

# COMENIUS HEROES PROJECT. NEWSLETTER NO. 1

The Comenius Heroes Project involves students in six different countries, from Istanbul, Turkey in the East to Edinburgh, Scotland in the West, from Rome, Italy in the South to Trondheim, Norway in the North, with Gdynia, Poland and Nitra, Slovakia in between.

All are working on different heroes who will be put into an election contest and voted on by students in the different countries.

Below we have examples of the work done so far:

## SCOTLAND

### History

History students in Edinburgh have started working on William Wallace as a Scottish national hero. Two different classes have visited the Wallace monument which is at Stirling Bridge, the site of his greatest military victory over the English. The classes were also heroes themselves because they all managed to climb the 246 narrow winding steps to the top of the monument. Some now have the special certificate to prove it!



### Biology (Access to Science Degree) students

#### **Hero: Charles Darwin**

The project is being worked on by 18 students. They are mature (over 21 years of age) and are following a one year course in life sciences to prepare them for entry to university.

As part of their course, each student must choose and research some aspect of science and technology and discuss what impact it has had on society.

Each must prepare a 1500 word report of their findings and give a presentation to the other members of their class. The report is an integral part of the official course assessment.

The choice of subject material is at the discretion of the student. Already one student has decided to focus on a scientific hero. The investigation is focused on the work of Charles Darwin and the subsequent impact on society that his work on the origin of the species has had and is still having.

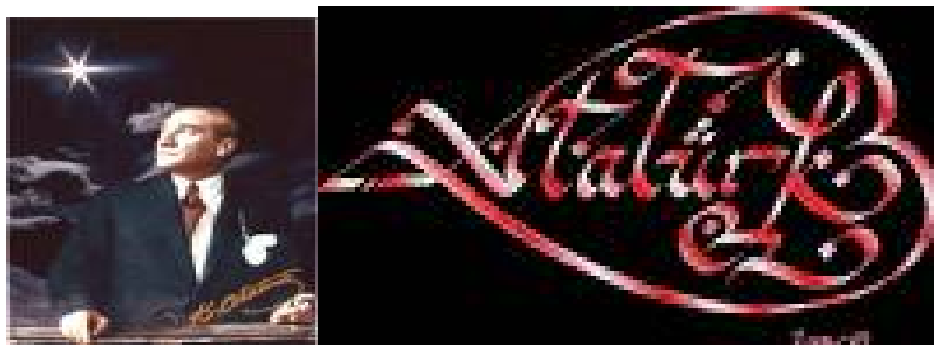
The report must take the form of text, appropriate data, graphics and images. The feedback will include a power point presentation to peers.



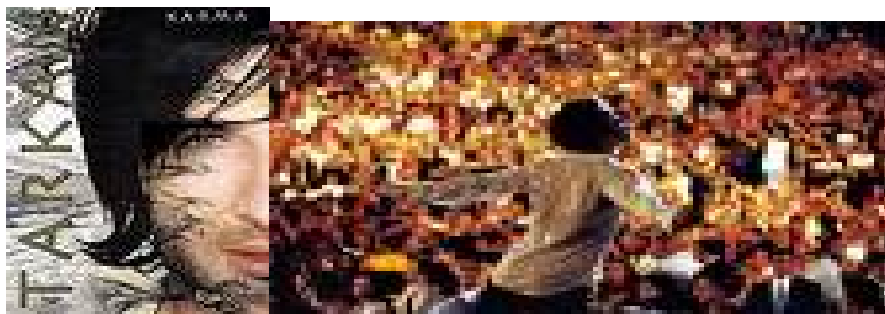
There are also **Psychology**, **Social Care** and **Trade Union** students at work on the project. We will cover their work in more detail in future newsletters.

## TURKEY

As teachers working on the project first of all we have informed our students in 9<sup>th</sup> (first year at school) and 10<sup>th</sup> (second year at school) classes about our project and asked for volunteers. Many students wanted to take part and had an elimination process (we mainly tried to choose students that know English better and looked for some computer skills as an extra). As a result, we have chosen 34 students to work on the project. Up to now we have had 4 meetings with them. In the first meeting we informed the participants in more detail about the project. In the second meeting we asked the students to bring their heroes and discussed the criteria in more detail. In the third meeting we voted and reduced the number of heroes to be presented to only two.



Students have chosen Atatürk (the creator of the Turkish Republic) and Tarkan ( the most famous Turkish Pop Star) namely.



In our last meeting we divided the participant students into two groups. One group will work on Atatürk as their heroes and the other group will work on Tarkan. Also we decided together with the students to define a deadline for the preparations. We plan to finish our presentations on 26th January (the end of the first term of education in Turkey).

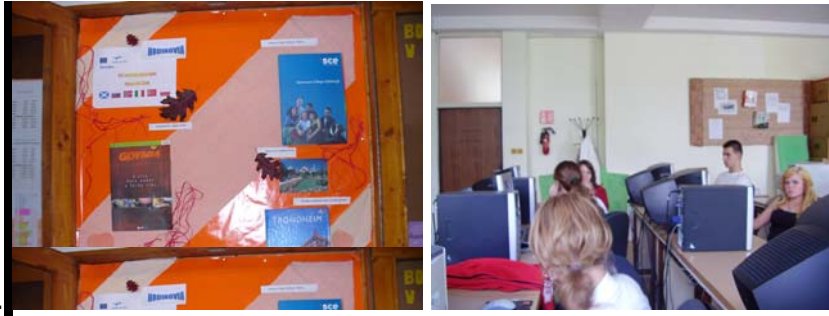
## SLOVAKIA

### **The Report of the Comenius Heroes Project**

After a very useful and effective project meeting in Edinburgh we started work on the project. All teachers were informed about the project on 13th October 2006. They were encouraged to participate numerously as the project is very flexible and many school subjects can be involved.

All English teachers of our school were informed in detail about the activities that can be used to participate in the project at English lessons, they were given some ideas how to work, encourage students and help them with writing about heroes .They agreed to use a form of end-of –term presentation.

Also the students were informed about the project and a special team formed of students interested in participating in the project. The aim of this team is to disseminate information among the other students and also to help with managing the project, They have made a noticeboard informing about our project partners, another noticeboard informing about some project activities. Later it will be updated with the „Heroes“ so that everybody can read this material not only on the website but on the noticeboard ,too.



*The noticeboard and students of Obchodná akadémia, Nitra searching for information about their heroes on the internet*

Our school website has been updated. It was translated into English ,some information about the project can be found on [www.oaboleckovanr.edu.sk](http://www.oaboleckovanr.edu.sk) (click on študenti/projekty). We are planning to present our heroes on it when we collect all the materials from the students. Then students are going to vote for their heroes in a local round of vote. An information article was published in our school magazine called „Hurikán“. The deadline for students who want to participate is on 30 November, 2006 . It means that students are working on their presentations at the moment.

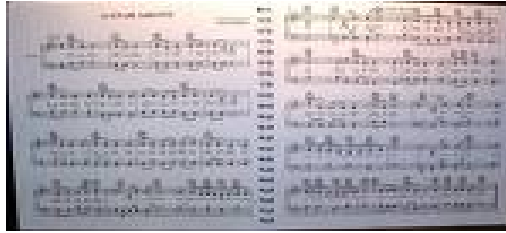
## POLAND

### Report of Comenius Heroes Project. Gimnazjum nr 1 Gdynia



#### October:

- All of the Schools teachers, parents and students have been informed of our participation in the international Project “Heroes and Culture Identify”
- One of the schools students has composed a musical theme that has been accepted as an official anthem of The Project.



- The school's European Club has prepared a campaign promoting The Project and its two phases: class work and individual work.
- Preceding the actual work, many discussions have been made around the topics of: heroes, idols and celebrities. The main questions that have been raised:
  - What makes someone a hero?
  - What does this hero mean to me?
- A www page has been created by one of the students and it includes all information regarding the project.  
[www.bohaterowiejedyнки.pomorze.pl](http://www.bohaterowiejedyнки.pomorze.pl)
- A contest for whole classes has been announced for:
  - The most interesting board presentation about the selected hero
  - The most interesting poster of the selected hero

#### November:

- Individual teachers and their classes have selected and worked for two weeks preparing their presentations about their hero for the class work faze of the competition.
- The schools library has been equipped with books (on the subjects connected with the project) acquired from the fund of the Socrates - Comenius
- At the beginning of the month, 140 students applied to take part in individual work phase – stage one of the project competition. From all of the 140 students individual students and pairs have started working on their own hero. The form of the presentation is at the students discretion and the language of the presentation doesn't have to be English. The presentations deadline is 1<sup>th</sup> of December 2006.
- The schools teachers' board has also selected its hero.

#### **Plans for future events:**

##### **December:**

- 11<sup>th</sup> December – announcement of The Projects contest results individual work phase – stage one.
- Each class will have an opportunity to conduct a promotion campaign of their selected hero.

- 13<sup>th</sup> December – School students (650) vote for two most popular school heroes.
- The finalists of individual work phase – stage one will start working on one of the two school heroes.
- The best presentations will be presented on the projects www page.

[www.ourheroes.eu](http://www.ourheroes.eu)

#### **Other plans:**

- Creation and publishing of a information brochure of The Project

## NORWAY

#### **Report of Comenius Heroes Project.**

- Subjects involved: English, Social Sciences, Norwegian
- 60 students involved: 1<sup>st</sup> year students, 16 years old, General Academic Course
- Period: Last week of November, two first weeks of December



The Norwegian teacher introduced the project by talking about Norwegian heroes, heroes in literature, heroes in rock lyrics and Scottish heroes. Links to all these heroes were published in a folder in our net-based 'classroom' (a log-in area for our classes on the internet).

Examples:

<http://www.peaceheroes.com/heroes.htm>

<http://library.thinkquest.org/26264/myths/tales/heroes/site000.htm>

<http://www.norwaysforgottenexplorer.org/english/heroes/>

[http://www.lyricsfreak.com/l/lou+reed/the+heroine\\_20085305.html](http://www.lyricsfreak.com/l/lou+reed/the+heroine_20085305.html)

[http://www.lyricsfreak.com/l/lennon+john/working+class+hero\\_20082554.html](http://www.lyricsfreak.com/l/lennon+john/working+class+hero_20082554.html)

The following week a discussion forum was created in the net-based classroom where the students wrote personal inserts on the following questions:

What is a hero to me? Is it enough to achieve something personally, or do you have to help others to be a hero? Give examples of people you consider to be heroes. Do we need heroes?

Here is one of the students' comment:

**'What is a hero to me?**

My definition of a hero is a person who matters, to you and to someone else. A person who is special to a lot of people. A hero needs to believe in something, and stand for it. They need to stand for their cause through everything. And of course their cause has to be just. A fight for freedom is always a great cause, or a fight against tyranny. To help people is not necessary, but it's a plus.

What I have now described might be viewed as superheroes, but there are also different kinds of heroes.

People who built countries through blood, sweat and tears. The people who worked all day and all night just to make a living for their kids, they are heroes in my eyes.

Although nowadays there are many so called "wannabe" heroes.

Who can really call those football players that earn millions every year heroes?

I have already explained what I think a hero is, and although many football players do a lot for their communities, and mean a lot to many people they are not heroes in my mind.

A hero does not only need many of those qualities listed above, he also needs to do what he does from a non selfish point of view.

A real hero in short is a non selfish person, with a just cause, that helps people. And he or she needs to matter to a lot of people.

So do we need heroes?

In my opinion we do, we need heroes to do what the average Joe can't.

We need heroes that stand up for just causes.

We don't necessarily need a "Superman" but we need someone who keeps this world together.'

At the moment, middle of December, the students are completing their heroes presentation. So far they have all written their max.200 words and a PowerPoint. One girl has written and recorded her own song, one group has made a film.

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> they will present their heroes in front of the class. All students will be given a grade in English oral proficiency.  
So far, so good!

Best wishes from Astrid, Ivar and Lisbeth (second English teacher involved.)

## ITALY

### NEWS FROM ITALY

In the second half of October we had some formal and informal meetings with some teachers to understand who was interested in the project. In the meantime we spoke to the classes (the last two years) to inform them and try to plan the activities.

At the beginning of November we finally identified 5 classes (approximately 100 students of the fourth and fifth years) and, as a result of some further contacts, another class volunteered to join the project . This last class is formed by students most of them coming from non-EU countries and here in Italy as immigrants to study. Their contribution might be very interesting since it can suggest completely different points of view.

From that moment on we have been asking our students to identify their heroes and start to look for information about them and to write their texts in Italian and English. The choice of the subject , the materials and the type of heroes have been at the complete discretion of the students since we consider extremely important to let them free to express their ideas. Our role is only , as agreed at the meeting , to check the intelligibility of the texts. At the moment most of them have produced individual texts on individual choices. By January we will start the first selection in the classes and then a final selection among the class- winners of the two students who will come with us to the next meeting.

If you want to have anything put into the next newsletter, please write to [dgluckstein@stevenson.ac.uk](mailto:dgluckstein@stevenson.ac.uk)