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European best practices to support children with high potential and to access training for gifted children with disabilities – Gifted (for) you 2014 - 1 - RO01 - KA201- 002957

KICKOFF MEETING MINUTES

Jan.13-16, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

❖ January 13

During the first session (9.00 - 12.30 a.m.) the project coordinator -Florica Stoica, Principal "Saint Mary" of Special Middle School for Hearing Impaired presented the coordinating institution and the project.

Partner organizations were presented as follows:

Dorota Mazur presented the Polish partner "Specjalny Ośrodek Szkolno-Wychowawczy nr 2" and the team members involved in the project activity and Plovdiv University and the team involved was presented by Dr. Vesela Kazashka.

Changes in the preliminary program were announced – working meeting and visit to the Plovdiv University is shifted to January 14 and the job shadowing in the school for children with hearing impairment to January 15 due to engagement of prof. Lefterova on Jan. 15.

❖ January 14

9:00 to 12:30 – meeting with the team of the Plovdiv University involved in the project and discussion on the activities and products to be delivered. Drafting the work breakdown with the team.

Second part of the day was dedicated to visiting the Pedagogic Faculty and Department of Special Education, meeting colleagues from the department and discussing the project activities. The Faculty of Pedagogy was established in 1984. Positioned at the new building of the university, located in "Bulgaria bul. 236". The Faculty is a prominent center for scientific research and education for highly qualified specialists in the fields of pedagogics, psychology and arts. Annually 3000 students study in 13 specialties for bachelor degree and 25 for master degree, 1200 of which study in regular form, including 20 foreign students. The Faculty of Pedagogics educates students from Greece, Turkey, Germany, Moldova, Great Britain, Macedonia and Kuwait.

The lecturers at the Faculty of Pedagogics are more than 120, while half of them are habilitated (full time professors) and two thirds have other scientific degrees (Ph.D. and assoc. Ph.D.). Many of the lecturers have specialized in prominent scientific institutes and higher education schools abroad. The Faculty of Pedagogy has a wide specialized library, section for English courses, three study computer halls, hall for constant Internet access, video hall, up to date equipped seminar halls, auditoriums and lecture halls, representative meetings hall. The Faculty has its own specialized web site and local area computer network. Centers for career-guidance, educational management, psycho-pedagogic diagnosis and art therapy function within the faculty.

The Faculty maintains close connections with the universities in Amsterdam (The Netherlands), Malmo (Sweden), San Diego (USA), Skopje (Macedonia), Shtip (Macedonia), Zagreb (Croatia), Istanbul (Turkey), Edinburgh University (Scotland), Roehim University, Bradford University

(Great Britain), Aveiro (Portugal), Janina University, Rhodes University (Greece), Jerusalem University (Israel) and others. Students have the opportunity to get their education for a period of time (semester or two semesters) at the universities in Paris, Lion, Lil, Ghent, Bremen, Göttingen, Florence and Venice.

❖ **January 15**

9.00 - 12.30 – The study visit to the Special School for children with hearing impairment "Prof. V.Belinov" - Plovdiv started with presentation of the school. The principal Mrs Garova presented the professional training programs provided in the school in two specialties – Operator in the Sewing Industry and Cooking. Lunch in the school was prepared and served by the students in specialty Cooking.

13.30-17:30 – Job shadowing in classes of general subjects and individual speech therapy classes.

❖ **January 16**

9.00 to 12.30 Final clarifications on project web based tools – yahoo group and wikispace “Gifted for You” – as working spaces for project team members for administrative matters related to the project management and uploading contents related to the specified topics, sharing comments and ideas. Schedule for the next project meeting in Poland – April 19 – 24, 2015. Official closing of the meeting and giving certificates of attendance.

Dr. Vesela Kazashka
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Plovdiv University