

II. Activity Report

This activity report is used to inform about the operation's implementation in general, the progress towards the set objectives and of project parts financed from other funding sources as well as publicities measures and problems encountered.

1. Summary of the operation's activities so far

Please provide a brief overall summary of the operation's activities and achievements from the start of the operation till now. Information shall be provided on the main activities, achieved results and produced outputs, as well as on the development of the partnership. It is advised that this field is filled in after the rest of the Progress Report has been completed.

Note that this summary information will be published at the Programme's website. Thus it should be easy readable, self-explanatory and without references to other parts of the reporting form or other documents.

(maximum 1000+1000+1000 characters)

"No child left behind" – the title of a policy paper emphasising the need to ensure all children are included in the educational and vocational process. Demographic data show that Europe is facing a decrease in population. It is therefore essential that all young people still attending school be given every opportunity to develop their potential. And yet, the EdGATE partners reported that there is an increasing problem in their regions of Unqualified School Leavers (USL). It was decided to form an USL Task Force to study the issue. The 1st workshop took place on 19-20.6.06 (Schwerin, 2-day; 19 part. = participants); the 2nd was on 6-7.11.06 (Schwerin, 2-day; 20 part.) including a visit to a "Production School" in Lübs. Two more will follow. A special USL website has been designed to disseminate results www.edgate-usl.eu. In the Management/Coordination component of EdGATE five Steering Committee (SC) meetings have taken place: 6-7.12.04 (Vienna, 2-day; 21 part.); 21.2.05 (Vienna, 1-day

24 part.); 17.10.05 (Vienna, 1-day; 11 part.); 13.2.06 (Vienna, 1-day; 12 part.); and 16.10.06 (Schwerin, 1-day; 18 part.). The SC meetings are followed by Regional Implementation (RI) meetings (component 2) when Regional Stakeholders discuss and analyse regional needs. The USL Task Force was a direct result of such regional input. There have been four RI meetings: 22.2.05 (Vienna, 1-day; 30 part.); 17.10.05 (Vienna, 1-day; 11 part.); 13.2.06 (Vienna, 1-day; 12 part.); and 17.10.06 (Schwerin, 1-day; 21 part.). Regional Experts (RE) have already met at four of the eight planned interregional peer-learning clusters Priority Area (PA) Workshops (WS) (component 3) to exchange best practice models and discuss regional implications. Focus was on PA: Social inclusion/gender mainstreaming; Quality assurance/teacher education; European dimension/modern language tuition; Vocational education/ICT (e-inclusion). The four WS took place: 2-3.5.05 (Schwerin, 2-day; 15 part); and 23-24.1.06 (Vienna,

2-day; 13 part.). Best Practice Manuals were published. The development of an education concept for a European Regional College (ERC) is major task of EdGATE (component 4). RE from all EdGATE regions have been involved in the development. They met on: 6-7.6.05 (Vienna, 2-day; 10 part.); 7-8.11.05 (Cracow, 2-day; 9 part.); and 6-7.11.06 (Schwerin, 2-day; 15 part.). An EdGATE info brochure and folder were produced. PR info and documentation are available on the homepage under "Project Results – Results". EdGATE was presented at a press conference: 15.12.04; 24.5.05 at the Kick Off Meeting (60 part.) and at the Interim Conference 29-30.5.06 (197 part.), all in Vienna. The homepage was launched on 24.5.05 (average of 1650 hits per month). In total 30 articles in national and international media were published and 6 radio and 4 TV programmes about EdGATE have been broadcast. Further dissemination took place at meetings in the partner regions but also in Prague, Rotterdam, Malmö, and Berlin .