

IFAPA in the European Project Teachers Mobility EMMA

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Introduction

The Andalusian Institute for Research and Training in Agricultural, Food, Fisheries and Environment (IFAPA), Spain, participated in the project EMMA Mobility Technical Specialists and teachers within the agricultural COMMENIUS Community Programme of the European Agency Socrates (Long Life Learning).

So far, this agency has promoted the mobility of students in programs like Erasmus, Leonardo and others, where teachers only acted as companions.

Jan Amos Komenský in Latin Comenius, was born on March 28th, 1592. The place of birth is uncertain, it could be Komnas (hence Komenský), a small village where his parents lived. Probably he spent his childhood in Nivnice or Uherský Brod in Moravia (now Czech Republic) where there is a museum on his name. He died in Amsterdam on November the 15th, (1670).

Comenius is considered the father of Pedagogy, although he was theologian, philosopher and educator, he believed that education played an important role in the development of people. He made the effort to reach everyone, men and women, looking for joy and motivation of students. He was the pioneer on the arts of education and teaching science, developing new methodologies and tools for the teachers to be more innovative and autonomous on their classes.

Coomenius developed the idea of intellectual and political cooperation between states, which resulted in the concept of 'federation of peoples'. This “modern thinking” and strategy gives sense to the main target of COMMENIUS programmes; that is exchange of knowledge and mobility of people.

The Comenius programme aims to strengthen the European dimension in the field of early childhood education, primary and secondary education, mobility and promoting cooperation between educational institutions. The project aims to encourage schools to continue to diversify and intensify their contacts, communication and cooperation across Europe.

- The aim is educational, therefore this new dimension and its implementation is therefore included on the new European Policies.
- Teachers and students will have the opportunity to meet other education systems and develop the capacity to contemplate their own system from a different view.

- Teachers and students will also have the opportunity to learn about cultural similarities and differences, beliefs, values, habits and attitudes throughout Europe.
- The products of the Comenius project can also serve as teaching-learning materials.

Project participants and objectives EMMA

The EMMA is led by the Agricultural University of Prague (Czech Republic) and participating partners are:

- University of Tampere (Finland)
- Agropedagógica Academy (Austria)
- University of Stoas (Netherlands).
- National School of Agricultural Training ENFA (France)
- IFAPA (Spain)

The common objectives of the participants are:

- 1) To encourage the mobility of technical specialists and promote projects within European universities.
- 2) To strengthen the level of English language among teachers.
- 3) To exchange and improve the know how on agriculture technology and methods of transfer of knowledge among European countries, generated from the participants institutes and Universities.
- 4) Promote new international projects.

Participants from IFAPA

IFAPA has sent five technical specialists to various European Agricultural Universities:

- Esther Calderón Zaragoza. Technical specialist on plant production and gardening. IFAPA Center Campanillas. Stay in France.
- Juan Pedro García Bernal. Technical specialist irrigation. IFAPA Center Chipiona. Stay in Czech Republic.
- Carmen García García. Technical specialist Integrated Production. Centre IFAPA Mojónera. Participant at University of Tampere (Finland).

- Alicia Fayos Moltó. Technical horticulture specialist. The Centre IFAP Mojonera. Stay Stoas University (Netherlands).
- Francisco José Arenas Arenas. Technical specialist in orchards and citricultura. IFAPA Center Las Torres. Stay Agropedagógica Academy (Austria).

The project has been running for about one month from the 25th of March to the 19th of April 2008, dealing with aspects of agricultural training and techniques of technology transfer among the participants countries.

The program was divided in two activities:

- Two weeks in Agricultural Research and Training Centres. Participants carried out conferences and gave lessons about their backgrounds and institutions. They received classes from local teachers as well.
- Two weeks visiting one or more vocational and live long training schools.

The tasks of teachers was to write a report that serves as a methodological guide for future participants, concerning:

- Agricultural skills of teachers;
- How to conduct mobility in European programmes;
- How to evaluate stays abroad (quality of university education, quality of life-long learning; envelope, existence of good relations.).

Conclusion

This European exchange enabled to discover the different European Educational Systems “from the inside”.

The EMMA programme was a fantastic occasion for us to discover each others culture and to create new links among our countries.

It is proved the great efficacy of this programmes for the exchange and transfer of knowledge, technology and teaching methods among the participant countries. The feed back obtained from each one, the material generated and the experienced gained by the people involved, it is far enough to justify the investment that the European Community is putting into the most important good we can have; that is human relationships and Knowledge.