

# COMENIUS THREE NETWORK: LEARNINGMIGRATION

## ISLAND OF IRELAND REPORT 2006

### 1. PARTNERS AND MEMBERS

#### **Partners**

Ulster American Folk Park/Centre for Migration Studies – National Co-ordinator  
Southern Education and Library Board, Armagh, Northern Ireland  
Loreto College, Cavan, Republic of Ireland  
Monaghan Collegiate School, Republic of Ireland  
St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon, Northern Ireland (joined in March 2006)  
Dungannon Primary School, Northern Ireland (joined in March 2006)  
Holy Trinity Primary, School, Cookstown, Northern Ireland (joined in May 2006)  
Cookstown Primary School – withdrew in March  
St Mary's College, Derry withdrew in March

#### **Members**

Cookstown Primary School – became members in March 2006  
St Mary's College, Derry members in March 2006

### 2. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

#### **Ulster American Folk Park/Centre for Migration Studies (UAFP)**

- **National organiser of the Project –**
  - Signed up three new partners in March and May 2006 - St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon, Dungannon Primary School, and Holy Trinity Primary, School, Cookstown, (all in Northern Ireland.)
  - **Partner meeting** for the Island of Ireland group May 2006
  
- **Foodfest Family Day.**
  - A partnership between Omagh Ethnic Community group, Ulster American Folk Park and Centre for Migration Studies. The event consisted of presentations on food and identity, with opportunities to sample foods from the various immigrant cultures in the Omagh area.
  
- **Art Competition**

- UAFP organised an art competition for schools on the theme of emigration in the summer term 2006- which was widely publicised to schools in Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Republic of Ireland. Over 1000 entries were received, and the prize-winners' presentation took place in October 2006. The winning entries were of a very high standard and are on display during December 2006 for all visitors. The exhibition can also be viewed on line at [www.folkpark.com/tours/](http://www.folkpark.com/tours/)
- **YAM project in Northern Ireland**
  - Meeting with Art Adviser for Western Education and Library Board to discuss Art and Migration element of YAM project.
  - Meeting with Geraldine McKenna, Drumragh Integrated College, re YAM project
  - Email contact with International Officer of Western Education and Library Board advising her of the opportunities for her schools in the YAM project
- **BBC Learning Radio Project on Migration**
  - BBC Learning have made a new series of children's radio programmes on the theme of Migration. UAFP assisted with the programmes on 19<sup>th</sup> century emigration and the pupils from one of the partner schools, Dungannon Primary School made the radio programme on Migration in Dungannon today.
  - UAFP held a Family Day in association with BBC Learning to launch the new radio series on Migration. Award winning children's author Marita Conlon McKenna read from her trilogy of novels on Famine Emigration from Ireland, and held two book signing sessions for children. A radio programme was broadcast from the museum that morning and 967 parents and children attended the event
- **Moving On part two**
  - Additional material was prepared for the Moving On pack originally produced as part of the MIR Project. This includes information on active methodologies, intercultural relationships in the past and human rights.
- **Literature of Irish Exile Conferences in October 2005 and October 2006**
  - These were organised by the Ulster American Folk Park/Centre for Migration Studies and open to everyone.
- **Study visits**
  - UAFP hosted a visit by Carmel Gaffney, from partner school Loreto College, Cavan who brought her class on a study visit to the Folk Park in December 2006. Dr Patrick Fitzgerald from Centre for Migration Studies held a seminar with the group on the theme "Immigration, Emigration and internal migration in Ireland" and the class then had a study tour of the Park to examine 19<sup>th</sup> century migration.

## **Southern Education and Library Board (SELB)**

- **Learning Migration partner schools**
  - SELB is supporting the Learning Migration partner schools in their area to produce a Welcome CD. Initial ideas have been generated and it is planned to look at this in more detail next term.
  
- **European day of languages**
  - Many SELB schools held events for the European day of languages including the three primary partner schools in the project.
  
- **Craigavon Post Primary Support Project**
  - SELB is piloting a new programme of support for teachers of migrant children in post primary schools in the Craigavon area. An initial training day was held and will be followed by cluster meetings. Education and Training Inspectorate will be involved in the evaluation of the project.
  - The pilot has now been extended to the Dungannon and Newry area schools. A total of 26 post primary schools are now involved.  
Part of the pilot involves trialling the use of the European languages framework and elements of the portfolio to promote intercultural awareness and monitor and celebrate progress.
  
- **The Extended School Service**
  - A number of SELB post primary schools are looking into the possibility of homework clubs and extra English lessons for parents within the context of extended schools.
  
- **Joint toolkit for teachers of Migrant Children**
  - Joint toolkit being developed with Republic of Ireland to provide practical guidance for the education of migrant children (see international section)
  
- **Comenius Projects**
  - SELB supports its schools in Comenius projects, in establishing Comenius partnerships, in linking schools via email and in school exchange programmes (for details see International Activities).

## **Dungannon Primary School**

- **Induction processes for newly arrived migrant children as follows:**
  - Established a Buddy (i.e. partnering) system
  - Bilingual signs put up around the school.
  - Have developed a Welcome book for new families for each class containing all the information the child and their parent will need.
  - Working with EAL team to ensure that each child is fully integrated into the school and to provide intensive English language support and also support in their first language.
  - Use of bilingual assistants to assist children.
- **Communication with parents**
  - Parental interviews and letters to parents are translated into the different languages.
- **Welcome CD**
  - Have begun planning our Welcome CD for all new families
- **Staff Development**
  - We are working on putting together a staff handbook to provide guidance for staff on procedures and best practice in dealing with Migrant children.
- **Radio Documentary**
  - Year 7 made a BBC schools radio documentary on Migration where they interviewed migrants in the local community. The programme was called Irish Stew and was transmitted in November 2006. Copies available from BBC to all schools in Northern Ireland
- Provided a series of activities in school to support **European language Day**
- Attended **Learning Migration Meeting** for the Island of Ireland.

## **St Patrick's Primary School Dungannon**

- **Induction processes further developed**
    - Multi-language signs around school and in classrooms;
    - Welcome area in the school for new arrival with maps highlighting where children are from; and pictures of children who have arrived. Maps of the world in all classrooms to highlight the origins of the new arrivals in that class.
    - Welcome Book for new arrivals and their parents explaining daily routine of school life;
    - Buddy (Partner) system in place in classroom and in play area at breaks.
    - Organised and timetabled additional in class support for reading for EAL children in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, including use of books in children's own language.
  - **Staff development –**
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- Prepared two toolkits for all staff, consisting of guidelines for dealing with immigrant children
- Established an EAL Team which includes a member of staff from each year band to discuss and disseminate information regarding provision for EAL children;
- Meet with teachers from each year band to adapt literacy plans as a whole school focus to cater for all children including EAL.
- Made available picture dictionaries and maths wordbooks for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 teachers.
- **Parental Communication**
  - Improving methods of parental communication by attending cluster meetings and adapting developing and sharing our own systems
- **European day of languages**
  - The whole school participated in a celebration of culture on the European Day of languages, with a special assembly, foods, flags, language etc. The local newspaper carried a full page report with photographs.
- Attended **Learning Migration Meeting** for the Island of Ireland

### **Holy Trinity Primary School Cookstown**

- Induction processes for Migrant children
- New Induction Procedures for Migrant Children introduced
- Preparing a new Welcome area for immigrants with photographs and letters etc
- Multi-language signs around school and in classrooms
- Buddy (Friendship) scheme operational for newly arrived immigrant children
- Welcome Booklet prepared for all pupils including those with EAL needs. (English as an Additional Language)
- EAL (English as an additional Language) support - Bilingual teacher employed
- Currently planning for Welcome DVD
- **Parental Support**
  - Parental Communication improved- letters translated into their native language
- **Consultant Evaluation**
  - Participation in a Consultant Evaluation of the needs of Immigrant Children and their parents

## **Loreto College, Cavan**

Work on Migration has continued on a number of levels this year, both national and international

- **European Studies programme** October 2005 – March 2006
  - As part of their programme, students studied 'Migration' as a topic. This year we concentrated on Ireland as a destination for migrants; the advantages and disadvantages for Ireland; why Ireland now needs its migrant population etc. On Tuesday May 30<sup>th</sup> '06, they presented their work as part of their Transition Year Open evening for parents and teachers.
- **EAL (English as an Alternative Language) program**
  - The number of International Students has increased dramatically over the past 3-4 years. Many of these have serious language difficulties. The school has appointed one member of staff to work with these students to help them improve their language. She has been provided with a dedicated room for this work, with Internet access. She works on an EAL (English as an Alternative Language) program on which she received training earlier in the year.
- **Staff Development Day September 2006**
  - A section of the day was given over to the issues around our increasing number of EAL students. The language barrier in particular is causing difficulties for teachers and ways of dealing with this were discussed.
- **The Changing Faces of Loreto College, Cavan' Project**
  - A group of Transition Year students have undertaken to do a study on 'The Changing Faces of Loreto College, Cavan'. They have examined school records over the past 15 years to see the numbers of international students we have had during this time. They have surveyed the current student population (688 students) to determine how many students have moved to Ireland from abroad in recent years, and also to determine the number of students who have moved to Cavan from other parts of Ireland. We have a significant number of students whose families have moved out of Dublin. They are currently in the process of interviewing many of these students to see why their families moved to Ireland, and Cavan in particular, to see what they found difficult about arriving in a new school. They intend to produce a booklet, which will help our new students in their early days in the school.
- **Esat BT 'Young Scientist' Competition**
  - The above project has been accepted for the Esat BT 'Young Scientist' Competition, which will be held in the RDS, Dublin in January. This event attracts thousands of visitors and a lot of media attention. An account of the schools participation in the event has already appeared in the local media.
- **Study Visit to the Ulster American Folk Park**
  - In European Studies, the girls are studying the general theme of migration. As part of this study they visited the Ulster American Folk Park on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, '06, where they had a talk on Irish Migration followed by a tour of the park.
- **YAM Project** The Transition Year class is participating in the YAM2008 project. SEE LATER

## **Monaghan Collegiate**

- **Migration Studies**
  - As part of their European Studies programme, students studied 'Migration' as a topic. This year we concentrated on Ireland as a destination for migrants; the advantages and disadvantages for Ireland; why Ireland now needs its migrant population etc
  
- **Ulster Scots History Project –**
  - Migration History in association with Stranmillis University College, Belfast
  
- **Inter-school history project**
  - Work on Migration and Immigration in partnership with the Border Minorities Group.

### **3. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

The Ireland of Ireland group is, by the nature of its existence an international group. Some of the activities listed here are cross border activities i.e. joint initiatives by schools and institutions in Northern Ireland and their counterparts in the Republic of Ireland (ROI).

#### **General**

- 5 persons from the Island of Ireland group attended the Stavanger conference in April 2006 from Ulster American Folk Park, Southern Education and Library Board, St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon, Dungannon Primary School, and Loreto College Cavan.

#### ***Ulster American Folk Park/Centre for Migration Studies***

##### **a) Network Conference**

- one person from UAFP attended the Stavanger conference in April 2006.

##### **b) European Links and Activities**

- Attended the YAM Launch conference, in Stavanger Norway on Tuesday 25 April and Wednesday 26 April 2006
- Attended Learning Migration co-ordinator's meeting in Stavanger Norway on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006
- Attended the initial meeting of MiLES project in University of Oldenburg, Germany in December 2006

#### **Loreto College**

##### **a) Network Conference**

- Carmel Gaffney attended the Comenius conference in Stavanger in April 2006.

##### **b) European Links and Activities**

###### **• YAM Project**

- The Transition Year class is participating in the YAM2008 project. This is being dealt with on a cross-curricular basis.
  1. In Art, the students are producing artwork on the general theme of migration.
  2. In Speech & Drama, they have produced a drama on Irish Emigration. This will be performed at the Transition Year open evening for parents later in the year.
  3. The Music department is working with the Drama dept. to perform suitable music for this drama.

###### **• YES Project**

- Our students continue to participate in the YES (Young Europeans? Sure!) Project,

##### **c) Cross-Border Links**

- Pupils visited the Ulster American Folk Park on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, '06, where they had a talk on Irish Migration followed by a tour of the park.

## ***Southern Education and Library Board***

### **a) Network Conferences**

- Clodagh Daly from SELB attended Stavanger Conference in April 2006.

### **b) European Links and Activities**

- Clodagh Daly is a member of the Learning Migration Transnational group for Education Authorities.

SELB supports its schools in Comenius projects, in establishing Comenius partnerships, in linking schools via email and in school exchange programmes, **Involvement in the four projects below were all developed as a result of Clodagh Daly's attendance at the Stavanger conference in April 2006:**

#### **- Sunrise Project**

Many e-mails have been exchanged regarding the 'Sunrise' project with Diana Hagen. It is hoped to involve one school from Northern Ireland, Diana's school in Norway, one Swedish school, one from Slovenia, perhaps a Turkish school and one from Navan, Ireland. SELB will host the preparatory meeting, hopefully in January.

#### **- Intercultural Project**

St. Mary's High school in Newry has become involved in an intercultural project with a secondary school in Freisenheim in Germany. Mr. Alexander Schorpp is the leader of that project.

#### **- Conflict Resolution project**

This has been delayed, due to the illness of the main Norwegian Partner Jeanette Mack Omdal. SELB is hopeful that this can go ahead later.

#### **- Portuguese links**

Clodagh Daly has been in contact with Analia Gomes from Portugal with a view to establishing an institutional link between the SELB and the Directorate General in Portugal.

### **c) Cross-Border Links**

#### **• Cavan Conference**

We held a conference in Cavan Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November to discuss and evaluate the materials for our toolkit for primary schools, north and south. The toolkit is due to go to publication in February and ready for use in September 2007.

## **Dungannon Primary School**

### **International**

- 1 member of staff, Heather Wilson attended the Learning and Migration Conference in Norway. (April 06)

### **Cross Border**

- Attended conference in Cavan Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November to discuss and evaluate the materials for our Immigrant children toolkit for primary schools, north and south. This toolkit is being designed by the SELB and Southern Education Authority in Cavan.

## **St Patrick's Primary school Dungannon**

### **a) European Conference**

- The Principal, Mary Hampsey, attended the LearningMigration Conference in Norway (April 2006)

### **b) Cross Border**

- Attended Integrate Ireland conference in Cavan Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November to discuss and evaluate the materials for our Immigrant children toolkit for primary schools, north and south. This toolkit is being designed by the SELB and Southern Education Authority in Cavan
- Hosted visit of principals from Republic of Ireland to share our provision for EAL children / Newcomers

## **Holy Trinity Primary School.**

### **Cross Border**

- *Scotens Project*- new toolkit in production with cross border schools
- Attended major Cross -Border EAL Conference in Cavan -November 2007

## **Monaghan Collegiate**

### **a) European Links and Activities**

- Strong European links as part of the YES Project

### **b) Cross Border**

- **Ulster Scots History Project** – Migration History in association with Stranmillis University College, Belfast, Northern Ireland
- **Inter-school history project** Work on Migration and Immigration in partnership with the Border Minorities Group.

## **4. USE OF THE WEBSITE**

This is an area we need to work on. Four of the individual partners were not involved in the previous project, some of whom have only recently joined this one. Time will be given at the next partner meeting to training on the use of the website including updating and use as a communication tool. We are currently communicating by e-mail, although even this has also had its initial problems, with some e-mail addresses more reliable than others.

#### 4. **DISSEMINATION**

- All personnel involved in the various projects have disseminated information about the Project to other staff in their organisations, and to parents and other pupils where appropriate, and to their trustees or governing bodies.
- Loreto College Cavan's entry for the Esat BT 'Young Scientist' Competition will be on display in the RDS, Dublin in January. This event attracts thousands of visitors and a lot of media attention. An account of the schools participation in the event has already appeared in the local media.
- Dungannon Primary schools work with Migrant children was featured in a national Newspaper article.
- St Patrick's Primary School received full page coverage with photographs by the local newspaper for their European Day of Languages
- Copies of "Irish Stew" radio programme on migration to Dungannon made by Dungannon Primary School was broadcast in November 2006 and copies are available from BBC to all schools in Northern Ireland
- UAFP has made contact with all Citizenship Advisory staff from all Education Boards in Northern Ireland, regarding the Moving On Package of materials. A mail shot has been prepared for distribution to all Northern Ireland schools in January, addressed to Citizenship and History teachers.
- Copies of this report will be sent to the National Comenius Offices in Belfast and Dublin.

## **5. SUSTAINABILITY**

- It was disappointing to find that two partners included in the original application withdrew from the Project.
- However in the period since the original application was prepared the school demographic situation has undergone major changes and some schools both in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have seen a huge increase in their admissions of migrant children. I was able to replace the two schools who withdrew, with St Patrick's Primary school, Dungannon, which has the highest number of immigrant children in Northern Ireland (currently over 100) and their partner school in the same town, Dungannon Primary school.
- The participation of these new partners has enabled the project to focus more heavily on migrant children than it might otherwise have done. These two schools were later joined by Holy Trinity Primary School, in nearby Cookstown, who expressed a strong desire to become part of the Project. In addition the representative from SELB now works in the Ethnic Minority Achievement Unit. SELB and the three primary schools are keen to develop imaginative and practical solutions to the issue of dealing with large numbers of migrant children and have much to contribute to the project.
- It has also been an advantage to have two of the original personnel from the previous Migration and Intercultural relations Project as part of the team.
- Partners of the group in general are finding the network to be a very positive experience. Particularly valued is the opportunity to network widely across Europe and to find partners who share their own particular interests and needs, with a view to developing further Comenius One projects. The Stavanger conference proved to be a very fertile ground for the Southern Education and Library Board in particular.

Evelyn Cardwell  
Island of Ireland Co-ordinator  
30 November 2006