



During the week of April 20-26th 2009, 85 selected Ambassador schools all over Sweden opened their doors to visitors. Often the local press came to make a report. The range of activities that took place was vast and impressive: Comenius lunch buffets and Comenius cakes were offered together with expositions, film or slide presentations, music performances, presentations from pupils/teachers/Comenius assistants and sometimes even the possibility to meet representatives from the partner schools – live or via webcam.



At **Polhemsgymnasiet in Gothenburg** visitors were invited to exhibitions, expositions and lessons. The school has taken part in several international cooperations and has often been a host school for Comenius assistants.

At Polhemsgymnasiet the sustainability of projects really has come true. Material as well as learning and teaching methods are continuously used by a lot more students and teachers than those who took part in the original partnerships. The aim of spreading the use of all kinds of international cooperation to as many as possible at the school is implemented by all people that you meet at Polhelmsgymnasiet. This was greatly appreciated by the visitors during the Comenius week. Some examples of WebPages of former projects: [www.lingua-jip.de](http://www.lingua-jip.de) and [www.statvoks.no/sigurd](http://www.statvoks.no/sigurd)



The Hotel and Restaurant School for pupils with LLD, **Slottsbergsgymnasiet, Frölunda/Gothenburg**, invited visitors to their Comenius partnership called “Smashed potatoes”. The project aims at promoting the students’ ability for communication and understanding; to take part in conversations, understand instructions or to express their minds – and so on – in a foreign language. The goal is to make the preparation of Leonardo da Vinci placements for students with LDD easier and more effective. For this purpose teachers and students in England, Sweden and Germany have been developing board games for learning vocabulary in a number of areas of interests, languages and technical terms. During the Comenius week pupils and teachers from the partner school City College Plymouth, England visited and worked together with their Swedish colleagues in developing the games further. The pupils had made all the preparations for the Comenius week, which included exhibitions, expositions, playing the board games and having a typical British afternoon tea. All highly appreciated by the visitors.



The Media Programme for pupils with LLD, **Slottsbergsgymnasiet Lindholmen/Gothenburg**, invited visitors to their Comenius partnership called Ethno marketing. The project title represents the work of students of different cultures and identities who are supposed to experience and also develop various ideas of getting-to-know-each-other. It is considered as a chance to reflect on potential differences concerning perception and interpretation of things due to different social, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. This intercultural exchange, based on the European idea, enables young people to create positive concepts for a "barrier-free" communication process and thus a better start in their jobs. A special focus lies in the cooperation with all kinds of school types, i.e. two schools work with handicapped students who need a special vocational support.

The students in Gothenburg had introduced and discussed the word and meaning of "ethno" in different areas: environment, economy, health, race, language, identity, religion, culture. After that they had produced different products in areas that were chosen as result of reflections by the students about "my ethno area". This was displayed mainly by means of multi-media, which was highly appreciated by the visitors.



“Being part of this Comenius project was the best thing that has happened to me during my schooldays” said a pupil spontaneously during the school “**Prins Wilhelm’s**” activities for “Comenius opens doors”. The pupil in question was involved in the exchange with a Spanish school in Tarragona and was one of the pupils that manned the three stands that were set up for this very day.



One stand was dedicated to describing the project and displaying the products - travel guides for young people in Tarragona (ES), Lemgo (DE) and Flen (SE). Stand number two showed photos and films from the different class exchanges and stand number three made it possible for visitors to ask general questions on how to find partner schools and how to apply for a Comenius partnership.



It was a crowded event with many active pupils present, all wearing special t-shirts with "Ask me" written on the back. There were also many pupils from the nearby secondary school that had been granted time off from ordinary classes to visit this Open House event. The principal gave an introductory speech where he claimed being particularly proud to be one of the two ambassador schools in the region – an important task as the region is underrepresented when it comes to Comenius. The project's real enthusiast, Carmen Castilla, supervised it all. Here she takes care of two of the many visiting teachers, one from the nearby lower secondary school and one from a school from the regional capital, Eskilstuna. The open house was closed with a Comenius lunch for guests and all active participants. The students had even made a special Comenius cake for dessert!

The European dimension is present everywhere during the Comenius Open Doors Day in **Råsunda skola in Solna**, just north of Stockholm.

"Everyone wants to join the project" says Bengt Andersson, enthusiastic teacher and Swedish coordinator of FOFOF, a Comenius project with German, Welsh and Polish partner schools.

All schools in the partnership work with pupils with special needs and during the "Open Doors" we get to find out more about project meetings, talk to Swedish pupils and teachers and even see a concert filmed during a project meeting in Germany. Visiting teachers from other schools can also find out more about creating, applying for and developing a project from Bengt and his colleagues.

