ECNAIS conference Istanbul 11-12 April 2019 on Student Participation

For the first time on a larger scale, students and teachers participated in an ECNAIS conference.

A Dutch teacher, Seher Kurul, wrote down some observations on education in seven different countries made by the students.

1. **Czech Republic**
   In the Czech Republic, education is divided into 4 parts. You study until around the age of 26.
   Point for improvement: In the Czech Republic, more should be talked with students.
   What goes well: many extracurricular activities are being organized. Pupils can choose, for example, to participate in a university for one day so that you can delve into a certain subject.

2. **Finland**
   Through this trip, the students from Finland also discovered that the school system there is very good and therefore think that it is the best school system.
   Points for improvement: need for more responsibility and more accessible teachers.
   What goes well: students can choose courses themselves, they must have done a minimum at the end of the school year. The student council does a lot and has a lot to say. There is a great sense of group, so there are logos from the schools everywhere. Teachers are very involved and are interested in the students.

3. **Bulgaria**
   The students in Bulgaria are surprised by the generosity in other countries (scholarships, Darussafaka school in Istanbul runs through donations).
   Points for improvement: having more for your fellow man.
   What goes well: There are several clubs that you can join. Many extracurricular activities are organized.

4. **Portugal**
   Portugal is well on its way but it is certainly not there yet.
   Points for improvement: the education in Portugal is fairly conservative, students are only finished at 5:30 pm at school and then also have to do homework at home. Slowly, people are encouraged to form their own opinion and to express it.
   What goes well: in Portugal, students wear a uniform; therefore you see who someone really is, you are not judged on your clothing.

5. **Poland**
   New learning has recently been introduced here, which means that from now on you will go to primary school for 8 years and then to secondary school for another 4 years.
   Points for improvement: at the moment things are being learned that you will probably do very little with in the future. What you learn is not practical.
   What goes well: every year, students are selected for the student council by the students, this is done in the same way as voting in real life.
6. Turkey
Many clubs are being set up for students.
Points for improvement: there is still a taboo on various topics such as sex education.
What goes well: many extracurricular activities are organized. Students may design the new school uniform in their final school year.

7. The Netherlands
The students from the Netherlands have also discovered that the school system in the Netherlands is very good.
Points for improvement: more should be organized for students, music clubs etc.
What goes well: you can always express your opinion. You can always talk to teachers. There is a student council that will talk to management.