



Jan Amos Komenski / John Amos Comenius

Dear all,

as you have already maybe heard, our school, "The Second Primary School of Bjelovar" has become a member of a two-year-lasting international Comenius project. Precisely, our project is called "Great Minds" and it deals with famous and successful artists, scientists, sportspersons, politicians, painters, writers, spiritual persons, inventors, singers, pop groups, etc.

What is actually Comenius?

The Comenius programme is a programme established by the European Union aimed at bringing students and teachers in different European countries together. The target group is young people aged 14-19 as well as teachers with extensive experience in their teaching subject. One of the general aims of Comenius is to establish better understanding of their own country and culture as well as the other countries and cultures involved in the project. It is named after the educationist Comenius (Jan Amos Komenski).

Comenius is a part of Lifelong Learning Programme (Program za cjeloživotno učenje) which encourages the cooperation between European kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools. By participating in certain activities of the Programme, pupils and their teachers learn and get to know more about European cultures and languages. Comenius projects also raise the quality of education in Europe.

Schools partner up within the EU and apply for funding for a project - this includes a planning visit and money to support a curriculum project. The whole school is involved - ideally learners and staff work together in different curriculum areas aiming for a cross-curricular approach.

Schools report innumerable benefits, including:

- increased motivation and morale for both students and staff
- improved staff retention and recruitment
- direct contact with other cultures and languages
- development of project management and leadership skills
- exchange of ideas and good practice
- team building
- enhanced cross-curricular approach
- development of new teaching strategies and materials

- development of skills such as communication and creativity for pupils
- long-term friendships with people from other countries

What is the aim of our project Great Minds"?

The project aim is to demonstrate cultural diversity by presenting and learning about meaningful people and their achievements in the field of science, culture and politics. The aim is also to make learners aware of the contribution of their national cultural heritage in the creation of the European culture. Learners will work on selected topics and make presentations for their European partners. The project participants also intend to achieve the following goals:

- To develop knowledge and understanding of the cultural and linguistic diversity as well as to make the project participants aware of this value by exchange of information and international contacts.
- To improve learners and teachers key competences and life skills especially foreign languages and IT skills necessary for personal and professional development and active European citizenship. All project participants will use English and will communicate with each other using e-twinning platform. They will create presentations using ICT.
- To increase learners interest in science, art and breakthroughs in politics.
- To motivate pupils to learn and to heighten their creativity by the interesting project work. Working with e-twinning will make the project work more attractive and effective.
- To compare different school systems. Teachers by working in the international team will share their experience and teaching methods.
- To help school achieve more European dimension by the project participation.
- To explore commonalities in school life across the partners in the project.
- To tackle stereotypes and language barriers.
- To produce resources which can be used in the partner schools in the future.

Some more information about our Comenius project:

European countries involved:	<i>United Kingdom, Ireland, Spain, Poland and Croatia.</i>
Type of the partnership:	<i>multilateral, two-year-long</i>
Working language:	<i>English</i>
Target group:	<i>10 – 15 year old students</i>
Field:	<i>all primary school subjects</i>
Number of mobilities:	<i>12</i>
Grant amount:	<i>14 000 €</i>

MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL...

- *The teachers and students involved in the project should understand and speak **English** (working language) and some **other foreign language** learnt in other European schools as a second language.*
- *They should be able to use **Internet and computer technology and media**.*
- ***Creative and hardworking** people are welcome, the same as people who have made some important **contacts** with local institutions who can **help** us in organization, **financing** and **sponsorship**.*
- *We need people who are willing to stay for some **extra classes at school** and work in a **team**.*

Please, think about it, read the application form given next to this text, study it, and if you have any more questions, let me know (anita@uchiteljica.com).

If you are interested to be a member of Comenius Corner in our school (CC), also let me know by sending me e-mail or contacting me directly at school **during the first week of the school year 2010/2011**. While applying for "CC", you should give me eight (8) great reasons why you want to do it.

I am looking forward to meeting you and working together with you and our students.

Love,

Anita Vegh,
your Comenius representative



