

Africa project

According to the government's and our school's educational policy the mission of our school is to teach and educate students. We should focus on their moral, physical and spiritual development. That's why we encourage them to take part in national and international projects where they can cooperate with peers, work on global problems in teams and improve their social competencies. Moreover, they have possibilities to take a glance at the problems in developing countries.

One of the main challenges of current educational systems is to create a common feeling of interconnectedness and shared responsibility for the world and for its inhabitants. Even when teachers are ready to integrate global issues in their teaching, they often lack the knowledge, skills and tools to motivate their students by demonstrating the immediate relevance of these issues to them.

We believe that school partnerships are an effective answer to this challenge for two reasons:

- they create living personal relations between students of different economic, political and social environments, thus creating a natural link between their experiences;
- they are based on the project method, directly engaging the young people in a way that they become the actors, rather than objects of a learning experience.

Multicultural education is a way in which an individual can foster social justice. Multicultural education's goal is to make sure that all students have an equal opportunity to learn, regardless of their race, ethnicity, culture, social class or gender.

In 2013-2014 our students and teachers were eager to get involved in a project coordinated by Artemissio Foundation, supported by European Community whose aim was to deepen North-South connection and made a partnership for a more just world between European and African schools. We were linked to an African counterpart, namely Freetown High School in Sierra Leone allowing direct collaboration with peers in the global South. We did not only create partnerships between institutions but first of all, between persons – participating teachers and students. Beyond this immediate group, the project affected the wider school communities (school administration, educational staff, other students), the students' families, the local communities, as well as educational authorities.

The joint work brought closer African and European high schools. For half a year students were working on different topics of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), such as fighting together against hunger and poverty as well as fighting for drinking water, ensuring environmental sustainability.



We consider it important to make students think open and tolerant about the world. The project is primarily about raising awareness, including education for about responsibility. We agree that young people find their place in the world, feel the weight of their decisions, thereby becoming active members of the global community. We believe that the teacher-student, student-student interactive relationship and direct experience are the best way to conscious awareness-raising. By having two continents in different economic, cultural and living political environment, students and teachers work together in an empirical way where they can experience, for example, sometimes very sharp, sometimes almost negligible differences between the north and south, urban and rural, Africa and Europe.

One of our colleagues visited Freetown High School in Sierra Leone during the summer holidays, where the local partner teachers and Hungarian teachers jointly developed the first half of the program, and agreed the second half of the year tasks. It was based on the food and water during the first half, and the environment plays an important role during the second.

They were talking about who, what and how much to eat, what nutrient quality to take in. We organised Health Day, healthy meals were prepared.

Every teacher and student at school would like to rethink the world inside and outside their classrooms, build a more equitable, multicultural society, and become active global citizens.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35IgNOGjMUM>

Sashegyi Arany János Primary and Secondary School, Budapest, Hungary - Murray Town Municipal Junior School, Freetown, Sierra Leone are taking part in a common project called North-South Connection dealing with millenium goals. We had two projects during this school year:

Nutrition and water

In 2014 November African teachers were to visit their European colleagues. We were looking forward to the meeting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2sH7iUzO68&feature=youtu.be>

However the visit was cancelled as the ebola epidemic broke out. We helped with our African partner school. We organised exhibitions and events at school to highlight the results of the project and projected a videofilm about the the people in need and their fate. They asked for help. We organised workshops to discuss the issue with the students and direct their attention to the core problems. We decided to arrange charity activities, fundraising and send the aid to them. The Freetown High School students' families in Sierra Leone were sent rice, medicine and disinfectant by Artemissio Foundation. These goods cost 243,000 forints /1000 dollars/ that our students and their families granted. We are proud of our school's students and their parents, thank them very much their selfless support!



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