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Press release

Comenius Meeting of Georg-Buechner-Team in France

Erlensee/Germany. – Eight Students and four teachers of Georg-Buechner-School / Erlensee visited Collège Gaucelm Faidit in Uzerche (France) within the scope of their shared Comenius Project.

They experienced an eventful schedule, not to mention the immense hospitality of their French friends.

We started our journey on Whitsunday by train. Since we passed Paris, the capital of France, we decided to have a stopover. We enjoyed an extensive sightseeing tour and we had a closer look at the famous highlights of this awesome city. The next day we set off for Uzerche which is situated in the south-west of Corrèze/Limousin.

This Comenius Project - titled *Saving Energy & Recycling* - had had a successful start in October 2010 at Georg-Buechner-School, Erlensee/Germany when the teams met for one week. Now, after two years of collective efforts our project came to an end. All activities and results achieved during this time were discussed and presented in an exhibition at Collège Gaucelm Faidit School.

We also had workshops concerning e.g. producing recycling paper. Furthermore, we visited a wind farm – the future “eco-district” of the Uzerche community - a farm with an immense solar panel roof and an impressive low-energy house of a family of four. Besides we had a lot of room for leisure activities with our French hosts.

This project offered a wide range of insights since it covered primary schools, intermediate schools as well as technical schools. It was very interesting to see what the various Comenius partners did to get and achieve an appropriate approach to our shared topics concerning the students at issue. We also noticed profound differences in respect to dealing with waste separation or recycling of garbage as well as dealing with renewable energy and saving energy strategies. Especially the differences in approaching these tasks provided numerous incentives and ideas.

When it was time to say goodbye most of the students were very sad and didn't want to leave their new friends. They all promised to keep in touch. This final meeting came with a lasting impression for all participants for they were able to get an idea of everyday life and traditions of a different country. What's more, they got to know different people from various Comenius countries. They spoke French and English and at the same time they were very well aware that

they were representing their school and their country. All students described their impressions in the train on our way home. For example Tonia summed up her impressions as follows:

“I am very sorry that our Comenius project had come to an end now. It was such a big deal for me! During these two years I learned so many things. I did not only improve my English but I learned so much for my future life. Sometimes only details impressed me but they are by now a part of my life. In respect to “Saving Energy & Recycling” I learned a lot. I think I am now very aware when it comes to this topic. But the best part of the project is for me that I found new friends in Turkey, Poland and France only because of this amazing Comenius project!”

Profound experiences like these are possible due to the Comenius Programme of the European Union. The EU wants to frame the European integration and meet the challenges of globalization: *“If one wants to arouse interest and if one wants to support young people in respect to gaining skills and responsibilities which are required to develop their characters, their employment prospects and – above all – if one wants to help young people becoming responsible members of our society, then EUROPE must be part of their education and culture!”*

In order to meet these requirements this Comenius project was funded by the European Union. Thus, Georg-Buechner-School, Germany was funded with 20.000 Euros

*German Text by Wilhelm Dietzel
Translated by Jenne Hochgürtel, June 2012*