

(Enclosure 1)

General information about the ACC-project

1)

What made the difference since the Newsletter no.7

There have been a lot of reactions to the cancelling of the project. Some were sorry, some were angry, some had bad conciousness, because of not answering.

That's why we opened an e-group to make it possible to discuss the ACC-ideas again. This e-group has been no success. Nobody has used it.

Anyway, I realize from e-mails, letters, phone-talks etc. that there has been some communication-troubles.

Some did not receive the snail-mail letters because of address-changes, lazy postmen, war etc., some received it only, when it was already to late and some are travelling and still did not see their snail-mail.

Finally the conclusion is we should give it an extra chance, since the conclusion of Newsletter no. 7, which talked about a "clear message" in the fact, that only 3 out of 4 answered the invitation now seems a little unfair.

The Minority Course 1999 included a programme-point: "Introducing the ACC-project" by me. It was cancelled of course, when we called off the project, but I went there anyway because I was invited by Jesper to the final evening. I then decided to present the project anyway. I introduced it in only 5 minutes and told the '99'ers, I would sent some more material soon. Anyway, 26 signed in for membership immediately.

I thought and think it was quite many, since I really didnt have time for giving much information.

2)

Related projects, contacts, perspectives, "bubbles"

Jantsje Sikma, former principal of the Fryske Folkshegeskoalle Terschelling, is a member of the board at a folkhighschool (or something like it) very close to Paris, called **Meridon**. I have good contact to Jantsje and I have been debating the project continuously with her. She suggests us to use the institution Meridon for meetings and maybe courses. She is probably able to get some special prize for us, if necessary.

Eva Valvo ('98) has good contact to folk-high-school-like institutions of the **Valdese** church. It would be a possibility to use their facilities.

Barna ('99) **Agota** ('99) and **Laszlo** have been talking about establishing courses in Transilvania, maybe in co-operation with **Pillich Laszlo** (former MP in Romania), who has already established an "**International language school...**" in Kolosvar/Cluj

David ('97) and **Roberto** ('98) are talking about establishing some Galician/Celtic event, but they need an international organization to support it.

Siebren ('98) and more frisians are already trying to establish some Frisian youthhouse for folkhighschool-like events. I dont know how far it is (Siebren?), but some cooperation must be possible.

Agne (97), **Liudmila** (97) and **Alicija** (97) in Lithuania offered years ago to arrange a folk-high-school-course in Lithuania.

Højskolen Østersøen have the ambition to make a four-week course next year. They would probably be happy to be involved in international work.

Other Danish schools are very willing to cooperate, because nowadays every school would like an "international image".

Rite Folkhighschool is always willing to cooperate.

In Brussels there is already an initiative called "**Nordic Academy**". Until now it is a building, a board and some money. As far as I understand they just don't have the money for a permanently employed staff, and they would welcome very much contacts making events and courses "for free". I have good contact to one of the people behind the project, **Sanne Kutscher** (Brandbjerg Højskole, Denmark).

Some years ago the Danish minister of education made public the idea of making an **Academy of Democracy**, which should get its inspiration from the folkhighschool way of working. Unfortunately he is not any longer the minister, but the idea is not dead yet, since there is a committee working on the realisation of the DemocracyAcademy. They are interested in tests and experiences on the field and would be interested in any report. This on the other hand could be used as an argument for applying for money.

The so-called **AWE** (Association for World Education) has for the time being a Danish head of board, called **Ove Korsgård**. He suggested that the ACC could be accepted as a "chapter" in the AWE. The reason is, that the AWE is very weak in Europe, since it has been much more active in third-world –countries and on other continents.

In Svendborg, also Denmark, there is already an initiative called **ICU** (International Understanding and Cooperation). I had a very kind letter from the head of the institution **Ingolf Knudsen** (former MP). The idea of the ICU is very similar to the ACC and they have a very interesting and impressive programme. Ingolf Knudsen was principal of the so-called Europahøjskolen (the Europe-folkhighschool), which unfortunately had to close because of lack of support (it was in 1976). I hope we can use his experiences somehow.

The "Inspiration Group" behind the project (see the project-description of the preliminary work, www.johnp.dk) met on March 12th.

3)

Other things

My sister is a desktoppublisher (DTP). I asked her to make the design for a "letterhead" (I don't know the correct word). I will use it temporarily until we have a face-to-face meeting and we can then change it or approve it.

Together with Linda, Roberto, Daniel and a lot of others, I joined the editing of the youth magazine "The House" in early July. The editorial staff changes every year and I was thinking, that maybe the ACC could adopt the editing of the 2000-edition or the 2001-edition. I mentioned the idea to Linda, who has the contacts, but we did not discuss it thoroughly.

4)

More about fundraising, strategy and economy

One of the first tasks after the August 11th-meeting will be sending invitations to the 99'ers and to ask the people already signing up to confirm this by paying their fee for the year 2000. As you know, I ran out of money a long time ago, but luckily Mjellma has some money for the project, which should be –anyway- used inside Macedonia. I will send the letters per e-mail to Mjellma and she will forward them by snail-mail then.

In the EU they are still discussing the next Socrates-programme 2000-2005 and a Youth-programme as well. It is interesting to see, that new spheres are still included when they have talks about these programmes. There are tendencies, which would be very good for the ACC. The new president of the commission, Prodi, has promised a very active and integrational policy, which (at least from an economical point of view) will be to the benefit of the ACC.

Time and again it is estimated, that not only the EU-countries should be included in the programmes, but also Central- and Eastern Europe as well as Cyprus etc. Cooperation with the European Council as well as UNESCO is thought of important parameters.

The EU-council has advised the commission to interpret the structural-funds in a new way, so they can also be used for educational matters. One should know then, that structural funds are really huge amounts of money. Much more than the educational programs.

I still don't have a solution on how to pay the fees, but I'm discussing with more different banks. The problem is, that money-transfer between banks is expensive (like 3 Euro) and the fee was thought of as 7 Euro.... which seems a little stupid.