



CONECTANDO MUNDOS

Edition 2007/08

- General information about the project -



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CONECTANDO MUNDOS (Malta)



The main objective of 'Conectando Mundos' (Spanish for 'Connecting Worlds') is the promotion of Development Education within educational institutes in Malta so as to make its main themes and methodologies more fully integrated into the education of students of all ages.

"The socio-economic evolution that took place in recent years is characterised in particular by the decentralisation and globalisation of ideas, by the emergence of an information society, by an intensification of the process of secularisation, by a crisis of values and traditional lifestyles, by the threat to the physical and social environment and the challenges posed by demographic shifts." ¹

The organising team is made of four NGOs from four European and Mediterranean countries, namely Cidac from Portugal, Intermón Oxfam from Spain, Ucodep from Italy and Inizjamed from Malta, and is part-supported by the EuropeAid programme of the EU. For further information kindly see www.conectandomundos.org

The principle beneficiaries of this project are students, teachers and other educators, and also other important players in the public sphere (such as members of the political and media communities). Activities proposed can be grouped into four interrelated areas.

¹ National minimum Curriculum (NMC) - Creating The Future Together (Dec. 1999), Ministry of Education; p.16

We aim to:

1. revise the theoretical approach to Development Education in the light of the developing methodologies of Citizenship Education;
2. gain an institutional recognition of the importance and value of Development Education;
3. encourage and facilitate the access of teachers and academics to existing tools and potential opportunities to research and update their ways of exploring Development Education;
4. forge common trails among schools across the Global North and South by encouraging long-term and mutual collaborations between educational institutes, NGOs and other members of civil society in Europe and developing regions.

Therefore, students and teachers alike will have the opportunity to move closer to a wider reality and its global imbalances and injustices and, importantly, acquire more skills to address local issues in a regional and international framework.

Through *Conectando Mundos* (Malta), children and young people will develop the following key skills and values, core to the National Minimum Curriculum (NMC):

- Critical thinking.
- Concern for the environment and promotion of sustainability.
- Empathy with other members of their community/ies.
- Understanding that actions have consequences.
- Understanding that resource allocation and own economic choices might affect other individuals, communities and the environment.

Year I of the Project

During the scholastic year of 2006/2007, Conectando Mundos aimed at promoting Citizenship Education through the theme of Water.

Focus on Water

"Water is an essential life-sustaining element."² Access to water and its positive management is fundamental to human development, while lack of access due to environmental, social, and political factors leads to poverty, social injustice and conflict. After a long period occupying a low position in political agendas issues related to water have become topical for national Governments³ and international bodies like the European Union and the United Nations⁴, highlighting the importance and impact of water on all the sectors of public life.

Within the Maltese scenario, severe "[...] water problems arise from an ever-increasing demand from various sectors and practices, agriculture included, that influence water quality. Disturbances are generated by many different sectors of our society [...]."⁵ World-wide, "over 1.1 billion of our fellow citizens do not use drinking water from improved sources, while 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation"⁶, and "[...] the pressure on water resources intensifies, leading to tensions, conflicts among users, and excessive pressure on the environment."⁷

Acquiring awareness of the priceless value of water⁸, and its repercussions on the standard of living and relations within and between societies, is therefore a key goal of CONECTANDO MUNDOS in achieving a fuller sense of active citizenship within Maltese society in a European and Mediterranean context.

² Introduction of the forward of former Secretary General to the UN, Kofi Annan; in UN (2006): "Water - A shared Responsibility. The United Nations World Water Development Report 2" / p.V.

³ See e.g. the Opening Speech of former Maltese Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, N. Zammit: "Water is undoubtedly the natural resource that is most important for all activities conducted by men. It is vital for health, industry, generation of power and also for agriculture. Furthermore, as most of us are aware, water issues are set to become of major importance in the 21st century." In APS Bank Seminar (2001): "Water and Agriculture in a competitive Environment" / p.3.

⁴ For example, 2003 was the International Year for Freshwater, as proclaimed by the UN (see: <http://www.un.org/events/water/>); on 22 March 2007, the UN feasted the World Water Day (see e.g. the UN Publication "Coping with water scarcity - challenges for the twenty-first century").

⁵ Address of Welcome to APS Bank's seminar on "Water and Agriculture in a competitive Environment" (2001) by E.P. Delia, Chairman of APS Bank / p.1.

⁶ See WHO / UNICEF: "Meeting the MDG drinking water and sanitation target: The urban and rural challenge of the decade" (2005) / p.7. The lack of fresh drinking water and sanitation leads to or prevents the healing of (sometimes lethal) diseases, such as diarrhoea, ascariis, dracunculiasis, hookworm, schistosomiasis and trachoma. Also, [ibid.] "lack of basic sanitation indirectly inhibits the learning abilities of millions of school-aged children who are infested with intestinal worms transmitted through inadequate sanitation facilities and poor hygiene."

⁷ UN: "Coping with water scarcity - challenges for the twenty-first century" (2007) / p.IV.

⁸ To understand the interconnectedness between Malta's national situation and the one of nearly every country on the globe see e.g. FAO: "Malta Water Resources Review" (2006): "Sustainable water resources are vital to Malta's long-term prosperity. Water is necessary for drinking and it supports everyday life at work, at home and at leisure. Water is essential to agriculture and to the health of the natural environment that supports all human activities. Every sector of the economy depends on secure and sustainable access to water. Despite the very limited resources of the islands and the importance of water to a healthy future, water has not to date been valued as the precious resource that it is." / p.11. This report also offers great detail information on Malta's lack and need of water.

Year II of the Project

The subject for the Edition 2007/08 will be Climate Change.

Focus for 2007/08: *Climate Change*

Climate Change is the biggest challenge facing mankind today.

Climate Change is already a reality. Can it be curbed? The answer is as simple as it is challenging. To begin with we must come to terms with today's largely uncontrolled emissions of greenhouse gases.

We have been experiencing significantly warmer weather for the past decade. If this trend continues unabated, by 2050 we could see the tropical forests of eastern Amazonia replaced by savannah, while Europe would lose many mountain species. The melting of glaciers such as those of the Himalayas will increase flooding, followed by water shortages affecting over a billion people in Asia. At the same time, shrinking agricultural land and shortened growing seasons could halve the yield of rain-fed crops in parts of Africa. Rising ocean temperatures would further damage coral reefs and affect fish populations besides bringing about droughts in regions close to the oceans.

Empty Words just add Carbon Dioxide

Combating climate change means taking decisions now that will shape the future. Ask yourself: What causes climate change globally and in your area? What can we do about it? How can we promote sustainable lifestyles?

This year's activities of our project will help its participants identify their contribution to combating climate change.

Through our collaboration with diverse partners of the Maltese and international political, economic and social community, CMM aims at achieving a wide perception of all issues related to Climate Change.

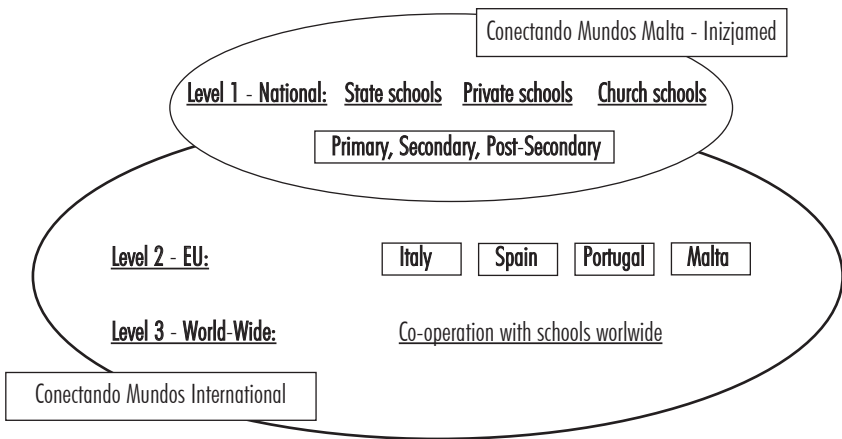
Thus, a fuller sense of active citizenship within Maltese society in a European and Mediterranean context will be attained.

What is in it for the Schools?

Participating educational institutes are offered:

- Curriculum material
- Training
- Seminars
- Guest speakers for activities
- Individual support
- Interactive resources on the subject specific to the current year of the project
- The opportunity to link with other schools in Italy, Portugal and Spain.

Schools from the Global South will also be included.



In Practice:

Conectando Mundos aims at instilling and strengthening Global Citizenship and Development Education at all educational levels in Malta, the European Union and world-wide:

Approximately 10,000 students from around the world have already participated in the activities held by Conectando Mundos during the first year of the project.

Following a Circular issued by the Education Officer for Democracy and Values Education from the Ministry of Education (Ref: DCM 83/2006), a total of seven Maltese primary and secondary schools, including ten classes with approximately 250 students, took part in the online activities provided on our website.

Participating Schools of the 2006/07 Edition [in alphabetical order]:

- Antonio Sciortino Primary School B, Zebbug
- Dun G Zammit Boys' Junior Lyceum, Hamrun
- Kullegg San Benedittu, Kirkop
- Lily of the Valley Girls Secondary School, Mosta
- Ninu Cremona Boys Junior Lyceum and Secondary School, Victoria (Gozo)
- Patri Guze' Delia Primary School C, Siggiewi
- St. Albert The Great College, Valletta



The Activities of the Scholastic Term 2007/08: Climate Change

Prior to all activities, INIZJAMED offers diverse information material (via post and email) and three INSET options for the participating teachers: **seminars** (January 2008), **personal school visits** and meetings with the teachers in charge and heads of schools (January/February 2008) and **online training preparation days** (11 February to 2 March 2008). Hereby, we will discuss Conectando Mundos, the work in the context of Global Citizenship Education and issues around the subject Climate Change. Also, the use of the web-space, the activities, the resources and the interactivity of the project will be explained. For further questions, a number of professional advisors can be contacted throughout the time of the project.

The **online activities**, which will focus on the subject **Climate Change**, will be conducted **from 3 March to 13 April 2008**. All activities require approximately two hours of work per class and week (which equals a work time of in total eight hours), so teachers will be enabled to include them into their timetables despite the vast amount of tasks to be fulfilled. These activities are revised by a number of educators in all four member countries, and are being appropriately individualised for all participating age groups, year 6-8, 8-10, 10-12, 12-14, and 14-17.

The (hard copy) **application** forms have already been sent to all schools through the Ministry of Education, together with a Ministry circular (Ref: DCM110/2007) and the leaflet to this edition of the programme.

However, applications can also be made by sending an email to the project management or by phone call (see below). **The official online applications will be open from 15 October to 21 December 2007.**

Further Fields of Work

Scientific Committee (SC CMM):

The Scientific Committee was established in June 2006 and meetings among the members of the committee were held in the following months in order to exchange opinions, ideas and expertise about Global Citizenship and Development Education, and its emphasis in the context of the Maltese educational system. The members of the Scientific Committee are Ms Josephine Vassallo, Education Officer (Democracy & Values Education), Ministry of Education; Ms Rita Debattista (National Coordinator for Global Education Week organised by the North South Centre of the Council of Europe); Dr. Paul Pace (Senior Lecturer on Environmental Education & Science Education, and Director of the Centre for Environmental Education & Research); Mr. Philip Said (former Education Officer - Social Studies); Mr. Philip Caruana (Lecturer Systems of Knowledge at Junior College, Malta); Mr. Vince Caruana (Lecturer on Environmental Education at the University of Malta; Policy Coordinator for Conectando Mundos Malta). The coordination of the SC is aided by Mr William Grech and Mr. Dominik Kalweit (both Project Managers of CMM).

The SC CMM has produced the “Manifesto for the Global Dimension of Citizenship Education in Malta” (available by contacting the Project Management) and is currently participating in the creation of an international position paper for Global Citizenship Education.

Experimentation Phase (EP CMM):

The experimentation phase is set up particularly for those teachers that would like to widen, deepen and elaborate their knowledge of Development Education. The EP aims at identifying various subjects that can be useful in teaching development issues in Maltese classrooms. Within the wider framework of the CONECTANDO MUNDOS educational project, the EP is particularly set up in Italy and Malta, involving two schools per country.

The main aims of *Conectando Mundos'* EP are:

- the identification of issues that are valid to teach development matters in a cross-curricular approach (e.g. Human Rights, Labour, Renewable Energy Resources)
- the research within the field of the identified development issues
- the elaboration of a dynamic to infuse development education in the syllabi of the various subjects taught
- the motivation of colleagues and students to actively promote and participate in Development Education (DE)
- the evaluation of the elaborated approach.

At present, teachers from Antonio Sciortino Primary School B, Zebbug, and Guzeppi Despott Boys' Junior Lyceum, Hamrun, form part of this two scholastic years lasting project.

Research:

The following list provides a number of research projects and seminars elaborated from or attended by the CMM Project Management (apart from the scientific document listed above):

- Revisions of the NMC (1999) with particular emphasis on Global Citizenship & Development Education and the subject Water;
- Interview with Mr Kevin Gatt, expert of Maltese water issues;
- Participation in Malta's to date only two Development Education Seminars;
- Participation at a seminar on "Citizenship Education and Human Rights" (Prof Audrey Osler);
- Participation at the APS Bank Seminar "Safeguarding Water Resources in the Maltese Islands" (2007).

Corporate Information

This document has been written by the members of the Scientific Committee of Inizjamed's educational programme Conectando Mundos. The members are (in alphabetical order) Josephine Vassallo, Paul Pace, Philip Caruana, Philip Said, Rita DeBattista and Vince Caruana.

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