



Newsletter

October 2012

United Kingdom



Poland



Norway



Spain

Slovenia



Italy



The pilot experience

9 teachers and 255 students participated in the 6 pilot experiences carried out in Spain, Italy, Poland, Norway, Slovenia and United Kingdom. The pilot projects have shown the great potential of SEM@S methodology. Feedback from teachers, students and experts has been very positive regarding all aspects of the project:

Competencies

Participants consider that the project helped students to develop skills related to verbal communication, team working, critical thinking, decision making and independent learning.

Meeting witnesses

Both teacher and students said that hearing the memories of those who lived through the historical events they were studying was the most useful part of the methodology. Interviews have proved as a very helpful tool for a better understanding of history and the multiple perspectives.



Flexibility

Although different topics have been covered and a range of teaching methods used, the achievement of learning objectives has been very similar in all countries. This underline the flexibility of the methodology to be used and adapted in any context.

Motivation

Overall, and even if the project meant more work than normal lessons, students have enjoyed SEM@S project, since it brought history into real life. The creative output and the possibility of talking to other European students contributed to make the project special and different from what they normally do at school.

Students with special needs

Some of the pilot experiences showed that memory is a powerful tool for up-skilling students. In a multicultural context it contributes to underlining common values, and thus helps to foster social cohesion.

Students' work

Each school decided how students would reflect the memories they have heard and the historical context they have learned about: digital stories, a documentary, a presentation or an exhibition are some of the formats used. All works are available on the project website:



<http://www.memoriesatschool.eu/lang/en/resources/>

What's next?

The **final version of the methodology** is now being produced. The final document aims to be a clear and easy guide for teachers on how to implement the methodology. It will be available in all project languages and will also include a specific section with guidelines and recommendations to adapt it to the national curriculum.

A **database of European memories** will also be created. This is intended to become a repository of school experiences using SEM@S methodology, so any teacher in Europe might find the necessary materials to share European memories within the implementation, even if no other school is working on the project at the same time.



Final event

The final version will be presented next **16th November in San Sebastian** (Basque Country, Spain). The event is intended to be a meeting point for discussing the current challenges of teaching history in Europe, as well as the role of the historical memory in education.



A representative from EUROCLIO (European Association of History Teachers) will run a participatory workshop and then, participant teachers and project partners will analyse the SEM@S experience in each country and what lessons we have learned from it.



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