REPORT REFLECTIONS IN WORKING GROUP ECNAIS SEMINAR SOFIA 20-11-'15

New approaches to learning as keys to success

1. **Discuss what your group agree are the most important aspects of a polyphonic classroom. Make a list.**
   - Engaged children
   - Good classroom management
   - Atmosphere of mutual respect for each other (teacher-children and children among themselves)
   - Safe learning environment
   - Inviting attitude of the teacher towards all children
   - A teacher who avoids in his approach a domination of content
   - A teacher who knows in which context which approach is needed according to subject and students' age ('the art and craft' of the profession)
   - All the above points are what we would hope to see in any well managed classroom

2. **How can those values be fostered by the teacher?**
   - Feeling of responsibility
   - By following training for necessary skills
   - Spirit of openness, sharing and collegiality in the teachers' room (crucial for a polyphonic teacher's room!)

3. **How can those values be supported by the leadership of the institution?**
   - To make the teachers aware of the most important aspects of the polyphonic classroom (The list in Nr. 1 can be adapted and added to according to the needs of the specific school by the leaders and teachers collaboratively.)
   - To stimulate teachers to evaluate their functioning with reference to the requirements of the polyphonic classroom
   - To organize feedback by the students on the functioning of the teachers with regards to the main aspects of the polyphonic classroom (Leaders should make sure that this is done in a non-threatening and objective manner)
   - To give the teachers the tools and techniques needed to meet the requirements of the polyphonic classroom in the different contexts in which they are operating (according to age, subject and diversity within the group)
   - To create a safe climate and practice of observation and feedback (openness and sharing in teachers' room)

- To help set up professional ground rules so that the teachers room will function as a polyphonic teachers' room

4. **Which innovative ideas have you heard about/seen in the schools that you want to bring back to you own institution?**
   A. **Private school of Arts 'Artis'**
      - Principles of the Suggestopedia Approach used in English language classroom
      - Art as an integrating part of the school activities
      - Co-creation by teachers and students (of different age groups) working together on a piece of art
      - Co-creation by the visitors of the school by doing the same
      - Students given the role of leadership in presenting their school
   B. **Prof. Ivan Apostolov' school of Law, management and ICT**
      - Cooperation by playing time fixed games during normal teaching time
      - Lot of room for choice by students for subjects they are interested in
      - Strong feeling of ownership of the school by the students (it is 'their' school)
      - Open access for the students to the teachers room

5. **Write a message from the group to ECNAIS' website**
   - Polyphonic classroom is the result of a polyphonic teachers' room
   - It is the leaderships' responsibility to help to create this.

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