



Comenius



CoDeS Mailing 1, December 15, 2011

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1. Welcome to CoDeS (Collaboration of schools and communities for sustainable development) As the director of the Swiss Foundation for Environmental Education which co-ordinating CoDeS I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the co-beneficiaries and partners of the project. We are very proud indeed to implement this ambitious project which after all has been selected by the EU with the highest score of all the submitted project proposals in its category. We believe that this already is testimony to the high-quality of the project and indeed to all the work you as partners have invested in the writing-up of CoDeS application.

With my long background in Education for Sustainable Development I truly believe that the project is timely and relevant. When we look at the slow progress we are making in our transition to a sustainable world (need I mention Durban or is this so obvious that it is almost frivolous) and when we reflect on what modes of learning we might need in order to improve the necessary level of change, we will find that communities of practice are the key. This means 'learning communities' which are characterised by participation and co-creation, by long-term commitment and systemically coherent action. These communities are tied together by a common aim (namely the transition towards sustainability) and they practice change (as opposed to some virtual games imagining change).

CoDeS will enable, improve and support such 'learning communities', linking schools and local communities, in order to implement real action in the real world. In addition, I am taken by CoDeS's approach to valorise past work (such as the SEED, CSCT and SUPPORT projects) to achieve its aims.

After CoDeS got off to such a good start at the first partner meeting in Friedrichsdorf in November, I am convinced that together with the help of you all we will manage to make a substantial contribution to an effective and meaningful Education for Sustainable Development.

Dr Rolf Jucker, Director, Swiss Foundation for Environmental Education

2. What is CoDeS all about?

CoDeS is a COMENIUS multilateral Network funded by the Lifelong Learning Program from EU that focuses on school community collaboration addressing sustainability. The activities of the network aim at providing an European perspective on the processes of learning, models, values and tools for successful collaboration. Based on partners' wide range of experience and background in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), the network will produce, publish and disseminate a range of products useful for school and community stakeholders to engage into successful practice such as case study reports, tool box, travelling guide, and different types of workshops. This conference is the first CoDeS activity offered to a wider range of stakeholders who are involved in school community collaboration for Sustainable Development (SD) and are interested in sharing their experience with the network partners.

3. CoDeS master plan

You will find CoDeS master plan, version from December 2011, here: <http://www.comenius-codes.eu>

4. Important Links

A message from our partner, Mari U. Andresen, Naturfagsenteret Norway:

Environmental Learning - Insights from research into the student experience. **Rickinson Mark, Lundholm, Cecilia, Hopwood, Nick.** Springer books 2010,
<http://www.springer.com/education+%26+language/book/978-90-481-2955-3>

5. Next event: The Vienna Conference, May 1-3, 2012

Aims of the conference:

- Disseminate case studies on European school community-collaboration on SD
- Reflect on processes of learning, values, models and tools for successful s-c collaboration on SD
- Initiate a forum to involve the diversity of stakeholders participating in s-c collaboration on SD such as local administrators, municipalities, NGO, local enterprises, teachers, students, families and others.

Arrival: April 30, 2012

Opening of the Conference: May 1st, 09.00

End: May 3rd,

Venue: Kardinal König-Haus, Vienna

Apply for LLL-funding before mid January at your National Agency!

Grundtvig application reference number:AT-2012-324-001

COMENIUS application: AT-2012-325-001

All information about the Vienna Conference is available at: www.comenius-codes.eu/events

6. CoDeS Homepage: www.comenius-codes.eu

The website for CoDeS is open now. You are invited to contribute! Please send your articles, messages, links ... to ch.affolter@comenius-codes.eu