

# Dilemmas

Comenius Multilateral Partnership Magazine Online



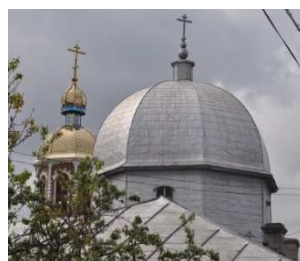
Second Issue

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## Dilemmas Magazine

**Online** is published as a product within the Comenius Multilateral Partnership shared by **Gefion Gymnasium** (Copenhagen, Denmark), **Colegiul Tehnic Henri Coandă** (Tulcea, Romania), **IES La Madraza** (Granada, Spain), and **Theresien Gymnasium** (Munich, Germany).

It mainly focuses on the activities and results of the Workshops to take place in each school all along the Project's development; but it also deals with other issues and products related to this Partnership



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## Workshops in Tulcea

### Project Meeting in Tulcea (4 - 6 May 2011)

During the first week of May 2011, 13 teachers and 27 students from the schools involved in the Comenius partnership "*Dilemmas*" met in Tulcea for the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop session of the project. The participants arrived in Tulcea on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. First day of our project meeting in Tulcea, the participants were welcomed by Mrs. Doina Stroe, the principal of "*Henri Coanda*" College. After the welcome speeches, the Romanian students pointed out the most important geographical features and historical facts of Dobrogea region and the town of Tulcea, in a presentation with a suggestive name: "*Dobrogea - the land between waters*". Also, anticipating the next day boat - workshop, the host students presented some nice photos from the Danube Delta.



Mihai Tiuliumeanu during his welcome speech



Some results of the first workshop

### Meeting Report About Sustainable Development (1)

The first workshop was managed by the Romanian team. After a short presentation about the meaning of the *Sustainable development* (concept, threats to the environment, solutions), the participants were split in 4 groups, each group having the task to prepare an advertising poster in order to promote the sustainable development in the Danube Delta.

**Sustainable development - traditional handicrafts** was the subject of the second workshop, also organized by the Romanian team. The participants learnt to produce bulrush ornamental baskets under the guidance of the Romanian students, who learnt to prepare these baskets before the project meeting, during a workshop organized in *Luncavitzza* village. The group leader was Mrs. Iuliana Buruiana, a Math teacher and a passionate member of our team. The 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop of the first day was prepared by the German team and it had **Recycling** as its main subject. The German students pointed the importance of waste selective collection and recycling for the environment and for the future of our planet.



Romanian students teaching how to prepare baskets

## Workshops in Tulcea



Danish students presenting the rain forest problems in Brazil

**Dilemma:** Have we the right to criticize they way other countries deal with their own economic growing?

### Meeting Report About Sustainable Development (2)

During the last day of the project meeting in Tulcea, on 6th of May, the teams from Denmark and Spain organized two workshops on the same subject, *sustainable development*. The Danish team presented **Brazil** as a case study: what are the problems of the rain forest, which are the solutions of the Brazilian govern concerning the environment, new approaches and new policies.

The last workshop was managed by the Spanish team and had as main subject **Sustainable Food**. It started proposing a quiz based on images related with one specific dilemma: *could we keep feeding a growing population in a global sustainable way with the current food production and consume habits?* Participants had to identify the items in the pictures and try to find out the reason why they were related to this problem. After discussion, Spanish students presented their own conclusions. Find some examples at the bottom of this page.



Spanish team workshop on Sustainable Food

### Final Activities

Also, the Spanish team was in charge with another important activity of the project meeting, coordinating the process of collecting and sorting the *European Values*, linked with the *sustainable development* subject. The values collected in each project meeting will be added on *The European Values Code* posted on the project's website.

The final activity of the project meeting in Tulcea was the filling in of an evaluation questionnaire. The teacher and students involved in the project meting had to answer at some questions concerning the meeting in Tulcea, also the expectations for the second year of the project.

(See results on pages 8 to 12)

### Explanations from the Sustainable Food Quiz



#### Red Tuna Sushi

##### Biodiversity / Extinction

It seems we don't realise that some species are endangered and if we continue consuming them, someday they'll disappear (as it's happening with red tuna because of over fishing)



#### GMO

There is a big debate about this issue. Some people think that they are the only chance to end the hunger in the world. For many others, they are a real danger for biodiversity and put the seeds control in hands of big companies



#### Industrial Agriculture

##### Is this the way?

There are a lot of problems related to this: chemical products, control of seeds... Just think about the petrol needed. And, by the way, is this crop for food or for fuel?



#### Visual impact

We can see how greenhouses affect the landscape. They also have other effects. For example, in Andalusia, the average temperature of Almeria, where most of the greenhouses in Spain are, has increased.



## Workshops in Tulcea



Approaching the inner Delta channels

### Into the Marvelous World of Danube Delta

On the second day of the project meeting in Tulcea, the workshop about *sustainable development* was held on a boat, on the Danube. The participants could understand the reason why for the inhabitants of the Danube Delta *living green* is the only way to live, being healthier, more convenient, also helping to preserve the natural environment.

The participants visited a small fisherman community in *Mila 23*, a traditional village within the Danube Delta. It is just an example of a community that has to learn how the people can benefit from the Delta without *intensive fishing* and *mass tourism*. Biodiversity conservation through ecotourism and local traditions are reasonable alternatives to the sustainable development in the Danube Delta.

### Coordinators' Work

A second point of our boat-workshop was the coordinators' meeting. The first concern was to set up the dates for the two workshops corresponding to 2012, the second year of our project. It was decided that the first project meeting will be held in January 2012 in Munich/Germany and the second project meeting in the last week of April 2012; also, the final meeting, just for the coordinators of the project teams, will be hosted by Granada, in May 2012.

About the next four *Dilemmas* to be posted on the weblog, it was agreed that each school should be in charge of one dilemma, as we did in the first year of the project, the weblog administration work being coordinated by the Romanian team. To help the newsletter editors team in Granada, the coordinators agreed that each host country will be responsible with the report of the project meeting hosted and the interpreting the evaluation questionnaires; also all the participants have to send materials for the Impressions page of the newsletter, after each meeting.



Coordinators during their meeting on board



Students and teachers together in *Mila 23*

## Workshops in Tulcea



Karo Schwam introducing the German team to the audience

**Dilemma: Is recycling just a drop in the ocean created to calm down discussions about the decrease of resources?**



Collection facilities in Munich



## Discussion on the topic *Recycling*

by Benyamin Rida & Furkan Öztürk

Hello, this is the German Comenius group. For the workshop in Tulcea we made different presentations related to the topic *recycling*.

First we described the recycling system of Munich: there are 12 **collection centers** in Munich, where the citizen can bring their garbage and divide it in departments like paper, biological waste, wood, metal, electronic scrap and glass.

You can also find something called “recycling isle”. But as you can see in the picture on the left it is for smaller garbage only.

Our group talked about the special recycling circles of glass and paper. In another presentation we showed to the Comenius group what beautiful kind of artwork one can make of the stuff that others throw away.

After that we split the participants in several groups to discuss the recycling systems of the different countries. It was very interesting to hear the personal opinions of everyone and have a debate about this topic.

Although the students came from totally different countries, the conclusions of the several groups were nearly the same: Most students think that the German Recycling System is a good example and worth to copy. The majority of the families have containers for paper, glass and residual waste at home; some of them also have a container for organic waste at home or in the garden.

Another important point in which all students agreed was that it is important to anchor the idea of recycling in the all day habits of everyone. A good example for this is taking a textile bag with you for going shopping instead of buying a plastic bag in the supermarket.

We also discussed the topic that recycling is only a drop in the ocean, something the government created to calm down the discussions about the decrease of resources. The opinions of the students on this topic were that in order to stop the waste of resources all countries need to have a similarly good recycling system. Germany is a country with a lot of industry and a good and working recycling system. But for real changes it would be important and necessary that countries like USA or China think more about the protection of the environment.





## Workshops in Tulcea



Time to meet other people during the workshops



### Thoughts from Romania

by Phillip Rønhof

We were a small group of 7 people, all ready to go Romania, but with really no real knowledge about the country or its culture, only with the impressions we have been giving in the news, and therefore only with the prejudices we had been building up.

We spent 5 days in Tulcea, which is located in the southern part of the country, by the Danube Delta.

We stayed at a very nice hotel with a view over the delta.

The days went by rather fast, and we had two days with workshops and a third with a boat trip on the delta.

The workshops were interesting, to see what the other countries had been working on, and what their focuses on sustainability were.

The boat trip was very good, thankfully the weather was with us, so we were able to lie on top of the deck and enjoy the sun, while we were sailing up and down the river.

On the trip we had lunch at noon, with specialties from the Donau delta, which were an experience to try.

It was a good trip to Tulcea, Romania. It was great to visit this country, which we did not know so much about before we left. But when the departure date had come, we had tried Romanian cuisine and mingled with local culture.

Romania is indubitably a country with big social contrasts.

They are rebuilding the country, and its clear to see that it is a new member of the 'European Union', they are doing everything they can to be a bigger part of 'Europe', and EU is giving them economic aid on the road to a strong Romania.



Visiting the Delta Interpretation Center

### Our experience in Tulcea

by Nesma Sima

Last may, 7 students from our school, accompanied by 4 teachers set off on this trip coordinated by the Comenius project, which lasted 5 days.

There, we have done many workshops. Our topic was related to, not only how our nutrition affects our good-being and our lifestyles, but we also the damage caused in our Planet by us. We learnt a lot from our mates because of the differences between the lifestyles in each country. We went on sight-seeing trips and we spent a day on a boat in the Danube Delta. For us, the project was a great chance to get to know other cultures, communicate with people from different countries, make new friends and know their thoughts and opinions about diverse topics. We could also improve our English, which is the project's main language. We have to thank our teachers Ignacio, Inma, Paco and M<sup>a</sup> Ángeles who were there for us while we were abroad. I also want to tell my younger mates not to miss this opportunity if they have it because it is really going to help them improve their skills, and have a lot of benefits by learning new things.

### Tulcea- Romania

by Annika V.A. Slatto & Maria Drengsgaard



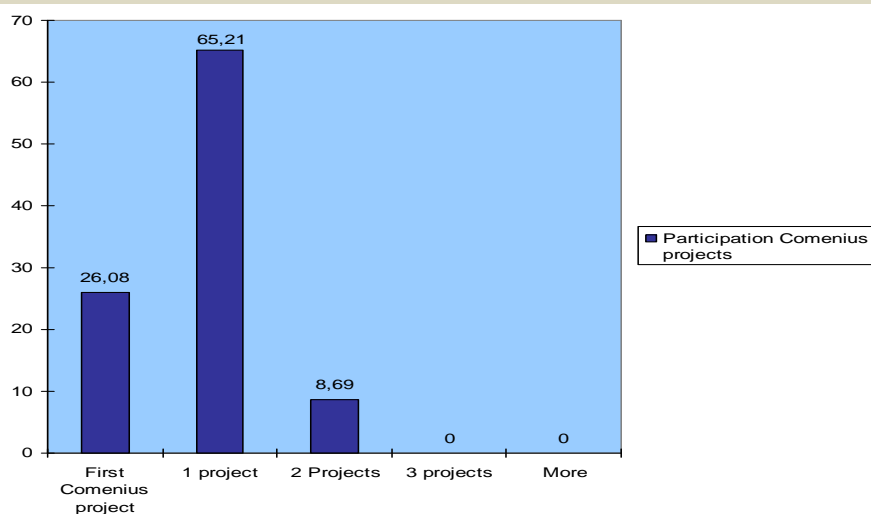
During our trip to Tulcea, in the southern part of Romania, we have experienced a whole new culture that has given us an understanding of life in Romania and of the conditions they have to deal with. Compared to Denmark or any other Western European country the differences and contrasts between rich and poor people are tremendous. Some places it looks like a less developed country because of the undeveloped methods for example within the agriculture. In this sector they still use manual labour such as horse and carriage and scythe compared to other localities in the country where there is a mass-production and use of higher technology. Our meeting with the Romanian culture has also given us a view on the Romanian high school system and the norms, standards and values that western people, like us, sometimes find strange and hard to understand.

If you look at the awareness of the environment we have also found out that many machines, boats, factories and cars do not have a filter and that is why there is a huge emission of CO<sub>2</sub> that is polluting the air. There is for example a big number of factories that send out smoke that is black or yellow.

But when it comes down to everything, our general impression of Romania is that the country is very hospitable and full of contrasts due to the different developments that have taken or are taking place. It is therefore a country that is very different compared to other countries in Western Europe. But it is also the differences and contrasts that have made it so fascinating and exciting to be there and that is why our meeting with the Romanian culture will last in our memories for a long time.



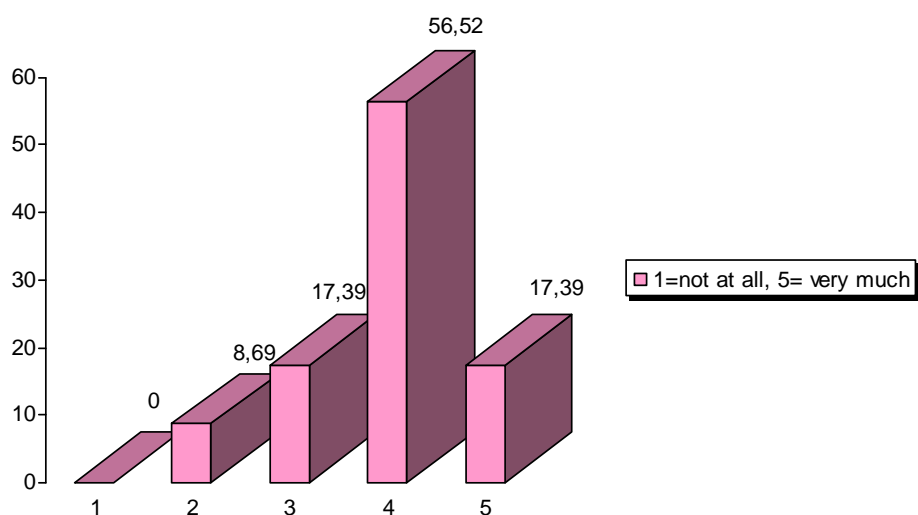
## 1 How many other Comenius projects have you participated in?



### Comments:

15 participants answered they have already experienced a Comenius project and 6 participants are on the first project; we are not sure if some of the participants considered this as *1 project* or the *1<sup>st</sup> project* due to a possible wrong interpretation of the question. 2 of the students/teachers participated in other 2 projects.

## 2 How helpful is a Comenius project for improving the international cooperation between schools?



### Comments:

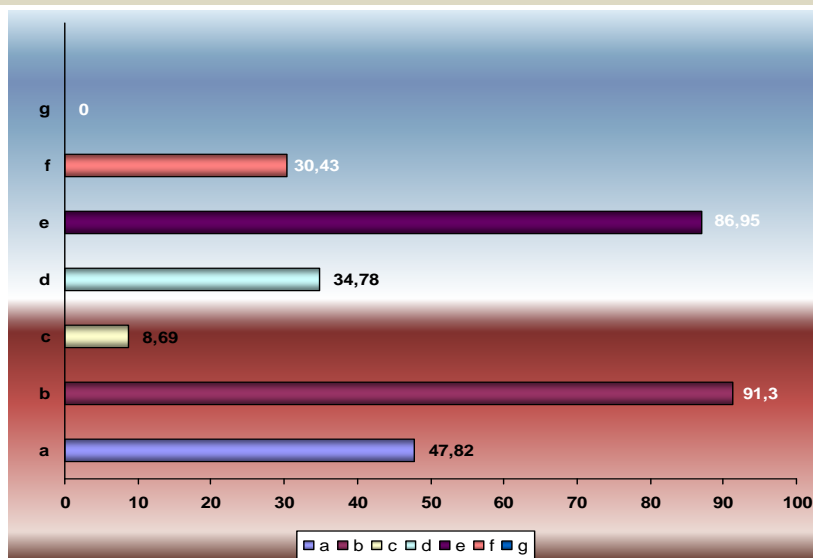
The majority of participants (13) considered this Comenius project *helpful*, 5 participants considered it *very helpful*, 3 pointed a neutral score, since 2 participants are still a little bit suspicious about the meaning of this partnership.



### 3 Why have you decided to join the project “Dilemmas”?

[Choose as many answers as you need]

- a) My school suggested (11)
- b) I am interested in intercultural dialogue (21)
- c) I want to change my school (2)
- d) I want better motivation for my students (8)
- e) I want to visit foreign countries (20)
- f) It's important for my career (7)
- g) Other reason (0)



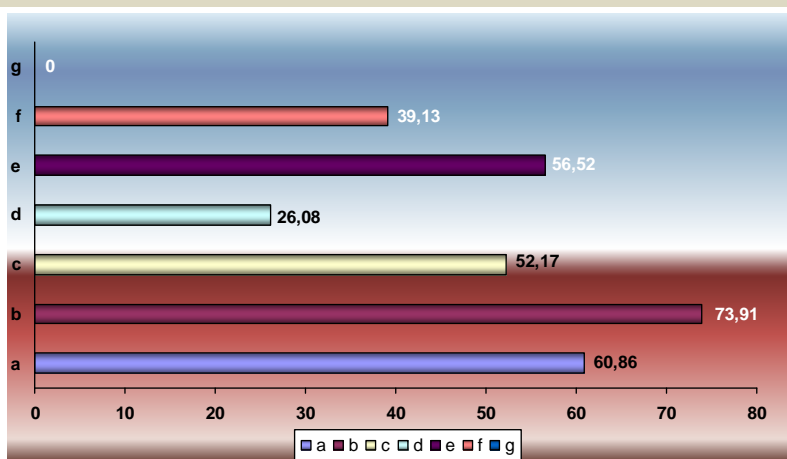
#### Comments:

86,95% of the students had *intercultural dialogue* and *visiting foreign countries* as main motivation to join the project. Involvement in the project was the *suggestion of the school* for 47,82% of our participants. Also, some students consider the project an opportunity for their *future careers*. Teachers decided to join the project “Dilemmas” in order to *increase motivation* of their students to study.

### 4 Why have you decided to join the project “Dilemmas”?

[Choose as many answers as you need]

- a) Increase my language skills (14)
- b) Broaden my cultural horizons (17)
- c) Make new friends (12)
- d) Improve my motivation and school performance (6)
- e) Learn to accept and respect differences (13)
- f) Become more aware of my European citizenship (9)
- g) Other (0)

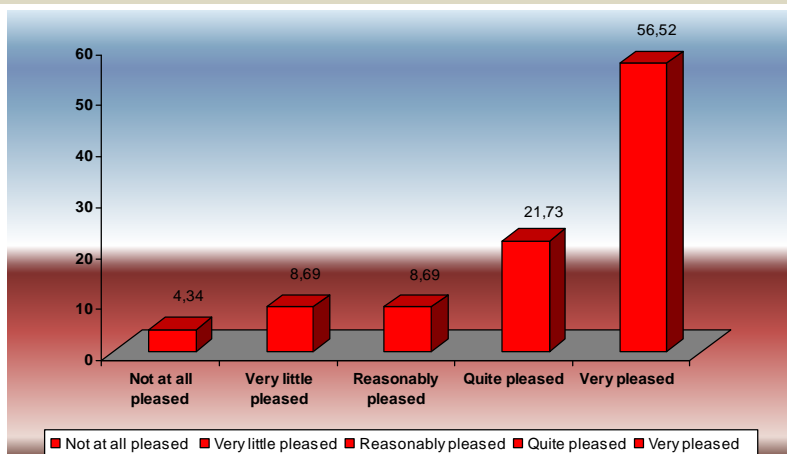


#### Comments:

For most of the participants, the project helped to improve their *cultural horizons* (17) and their language skills (14). Participants are interested in *interpersonal relations*, 13 replies focused on the ability to learn, to accept and respect *differences*, and 12 participants consider the project a good opportunity to *make new friends*.

## 5 Indicate your degree of satisfaction with the activities organised by the host school in Tulcea

- a) Not at all pleased (1)
- b) Very little pleased (2)
- c) Reasonably pleased (2)
- d) Quite pleased (5)
- e) Very pleased (13)



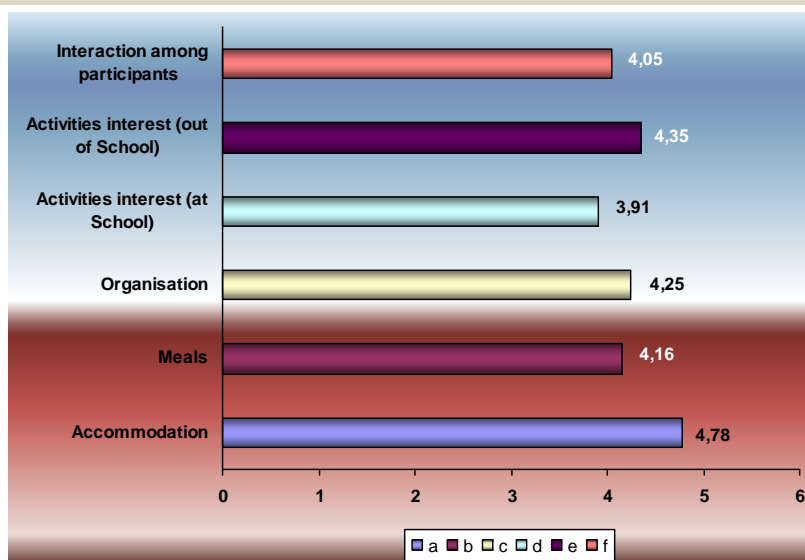
### Comments:

Participants were *quite pleased* (5) or *very pleased* (13) about the mobility activity in Tulcea. 1 participant was *not at all pleased* about the project meeting and other 2 participants were *very little pleased* about this experience.

## 6 Please, rate from 1 to 5 the following items

- a) Accommodation\* 4.78
- b) Meals\* 4.16
- c) Organization 4.25
- d) Activities interest (at School) 3.91
- e) Activities interest (out of School) 4.35
- f) Interaction among participants 4.05

(\* Romanian students were asked not to rate these items)



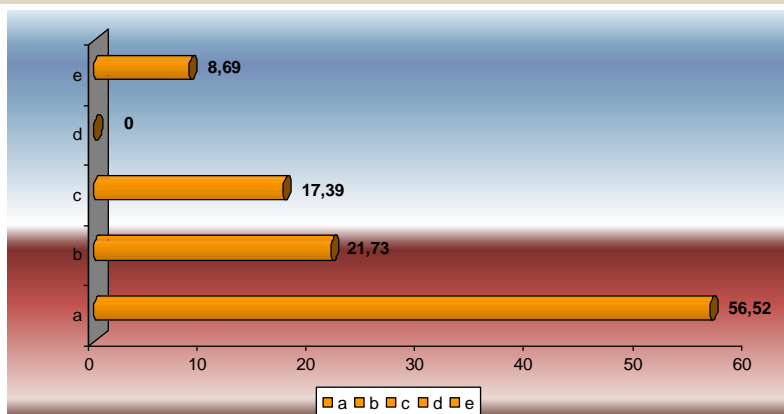
### Comments:

Most of the items proposed as answers were rated on a scale from 3 to 5.

As the previous project meeting in Granada/Spain, the *activities organized in school* were pointed with the lowest average. Maybe during the next project meeting it will be better to have more various and maybe more interactive workshops than before.

## 7 Mark the main difficulties you had when carrying out the project activities

- a) Language difficulties (13)
- b) Lack of time (5)
- c) No easy access to a computer and /or the Internet (4)
- d) Lack of support by teachers (0)
- e) Other: difference in age among the students, lack of information (2)



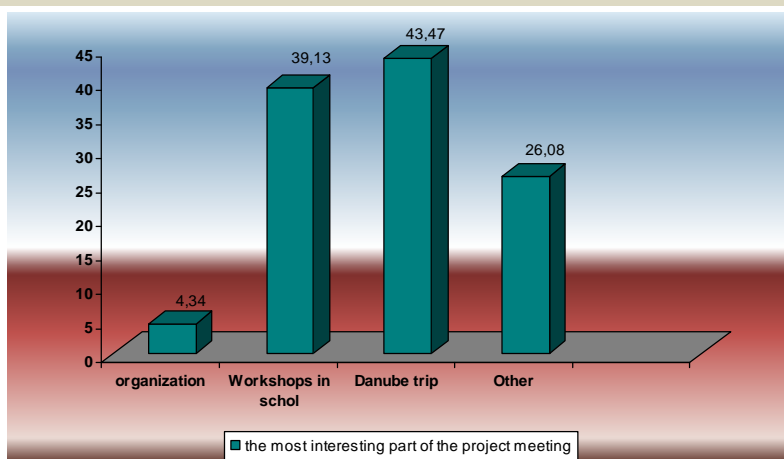
### Comments:

Most of the students considered the *use of English* as the biggest difficulty encountered. It seems that there are significant differences among the English language competencies of our students and this fact has a negative impact on the interaction among participants.

5 participants considered the *lack of time* as a major difficulty, since other 4 participants pointed the *access to a computer and/or Internet* as a bad point. As a matter of fact, within the school there is a room with computers and free internet access, where students can come whenever they want. Unfortunately, we didn't have any request for using computer/internet during the activities in school. Also, within hotel the participants had free access on internet, too.

## 8 What was the most interesting part of the project meeting in Tulcea?

- a) Organization (1)
- b) Workshops in school (9)
- c) Danube trip (10)
- d) Other: (6)



### Comments:

Participants pointed the *Danube trip* as the most interesting part of the project meeting (10). Also, the *workshops in school* get quite satisfying rating (9).

Other interesting points of the project meeting in Tulcea were: *nice experience within families, spending time with friends, learning about other European schools, meeting a new culture* (6).



## 9 Expectations about the 2nd project year

On the 2nd year of the project the planned activities will focus on different forms of discrimination and conflict (gender inequality, social minorities)

*a) Suggest a maximum of 3 activities on these topics you would like to participate in:*

*b) Suggest 3 things you would like to be improved during the mobility actions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> project year:*

Violence against women & social minorities (religion)

More engagement, better structure

Gypsies, Muslims and Christians

Same age of students, better information

Black and white people

Better interaction between students

Role of women and men in the contemporary world

More activities

Differences between rich and poor people

Mixed group, less separation

Racism

Lunch and dinner together with all the students

Accepting diversity

Same accommodation for all participants

Typical food of different countries

Better communication

Debates after presentations

More days for the mobility actions

More free time

Everyone to stay in families



Some students debating with Hanne Kromann-Larsen after a presentation



Romanian students teaching their partners folk dancing during the Danube Delta trip

## Dilemmas

Tulcea Workshops 2011

## Participants



### Gefion Gymnasium

**Teachers:**

Hanne Kromann-Larsen  
Martin Wildenschild

**Students:**

Maria Drengsgaard  
Mona Elbke Mortensen  
Benedicte Jespersen  
Phillip Rønhof  
Annika V.A. Slatto

### Colegiul Tehnic "Henri Coanda"

**Teachers:**

Mihai Tiuliumeanu  
Raluca Baida  
Irina Georgiana Bocaneala  
Iuliana Buruiana  
Adina Velici

**Students:**

Andrada Apostol  
Catalin Apostol  
Sanziana Badea  
Alexandru Bodur  
Ema Caragea  
Andrei Gavrilov  
Florentina Ichim  
Claudiu Isma  
Catalina Mihai  
Cristian Teodorescu  
Cristina Zibileanu

### IES "La Madraza"

**Teachers:**

Francisco Cabrera  
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Ángeles Marín  
Ignacio Mendiguchía

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Cristina Domingo  
Ana González  
Marina Parra  
Carolina Ruiz  
Nesma Sima

### Theresien-Gymnasium

**Teachers:**

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Karoline Schwan

**Students:**

Furkan Öztürk  
Benyamin Rida  
Alexandra Schuler  
Cora Weisgerber

