

Jules Verne mission, Gymnasium Lohbrügge, Hambourg

First report of the mission

Before the mission :

During July 2010 I first had phone contacts with the head teacher of the high school and the teacher that will be in charge of me. Then I know that my personal installation will have to be autonomous and that I'll have a period of adaptation before being in charge of classrooms. Besides my CV, I noticed my professional experiences and the particularities of the technology that I teach in France, I also tell that my level in German does not allow me to teach immediately to the pupils in this language.

Moving to Hamburg :

I finally find an apartment with the help of Internet. Once on the place I had to deal with different contracts (water, electricity, phone and Internet ...) after a few weeks all these problems were finally solved.

The first day of school was the 16th August, my arrival and my integration in the high school were quite good. I was among the new teachers with special attentions to help me to understand the functionalities of this high school (specially from the part of the teachers of French and from the school office).

I also have some advantages as I wasn't in charge of classrooms, I could then observe and go with other teachers for a duration of 26 hours a week.

First lessons :

In the first times and mainly because of the language, I follow the courses of the different teachers in French, my task was to present my activities, my subject and France to the pupils. I also attempt lessons in physic and IT during these 2 or 3 weeks..

Sharing works and teach on supply :

Following this period I collaborated much more on the conception of some lessons and thus the pupils were really in front of two teachers. I have also been in charge of lesson by myself, the other teacher was here just to help me in case I had some problem with the language. I also teach a few hours on supply during the week.

On an other side from this activity in French language, I still made some observation works in physics, IT, and mathematics. During these lessons, I mostly help children in difficulties or that did not listen too much, so the class was quieter.

Autonomous work, sparring classes :

Now I regularly teach on supply when teachers of French language are absent (especially for an absence of several weeks).

With some colleagues we split the classroom in two groups. With this restraint number of pupils it is easier to work on some projects like the creation of a trilingual newspaper (in German – French – English) or some theatre plays which were performed during the open day of high school.

I translate into German some technology lessons and teach them in physic to the 8th grade. In this subject and in IT I also once teach on supply. Other lessons in this subject are in preparation and will soon be taught.

In art, 12th grade bilingual class in English, I work with the teacher to present a puppets show to the pupils. The children will also have to create a show and to build their own puppets. I have been preparing most of the mechanical part of the puppets, but the number and the quality of the tools in the high school (drills, saws ...) and also the lack of time, do not allowed a real work with the classroom.

I also keep on observing and bring some help in other subjects, for example in biology for a bilingual classroom, 5th grade, I give advices to the children to prepare a paper and a presentation with a computer.

Other activities and prospects :

Science club :

Twice a week I manage the French club. At the beginning I would like to offer to the children some simple scientific experiments (like « la main à la pâte » in France). But according to that has been done the previous years, and to the non regular assiduousness of the children, I much more collaborate with other participants in order to prepare the pupils for a French examination, the DELF. However sciences are still present with the project « De l'espace pour la mer » (Space for the sea) in partnership with Ird, Cnes and Ifremer. In this project there will be an email exchange with the middle school of F. Mistral in Port de Bouc about the pollution in the harbours of Fos-Marseille and Hamburg.

Opera project :

Following a partnership between the high school and a theatre from the city of Hamburg (Opernloft), pupils, assisted by professionals will prepared and performed a modern adaptation of Othello. In the beginning of the year, with about twenty pupils and an other teacher I will be in charge of the background of the play for a first performance schedules in may.

Student exchanges :

About ten pupils have been participating to individual exchanges with French students, with a program called Brigitte Sauzay. Last year the French pupils were in Hamburg and this year the German pupils went to France for almost 2 months. I am not personally involved in these projects but I hope that my mission could enlarge such exchanges, even if at this moment the other programs (for example Comenius) don't have a lot of success with the teachers of French in the high school. Something like training periods could be envisaged providing a professional dimension to these exchanges..

Website and web log :

I put reports about educational aspects of my mission on my personal website, with some information about the differences in France and Germany. I think I will continue this activity which will be part of my final report. There are also some lessons and samples of activities I use in the classroom with the pupils.

And, at the end I notice the creation of a web log, it is more personal and contains some tourist information but it also deal with a few educational aspects, accessible for a larger and most diversified public.

Address of the website :

<http://guntherf.perso.neuf.fr/new/hambourg.htm>

Address of the web log :

<http://gunther-hambourg.blogspot.com/>