

## **II.A. COMENIUS**

Please note that "School partnerships" are meant to denote both the school partnerships under LLP, as well as the school, language and school development projects under Socrates II.

### **II.A.1. Selection of grant applications**

Please analyse the coverage of institutions/organisations and individuals, reached by the sectoral programme in terms of selection undertaken in 2008. The coverage reached should be related to

- 1) **the targets set in the 2008 NA work programme**, as well as compared to
- 2) **the distribution of institutions and individuals in the school education sector at national level**.

The information provided should be an assessment of the statistical data attached to this report and identify any:

- 1) **over/under-representation**
- 2) **trends compared to the previous year and**
- 3) **measures taken by the NA to address any imbalances.**

#### **a. School partnerships**

- 1) **Have any applications been selected in 2008? (if you select "no", there is no need to answer the other questions in this page)**

Yes

- 2) **Please describe the results of the selection round 2008.**

In the selection round 2008, 1045 applications were submitted to meet the deadline of 15th February 2008 (883 multilateral partnership projects, 162 bilateral partnership projects). Despite very good quality of applications submitted by Polish schools, there were only 425 projects approved (37,6% less than in 2007) at the European level of the selection process. 400 multilateral projects and 25 bilateral projects were awarded grants within Comenius School Partnerships Programme.

The geographical distribution was satisfactory, however the highest number of applications was obtained from the slaskie (27,2 %), mazowieckie (9,2 %) and wielkopolskie (8,7 %) regions and the lowest number: 1,6% from the podlaskie region, 2,4% from lubuskie region and 2,6% opolskie, zachodniopomorskie region. In total 620 applications were rejected, including 483 multilateral projects and 137 bilateral projects.

99 Polish schools coordinate Comenius projects which started in 2008. Many projects are supported by associated partners (154) such as: NGOs, associations, local and regional authorities as well as locally based companies.

- 2.1) **Indicate to what extent they correspond to the objectives set out in the 2008 NA work programme.**

Good

The results of the 2008 selection met the objectives set out in the 2008 NA work programme. The following activities were declared to be undertaken by schools selected in this year's edition of the programme: 181 school projects aimed at encouraging students and teachers to learn foreign languages; 152 projects supported the ICT based development of pedagogical approaches, practices and materials; the quality and European dimension of teacher training were among expected results of 59 projects; 74 projects included innovation based improvement of pedagogical approaches and school management.

- 2.2) **Indicate to what extent the selected projects address the priorities published in the Call 2008.**

Good

Among applications submitted in the year 2008 there were 200 projects mentioning at least one of the eight key competences listed in the Call for Proposals 2008; overcoming socio-economic disadvantage and reducing early school leaving was named as an objective of 125 schools; awakening and reinforcing creativity and innovation was chosen as a priority in 164 cases; 57 schools declared extending participation in educational opportunities through sport.

- 3) **To what extent was a balanced and intended coverage of target institutions reached in school partnerships in terms of:**
  - 3.1) **education level (pre-primary, primary, secondary)?**

Fair

As far as the education level in school partnerships is concerned, the most numerous are the lower and upper secondary schools (221). There is also a great deal of primary schools (140). Only several pre-primary institutions implement this kind of project (18). The Polish NA still observes a limited interest in school partnerships by pre-primary education level.

### **3.2) types of institutions (private/public, general/vocational/technical/special needs)?**

Fair

Taking into account the types of institutions, there is a high representation of public (419) and general education (185) schools. Schools for children with special needs (9) or vocational schools (36) are rarely represented. In the case of vocational education we can recognize two reasons of this situation: firstly, lower level of language proficiency in comparison to other educational institutions and secondly, a high level of interest in the Leonardo da Vinci programme. There are only a few private schools (4) implementing Comenius School Partnerships projects.

### **3.3) geographical distribution (regions of the country)?**

Fair

As far as the geographical distribution is concerned the most involved regions are: slaskie (116), mazowieckie (39), wielkopolskie (37), and pomorskie (28).

The least represented regions are: lubuskie, lubelskie, opolskie, podlaskie, and zachodniopomorskie.

It is of the highest importance for the National Agency to continue the efforts to involve schools from the western, north-western and south-western parts of Poland as much as schools from the eastern, north-eastern and south-eastern regions. It seems that we still have the highest number of Comenius Partnerships in central and southern parts of Poland. We notice the same tendency in other groups of schools of different backgrounds: a very high number of schools from the urban areas and a lower number of schools from rural areas while a number of schools from sub-urban areas is growing. Still, economically and geographically disadvantaged regions are not sufficiently represented. This is the reason why the schools from such regions are given priority by the Polish NA every year.