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EcoMedia-Europe

EcoMedia-Europe is an educational Socrates-Comenius Network co-financed by the European Commission. The main thematic area of the network is the strategic development of ICT and media based education in the field of Comenius.

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The network works on three different but well complemented sub-themes linked to SOCRATES-COMENIUS:

- ▶ ICT Basics (Videoconferencing, communication- and presentation technologies, ICT based language learning, new knowledg-based European society and more)
- ▶ Media (Media literacy, Life long learning in the media society, Virtual Communities, Media research)
- ▶ ICT Prospects (e-learning, E-Government in school organisation, SchoolNets, e-twinning, e-participation)

The network is designed in order to include 23 institutions from 19 different European countries as formal network partners but moreover EcoMedia-Europe has at the moment approximately 50 qualified network members.

Main Objectives

1. The use of ICT for training and teaching differs widely all over Europe. Therefore sub-objectives of the network are building up specific know-how about the different European ICT standards and strategies in education and research for good practices on use of ICT for education on all levels.
2. Exchange of experience As European education methodology in combination with ICT use is quite varied, the exchange of experience among project partners is very fruitful for the spread of new and well approved ways of ICT-based training / education. In addition to this exchange of experience, which will mainly be gained at international conferences and workshops, the dissemination can be channelled by.
3. Taylor cut transfer of knowledge to balance lack of know-how and different standards in various countries, requirement of ICT use for education and training is significant and demand for specific knowledge transfer was detected.
4. Promotion of all forms of innovation in the ICT based school education. The objective is to render available contents for ICT based education and to create a learning community for teachers and pupils from compulsory education systems, who are involved in project-based ICT learning.

Target groups

- ▶ All types of schools and teachers involved in Comenius projects.
- ▶ All teachers and teacher trainers, headmasters and educational researchers.
- ▶ Educational policy makers.
- ▶ Students and pupils, interested educational staff not directly involved within EcoMedia-Europe.

Main activities

- ▶ Development of "good practices projects" related to ICT Comenius projects.
- ▶ Research on the state of art within the thematic network area via three working groups.
- ▶ Improvement of educational systems (strategic development with new concept and measures) to act as European information point and development of new co-operations.
- ▶ Improving standards of educational policies as well as skills and knowledge of educational staff.

Main outcomes

- ▶ Demand analysis and COMENIUS comparative studies.
- ▶ Multi-lingual web portal.
- ▶ Promotional materials and final DVD-ROM.
- ▶ Annual project progress report and evaluation reports.
- ▶ EcoMedia-Europe II, continuation of activities after end of network period.

Main events

- ▶ 3 Thematic Conferences combined with 3 Comenius Contact Seminars The first Thematic Network Conference will be held in Wolfsberg, Austria October 3rd - 8th, 2006.
- ▶ 2 international workshops in Slovenia and Spain The first workshop will be held from May 24th - 28th, 2006 in Slovenj Gradec (SI)
- ▶ 2 national information- and dissemination workshops in Bulgaria and Romania The first national workshop will be organised in Sofia (BG) from 8th - 10th June, 2006.
- ▶ 6 Steering Group Meetings and quarterly meetings of working groups (on "virtual basis") Youth meetings in Hungary and Slovenia.

Expected impact

For the on-going changes of media areas we need modern and modified strategic measures for further development and training on an European level. Presently there are no realistic concepts for a European visible strategy, all strategies are based on pilot projects and individual initiatives. EcoMedia-Europe should lead to:

- ▶ Experience from previous projects should be used effectively, EcoMedia Europe would like and has the knowledge to develop a common strategy of various measures and individual initiatives.
- ▶ Try to keep costs to a minimum for schools in the expensive IT sector with new developed concepts and strategies.
- ▶ Improving the standard of current and future COMENIUS projects within the thematic area.
- ▶ More teachers are to be motivated to use ICT tools in education, qualitative use of ICT is to be increased (for example, language learning via ICT, eLearning in various subjects)
- ▶ Teachers and students are to be familiarized with opportunities to use SchoolNets.
- ▶ Intercultural dialogue between schools should be fostered and a balanced diversity of languages should be promoted