



Quality Assurance through Synergy of Internal and External Evaluation of Schools. Its Effects on Learning and Teaching.

NEWSLETTER No 2 July 2005

Dear all

Since the official beginning of the activities of the network in October 2004 nearly a year has passed. Before the summer holidays it is now time to look back and, at the same time, to look forward.

From October 2004 to July 2005 the following activities have taken place:

- Steering Group Meeting, Munich, 8-11 October 2004
- Partner Meeting, Oslo, 26-29 November 2004
- Steering Group Meeting Oslo 25-26 & 29-30 November 2004
- Contact Seminar for Comenius 1 Projects, Tramin, Italy, 6-10 January 2005
- Meeting for co-ordinators of Comenius 2 Projects and Comenius 3 Networks, 11 February 2005
- 1st Thematic Conference: "Synergy Improving Quality in European Schools? Concepts of Evaluation and International Cooperation"; Hall in Tirol, Austria, 3-6 March 2005
- Partner Meeting, Hall in Tirol, Austria, 6-7 March 2005
- Steering Group Meeting, Hall in Tirol, Austria, 7-8 March 2005

In the various meetings the partners have looked at different approaches to internal and external evaluation at different levels. Experiences at the levels of the single school, teacher training centres, quality agencies, inspectorates, ministries, etc. were looked at and shared. In the Thematic Conference these experiences were discussed with the public.

A collection of examples has been made and published on the homepage of the network. More examples will be made available in the future.

After the completion of this first step, the comparing, sharing and analysing of experiences

of internal and external evaluation, the focus will shift towards creating synergy. How can synergies be identified? How can both approaches benefit from each other? What strategies work best?

In the second Thematic Conference in Estonia in March 2006 the main focus will be on Synergy – "Synergy between internal and external evaluation and its impacts on learning and teaching."

The partner meeting in Eupen, Belgium, in October 2005 will prepare the grounds for these plans.

In the field of dissemination the collected examples have already been published on our homepage, a Conference documentation will soon be available as a download, too.

Our next newsletter will be dedicated to our associated members. 39 schools/ institutions/ individuals from 16 countries have so far registered as members and are interested in the topic and willing to share their experiences with us. We should like to involve them as much as we can and share our experiences with them.

Dr. Rudolf Meraner
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1st Thematic Conference
“Synergy Improving Quality in European Schools? Concepts of evaluation and International cooperation.”
3-6 March 2005
Hall in Tirol, Austria

85 participants from 14 European countries participated in the First Thematic Conference staged within the Comenius 3 network “SYNEVA.net” in March 2005. The main objective of the first conference was to look at examples of good practice of experiences of internal and external evaluation in the various European countries.

The different approaches to evaluation were brought to light, some countries focusing on internal, some on external evaluation. Dr. Kay Livingston, Quality in Education Centre, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, underlined the importance of “getting the balance right” in her key note address, of creating synergies between internal and external evaluation.

In the second key note address Kees Horsman, the Netherlands, presented the Dutch Q5 project, a support system for schools, to carry out, on the one hand, self-evaluation projects, and, on the other, to supply important data for external evaluation.

The participants could choose from a range of fourteen different workshops from a variety of different experiences at different levels – schools, pedagogical institutes, school authorities, inspectorates, and ministries.

The experiences made in the various workshops were summed up in the “world café”. Find here a list of some of the suggestions made by the participants in the final session:

- no evaluation for evaluation’s sake
- clear separation between inspection and evaluation

- publication of examples of good practice
- students, teachers and stakeholders must benefit from evaluation
- balance between internal and external evaluation
- clarity of objectives of evaluation
- clarity in the handling of data
- evaluation needs support.

The Second Thematic Conference will be organised in Estonia, 23- 26 March 2006. The main focus will be on “Synergies



between internal and external evaluation and their impacts on learning and teaching.”

The Conference Report will be available soon as a download from our homepage (<http://syneva.net>).

Ferdinand Patscheider
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Bozen, Italy

Contact Seminar for Comenius 1 and 2.1 Projects
November 9 – 13, 2005
Kardinal König Haus, Lainzer Straße 138
Vienna, Austria

This contact seminar is one of the dissemination activities of the Comenius 3 network „SYNEVA.net - Quality Assurance through Synergy of Internal and External Evaluation of Schools. Its Effects on Learning and Teaching.” It is specially supported by the Austrian National Socrates Agency and promoted by the Socrates National Agencies all over Europe.

The focus of this contact seminar as well as of the network itself is quality assurance through the synergy of internal and external evaluation of schools and its effects on learning and teaching.

Relevant national and international instruments for measuring various aspects of education systems will be identified and shared. Information and new knowledge regarding the interplay between external and internal evaluation and quality development in the educational area in Europe will be collected, analysed and compared.

The aim of the contact seminar:

The contact seminar “SYNEVA.net” invites schools and other educational organisations to join into European Co-operation Projects, in which they will share their expertise and experience as well as to support each other in their quality work for their schools.

Outcomes will be mainly Comenius 1 School development projects. But also project partnerships together with support organisations are possible, which may lead either into Comenius 1 or Comenius 2.1 centralised projects with the focus on quality evaluation in education.

Target group:

Representatives of schools and educational support organisations who

lead and / or co-ordinate school development processes and who are interested in an international co-operation, leading into Comenius projects.

Funding of the contact seminar:

The contact seminar will be funded through Comenius preparatory visit grants.

The seminar is open for participants from all European countries who are eligible under SOCRATES. For terms of funding please contact your National SOKRATES Agency.

Data of the contact seminar:

Time: Nov 09th – 13th 2005

Location: Kardinal König Haus, A-1130 Vienna, Lainzerstraße 138, Tel: 0043 1 8047593

Cost of seminar: 400 - Euro

Contact Person/Co-ordinator: (and partner of SYNEVA.net):

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For participation and further information please contact the co-ordinator of the contact seminar, for funding contact your National Socrates Agency.

Further information also through the
“SYNEVA.net” Comenius 3 network :
www.syneva.net

Comenius 2.2 Course
“School-based evaluation of quality as an opportunity for school development”
December 5 – 11, 2005
Vienna, AT

Course Objectives

- To develop an understanding of school-based evaluation and its contribution to quality improvement and school development.
- To develop an understanding of schools as learning organisations.
- To enable the course participants to initiate and support the evaluation process in their schools/institutions.
- To provide an international understanding of school-based evaluation and opportunities for exchanging experiences.

Target group

All members of school staff who are interested in or involved in school-based evaluation.

Course description

Based on the international experiences of the Comenius 3.1. Project entitled ‘SEQuALS-Supporting self evaluation of quality and learning of schools’ the course will focus on school-based evaluation and its importance for quality improvement and school development. It will offer background knowledge and theory concerning initiating and supporting school-based evaluation and opportunities to reflect on strategies and tools for evaluation. Emphasis will be given to a practical approach, the exchange of international experiences and mutual learning. Participants will be encouraged to work on their own examples and questions and to think about how to apply some of the strategies and tools introduced in their own context. Working methods will include theoretical inputs, group workshops, discussions and exploration of case studies. There will be a visit to schools that will enable discussion with school staff.

Programme of the course:

December 5th:

Arrival of participants, first meeting in the early evening, getting to know each other and

introduction to the course.

December 6th:

What is school-based evaluation?
Philosophy of the SEQuALS concept working on a shared understanding of school-based evaluation. Exchange of experiences: background and situation of participants and their schools, overview of different concepts of quality management and their function. Reflecting on schools as learning organisations.

December 7th:

How can we initiate and maintain an evaluation process?
Consideration of the principles of school development. Strategies and tools for school-based evaluation. Different stages of an evaluation process. Examining case studies.

December 8th:

What can we learn from other schools?
Visits to schools, reflection on school visits.

December 9th:

Managing change
Creating a culture for school-based evaluation. Roles and responsibilities for implementing school-based evaluation. Development of communication strategies in schools. Cultural Visit.

December 10th:

What next?
Profile for effective school improvement. Preparing an action plan for success. Planning next steps, planning further co-operation – participants / schools network together with the SEQuALS project. Feedback and evaluation of the course.

Dec 11th:

Departure after breakfast

For pre-reservation please contact the coordinator Mag. Silvia Wiesinger
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