

Living and Working in Europe – The Future for Our Students?

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Abstract

Students all over Europe have dreams and wishes for their future. They want to live in politically stable countries, they want to find adequate work in order to be able to lead fulfilled and happy lives. As teachers and educators we try to open some of the avenues to them: by sharing best-practice from the various schools and countries, by comparing and providing training and workshops on CV writing, presentations and media skills, by visiting future workplaces and by cooperating with various institutions, e.g. schools for students with special needs, job training centres and the theatre. Thus students will come into contact with many ideas and people, they will find out more about themselves, about their partners in the participating European countries, about work conditions and possibilities. They will gain confidence and job-related skills. At the same time they will overcome prejudices and preconceived attitudes about other countries and customs by finding out more about the situation in other countries via presentations and visits.

Topics dealt with by the teams in the participating countries will be: information on Career and Guidance within schools; unemployment, especially youth unemployment and ways and means of dealing with it; inclusion of students with special needs; presentation of possible work places; information about studying/working abroad, preparation for job interviews, team building and confidence-enhancing workshops.

In this contribution to the conference I would like to introduce the Comenius-funded project "Living and Working in Europe – The Future for our Students?" - in which schools from Estonia, Scotland, Finland, Italy and Germany participate - and point out ideas for media use and connecting classrooms within a European framework.