the full-time staff of the Irish National Council for Curriculum and Assessment in 1997 and was appointed CEO in 2001. She holds a Doctorate in Education from the Institute of Education of the University of London. She has published on curriculum and assessment policy, school culture and ethos, and religious education and has presented papers in Ireland, north and south, in the US, Canada, Australia and China on curriculum, assessment and school reform.



Paul DOWNES is Senior Lecturer in the Psychology of Education and Director of the Educational Disadvantage Centre at St. Patrick’s College, Dublin, Ireland. He has written books on heroin addiction and social exclusion in Estonia and Latvia, early school leaving, and human trafficking. He was a member of the Expert Advisory Group to the Irish Parliament and Senate’s Education Committee for its report on Early School Leaving (2010) and is a research consultant with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe for a report on minority education in Kosovo. He is author of a comparative report on access to education for socio-economically disadvantaged groups for the European Commission-funded research project ‘Towards a Lifelong Learning Society’.



Ursula UZERLI is a Director at the Board of Teacher Education in Kassel, Hessen, and Head of the Unit for EU Coordination and International Recognition. She was for several years the Coordinator of European Network on Teacher Education Policies. She has been the German representative on the European Commission’s peer-learning working group on Teachers since 2005, nominated by the German Bundesrat. She worked as an Upper Secondary teacher from 1978 to 1989 and then moved to the English Department of the University of Kassel where she worked in the field of language acquisition research and multilingual/-cultural projects until 1998



Kevin SMITH is Chief Executive of Young Chamber UK and originator of the Young Chamber of Commerce concept, which has now spread across the UK and is generating interest in many countries around the world. Young Chamber connects schoolchildren aged 11 to 19 with the world of work. Kevin has worked with the Chamber of Commerce Network within the UK for the past 9 years, prior to which he worked for one of the UK Government’s Training and Enterprise Councils and an Economic Partnership. Kevin also worked for a number of years for a well known retail organisation, where he gained extensive senior management and business experience.

THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

• Key competences, opening schools to a new way of teaching and learning

Developing key competences for the 21st Century requires new approaches to teaching and learning. More innovative learning environments, more collaboration with the world outside schools and new partnerships are needed – learning does not only take place in the classroom! How can regional collaboration contribute to making schools motivating and relevant places for today’s children and young people?

Further reading: http://ec.europa.eu/education/school-education/doc830_en.htm
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:117:0001:0007:EN:PDF>

• Inclusive, supportive and motivating learning environments for all and how to prevent early school leaving

School should benefit all pupils, irrespective of their background or abilities, and enable them to make the most of their potential. How can regional cooperation help school authorities share inclusive approaches to teaching and learning, ways of improving performance and motivation, and effective responses to challenges such as multicultural and multilingual classrooms and early school leaving?

Further reading: http://ec.europa.eu/education/school-education/doc2268_en.htm
http://ec.europa.eu/education/school-education/doc2270_en.htm

• Equipping teachers and school leaders for a changing school environment

School leaders are crucial in creating effective environments for learning. Teachers are the key to providing pupils with high quality learning experiences. But school staff also needs to be life-long learners and reflective practitioners. How can regional cooperation help school authorities promote this? How can we turn all our schools into places of learning for teachers: through classroom practice for student teachers, induction programmes for newly qualified teachers and continuing professional development for all?

Further reading: http://ec.europa.eu/education/school-education/doc832_en.htm

• School cooperation with local community and business

Focuses on one of the central ideas of Regio cooperation and will be an opportunity to exchange ideas on effective collaboration of local/ regional authorities with other stakeholders within their communities in the field of school education.

Further reading: http://ec.europa.eu/education/school-education/doc2279_en.htm

.... AND THEIR PROJECTS

• Key competences, opening schools to a new way of teaching and learning

- Future Learning Environment, Mr Risto Jaakola
- Increasing Literacy Skills, Ms Anne Kari Thorsrud

- **Inclusive, supportive and motivating learning environments for all and how to prevent early school leaving**
 - Dropout Prevention in Schools, Mr Theo van de Veerdonk
 - SPICE, a cooperative project involving students, parents, intercultural, community and education, Ms Ana Turiel Pintado
- **Equipping teachers and school leaders for a changing school environment**
 - Performance Management and Self Evaluation for Qualified Education in Europe, Mr Rimvydas Zailskas
 - Career Pathways in the Education Sector, Ms Bhavani Sharma
- **School cooperation with local community and business**
 - Milan-Paris: the Thread of Fashion, Ms Gisella Langé
 - CREATE; Collaboration in Education Aiming Towards Employment, Mr John Rullestad

THEMATIC STANDS

- **Key competences**
 - Creativity to breaking barriers to achievement, Mr John Gilroy
 - Increasing Literacy Skills, Ms Anne Kari Thorsrud
- **Inclusive education and preventing early school leaving**
 - Violence at school, Ms Vilma Juozapaviciute-Kupriene
 - SPICE, a cooperative project involving students, parents, intercultural, community and education, Ms Ana Turiel Pintado
- **Teachers and school leaders**
 - Performance Management and Self Evaluation for Qualified Education in Europe, Mr Rimvydas Zailskas
 - Career Pathways in the Education Sector, Ms Bhavani Sharma
- **School cooperation with local community and business**
 - Bridge, Marjo Yliluoma
 - Milan-Paris: the Thread of Fashion, Ms Gisella Langé
- **European Commission**
- **Agence Europe-Education-Formation France**
- **Local partners**

AFTER THE CLOSING

The Mayor of Bordeaux, **Alain Juppé**, invites participants to the **City Hall**, to the **prize-giving ceremony** of the Hippocrene Foundation in cooperation with the French Ministry of Education and the European Association for Education (AEDE). **The 2011 Hippocrene Prize** will reward up to 6 school projects acting in favour of European cooperation. The ceremony will be followed by a **cocktail dinner**, hosted by the Mayor, in the beautiful, historic grounds of **the City Hall building, the Hotel de Rohan**.

Later in the evening, **the CAPC – the Museum of Modern Art** home to one the finest collection of modern art nationwide – will be reserved for a **private viewing** by conference participants.