

Slovene ESP Report - Conference 2004 Prague

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In year 2003/2004 ESP in Slovenia carried out some on-going projects and started also new ones.

As said before, Slovenian ESP is together with KIDLINK and iEARN part of MIRK group responsible for supporting internet projects and collaborative learning in primary and secondary schools in Slovenia. In the school year 2003/2004 schools have been active in language projects (The Image), art (Art Gallery) and science. ESP projects and our contributions were presented at Slovenian annual international MIRK conference in Piran. Special teacher training courses were organised to present the teachers examples of international projects and encourage them to join them with their students. We also carried out activities for Spring day in Europe. Our students took part in an international chat about European Union and we organised our own one on the national level inviting the president of Slovenian parliament to talk about the position of young people in Slovenia and future plans.

Primary schools are also active in EUN activities and projects and there we have also tried to promote ESP projects (international and Slovenian ones) in MyEurope, Virtual school and eSchola event (Art Gallery, The Image, My Favourite Toy, Metamorphosis...). We invited European schools to participate in one activity project - COMPUTER METAMORPHOSIS - Europe, Let's Create Together! We decided to dedicate the activity to the year 2003 which was the European Year of Disabled People. The project aimed to deepen students' attitude towards art, to encourage them to observe artworks well and finally to create their own interpretation - metamorphosis of the artworks with the help of ICT tools. The best ones in each category were symbolically awarded (sponsored by Microsoft Slovenia), and all the submitted artworks are published in our e-gallery (http://www2.arnes.si/~osngso3s/metamorphosis/metamorphoses_europe.htm).

At the same time we also try to promote different projects from all over the world within ECOLE Best Club group. The meeting place is a webpage where teachers are given information about good practice and activities in certain projects and different tools useful in educational process. At this point we have already decided to organise a national Best Club webpage in near future and contribute there about Slovenian good practice.

Kirsten Anttila from Denmark, Francisca Soares from Portugal, Hubert Christiaen from Belgium and me are also in charge of the materials and development of the project The Image and its portal. The portal proved to be an important meeting place for language teachers (statistics of portal visitors show this) and we are happy that it plays such an important role. We will try to make it even more useful in future (<http://www.europeanschoolsproject.org/image/>).

We have our own Slovenian ESP site (<http://www2.arnes.si/~esp/>), where we periodically publish most of the important news about ESP projects or events. Teachers are also informed about recent activities or invitations for projects through ESP mailing list (esp@dl.arnes.si).

This year we managed to promote ESP and ECOLE conference on the national level well so two teachers are funded to attend the conference. For the first time in our history, four Slovenian teachers are attending ESP conference.

We are also actively involved in ECOLE project within ESP and try to collect good practice and useful materials for teachers.

About project and activities:

There are some active and quite successful international ESP projects co-ordinated at Slovenian schools and some good partnerships:

Art Gallery (<http://www2.arnes.si/~osngso3s/artgallery.htm>),

Bridges - electronic magazine (<http://www2.arnes.si/~bridges/>),

My favourite toy (http://www2.arnes.si/~osngso3s/mytoys/my_toys.htm) all the three co-ordinated by Viljenka Savli, Solkan Primary School

Good news from our school and our town -

(<http://www2.arnes.si/~osljedina3s/gnews/gnews.html>) co-ordinated by Ljubica Kosmac, Primary School Ledina, Ljubljana

We have some good practice in other projects too as:

- the project about Youth parliament (Hungary, Poland and Slovenia) where students had successful six-day meeting as reported by their mentor Lidija Babic from SCPET school in Ljubljana (www.s-scpet.lj.edus.si/srednja/mednsodel/menu.html). They are also active in the project Youth of Europe, Customs and traditions where there are eight countries involved and they plan their first meeting in Kazincbarciki in Hungary.

We managed to start a Comenius school project Art Through Child's Eyes and a PC Mouse with 7 European countries involved. (<http://www.ecolenet.nl/artproject/>) It's an ECOLE initiative project.

Some Slovenian schools are involved in The Image of the Other project and learn through exchanging e-mails more are still to start to use it, so I invite other national coordinators to spread our wishes. This year my students have started a unique collaborative project with a group of Slovenian students from secondary school on the theme. We wanted to try a special distance learning environment Manhattan safe for students to exchange e-mails and discuss in forum and chats for The Image project. Their experience is great and they have learned how to use the environment for the project purpose and discovered what it can be useful for.

Some Slovenian schools also participated in IMP tools, a Comenius project. (http://global.peda.net/ipmtools/web_magazines.html)

Let me conclude with a wish for new educational challenges in the field of international collaboration and stronger support for teachers involved in such projects from didactical and pedagogical point of view in future.