

ARION Study Visit 01.28 – RO
“Quality Management Systems (QMS) in Schools”
Sibiu, Romania 15-19.05.2006

Report

1. List of participants

Aristoteles	Papajanopulos	Austria
Peter	Schroeder	Denmark
Francis	Beltran	France
Jean-Michel	Fouquet	France
Helmuth	Köhler	Germany
Gennaro	Esposito	Italy
Franco	Fracchia	Italy
Roger	Roth	Luxembourg
Ayse	Ciftcioglu Kat	Turkey
Engin	Erel	Turkey

2. Information prior to the visit by the local organizer:

The information prior to the visit was excellent and complete, friendly and trying to establish a good atmosphere.

3. Material Conditions

The **hotel** was comfortable, perfectly situated in the middle of Sibiu, few meters from colleges, museums etc. The price was reasonable.

The **restaurants** were very well chosen.

Transports: Punctual pick ups at airport, cars and busses on time, minimized wasted time between visits.

The general **organization** was good and professional, very dedicated and very friendly. All involved were constantly anxious to make sure, that everyone was satisfied.

The level of **information** about timetables, schedules, visits was very good.

4. Contents of the visits and program points

School visits:

The variety of different schools was good: Vocational, rural/village, grammar schools as well as interesting and relevant addresses made by educational authorities, mainly during introduction on the first day. The contact with local students and teachers was good. The participants were warmly welcomed from school principals, students and teachers. All schools were well involved in several European programs with student exchanges. The language skills of students and teachers are remarkable. The visiting group noticed appreciative signs of religious and ethnic tolerance everywhere in Sibiu, as well as regarding the presence of and possibilities for a strong European cooperation. Most visits were highly relevant concerning the general theme of our visit, quality in education. The discussions about quality standards were most interesting, in particular the ones at Gheorghe Lazăr National College.

Cultural and recreational activities

The program was excellent and varied. Sibiu offers an extraordinary range of possibilities based on history and geography. Moreover Sibiu will be Cultural Capital of Europe in 2007. The hosts showed a great talent to present the cultural, historical, folkloristic characteristics of their region.

Group discussions

The first and most important group discussion took place on the first day of the visit. Perhaps it would have been more productive to allow for another formal group discussion during the visit. All the attending participants shared a common dedication to the knowledge of different views on quality standards.

5. School Visits

Terezianum Technical College

The quality criteria of this school are inclusive education. Furthermore, the school has an important income from selling school products.

Sibiul School (primary and lower secondary)

Remarkable is the inclusive education within limits. The possibilities and financial opportunities are obviously fewer than the ones, town schools have.

Samuel von Brukenthal National College

This school offers an important opportunity for gifted children in the Sibiu area. Children must pass a test in order to enter the school. German language is kept alive through this college in spite of a diminishing German population in the region. The students take German diplomas.

Gheorghe Lazăr National College

The international involvement of Gheorghe Lazăr National College is very strong and the results in regards to national benchmarking of students' results are remarkable. The cooperation between teachers, parents and pupils is very good.

6. Conclusive comments

Overall it was a very interesting and successful visit. The concept of quality is somewhat flexible to use as starting point. The initial talk by the host organizer was however very useful to clarify the understanding of the word. The concept was evidently used differently in the visited schools. The impact of Europe seems to be quite critical in this respect in Romania from what we have seen. The visit has also had great importance to the participants, as it allowed them uncomplicatedly to share their respective experiences on the subject.

The diversity of the group – principals, teachers, inspectors and quality managers mixed, from vocational schools, primary and secondary schools, as well as inspectors and managers from national educational authorities – proved to be a major advantage.

The group wishes to express it's warm thanks to their Romanian hosts, in particular Professor Gabriel Negrea, who has not only been a competent organizer, but also has been able to contribute to maintain the group focus on quality in education.

Rapporteur: Peter Schroeder