

To the principals of all ParEUNet schools

Boxberg, 19.06.98

User information pool in the Internet

Dear principals of the ParEUNet schools,

I am writing to you from the Parent Association Baden-Wuerttemberg in Germany who will be responsible for the contact with the parents of the ParEUNet classes and will have the function of chairing the User Validation Board in the ParEUNet project.

As we would like to contact the parents of the classes involved in the ParEUNet project we would kindly ask you to forward the enclosed letter to the head of the parents council, or respectively to the responsible for new media and Europe amongst the parents.

The User Board consists of representatives (teachers, parents, students) of every school involved in the project and will meet via mail and videoconferencing during the time of 6. October 1998 and December 1999.

The task of this validation board will be to give feedback about the development and procedures of the ParEUNet project.

In order to elaborate a user-profile we would appreciate it very much if you would answer the below questions.

This information will be gathered by us and will, once completed, be all sent to the ParEUNet Homepage. Thus everybody involved in the ParEUNet project could get the information.

User profile:

- What and how many classes are involved in the project (age of the pupils...)?
- Does the class/classes have any specific orientation (English speaking section in a French school)?
- How many persons/teachers will be involved in the project?
- How are the names and professions (administrator, teacher, engineer...) of the persons involved in the project?

Thank you for your kind cooperation

Dr. Renate Heinisch, MEP
Head of the Parent Association Baden-Wuerttemberg

To all parents
of the ParEUNet project schools

Boxberg, 19.06.1998

ParEUNet-project

Dear parents of the ParEUNet schools,

we would like to present ourselves to you. The Parent Association Baden-Wuerttemberg and its Partner Organisations in France, Italy and Spain will work in the ParEUNet project in order to integrate parents in this Multimedia project and to make them collaborate with the teachers and students in school.

As a Parent Association we want to get in touch with you, who are the parents of the students involved in the ParEUNet project and interest you together with your children in this project.

The ParEUNet-project has started in January 1998 in its first phase which means that all the parties involved in the technical and in the educational elaboration process met several times since January 1998.

The actual warming-up-phase where the schools, and within them you and your children, will get involved in the project starts in September 1998. The start of the project intensive period will however differ from school to school. The first group of schools (six from twelve schools) will start the project intensive period in February 1999, the second group will start it in October 1999. (see also table one)

The ParEUNet-project aims to impart knowledge about the structure and working method of the European Parliament. This knowledge can however only be imparted in its entirety if students have competent partners at their side. As the latter should not only be found in school, it is an imperative that parents be trained as contact persons for their children. Only in that way will all parents have the chance to grant their children an integral education.

ParEUNet is the first European project to allow secondary school students to use Multimedia networks and resources to learn about and to collaborate with members of the European Parliament. Via Internet, videoconferences and a Multimedia database students are able to communicate and exchange views with EU-parliamentarians, as well as with students from other European schools.

A variety of collaborative activities will be planned in the project intensive period. The pedagogues involved in the project will experiment with four different pedagogical models that promote student-centred and problem based learning.

In the annex you will find a list with all the schools involved in the project to give you an idea about the extension of the project throughout Europe.

We hope that we did arouse your interest in ParEUNet and hope that you are looking forward to get involved in the experiment. In order to get a better idea of how the parents at your school are organised, would you please be so kind to send us a letter/mail/fax telling us shortly how you are working together and how you are so far involved in „school life“. Do you for example have a media expert amongst you, how close is your contact to the teachers, who is the representative of the parents in the school, how frequent do you meet...?

We are looking forward to working together with you in this European project.

Your sincerely

Dr. Renate Heinisch
Member of the European Parliament
Head of the Parents Association Baden-Wuerttemeberg e. V.

and

Ines Busch
Project Co-ordinator

Annex 1)

Why ParEuNet?

ParEuNet can be seen in the light of three evolutions that have taken place the last few years:

➤ Evolution in Europe

All countries in Europe are growing together towards one union. The efforts of the countries to be accepted to the monetary union are a sign of importance of the European Union. The growing importance of the European Parliament forces European to become aware of what the European Parliament does, why it is there. This is especially important for young people for whom the European Union and the monetary union will be a fact. To keep democracy alive in the European Union, it will be important that the citizens know how the European Union works, and especially how the European Parliament functions.

The ParlEuNet-project can broaden the knowledge of youngsters about the European Parliament and can prepare them to become full responsible European citizens.

➤ **Evolution in the field of Educational Technology**

In the past technology was often used just to be up to date. It was said that technology should be used to prepare students to the future. The technology was the purpose on itself. But teachers, pupils and researchers became more and more critical towards the use of the technology. What can it contribute?. More and more research in educational technology have been dedicated to find out how the technology can be used most effectively in the classroom, what the impact is on learning, teaching and practical organisation. And the most important question, how do students benefit from these new technologies? The ParlEuNet-project will help to find an answer to those questions and will try to give teachers feedback on how they can use effectively technology in such way that students benefit most of it.

➤ **Evolution in the field of education**

As it is viewed as very important that the student is owner of his own learning process, there is an evolution observable from teacher-centred towards student-centred, more specifically towards problem-based learning. With this there is also a shift from more individual learning to collaborative learning.

Teachers, parents and students are assigned a new and different role.

In the ParlEuNet-project these elements are taken into account, the characteristics of the educational model in the project will be directed towards problem-based, student-centred and collaborative learning.

Who is ParlEuNet?

ParlEuNet can be reached in the web under the following address: <http://Parleunet.jrc.it/archive>

In the ParlEuNet-project three groups can be identified:

⌘ **The user group**

- ❖ Students between 15 and 17 years old, and teachers of 12 different schools from 7 countries in a first phase (see table)
 - In a second phase the project will be disseminated to other schools in Europe.
- ❖ Parents: the interface with parents happens through the Parent Association:
 - Parent Association Baden-Wuerttemberg (co-ordinator)
 - Union Régional des Association de Parents d'Elèves de l'Enseignement Libre
 - Federacio d'Associacions de Pares I mares d'Alumnes d'ensenyament secundari de Catalunya
 - AGE Lombardia- Assocaizione Italia Genitori
- ❖ Members of the European Parliament

⌘ The technological group

- ❖ Alcatel Bell (technological co-ordinator)
- ❖ Arboth Learning Technologies
- ❖ JRC
- ❖ Telia Sweden
- ❖ Telecom Eireann

Next to these groups there is also the European Broadcasting Union who will be helping with the dissemination.

⌘ The educational group

- ❖ University of Leuven (educational co-ordinator)
- ❖ University of Barcelona
- ❖ University of Antwerp
- ❖ University of Maastricht
- ❖ City College Norwich

table 1)

| Co-ordinators | Start moment 1: Group A: February-March'99 | Project teachers |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| University of Maastricht | School 1: Adolphe Max (BE) | Mr. Michel van Stijthern Tel.: 02-736 5922 Fax: 02-736 7039 |
| dto. | School 2: Stella Maris college (NL) | Mr. J. Daniels Mr. Strassen Tel.: 043-358 6100 Fax: 043-358 6129 |

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| dto. | School 3: Rudbecksskolan (SE) | Mr. Lasse Ekevärn Mr. John Lowe Tel.: 019-21 6496 Fax: 019-21 6711 |
| | Start moment 1: Group B | |
| University of Leuven | School 4: Gymnasium Königin Olga Stift (D) | Mr. Karl Waidelich Ms. Götz Tel.: 0711-61 3897 Fax: 0711-615 3638 |
| dto. | School 5: Institut Pere Barnils (ES) | Mr. Ramon Coll Mr. Ferran Urena Mr. Lourdes Balmes Tel.: 03-881 2752 Fax: 03-881 1204 |
| dto. | School 6: Katrinelunds skola (SE) | Mr. Anders Edström Ms. Marianne Staaf Mr. Sven Olofsson Tel.: 060-19 2774 Fax: 060-12 1701 |
| | Start moment 2: Group A: October-November '99 | |
| City College Norwich (Tim Chapman) | School 7: St. Norbertusinstituut (BE) | Mr. Ludo Joosen Tel.: 03-237 7195 Fax: 03-248 7170 |
| dto. | School 8: Vilunda Gymnasium (SE) | Mr. Anders Häggquist Mr. Hakan Soderström Tel.: 08-5909 7291 Fax: 08-5908 5031 |
| dto. | School 9: Canterbury High School (UK) | Mr. David Platts Ms. Kay Macpherson Mr. Graham Read Tel.: 1227 46 3971 Fax: 1227 76 2801 |
| | Start moment 2: Group B: | |
| City College Norwich (Nick Johns) | School 10: Lycée Carnot (FR) | Ms. Marcelle Albert Mr. Henry-Jean Besset Tel.: 03-8065 2501 Fax: 03-8065 4726 |
| dto. | School 11: Bishop's Stortford College (UK) | Mr. Gary Hudson Mr. John Birchall Tel.: 1279 83 8588 Fax: 1279 83 6570 |
| dto. | School 12: Jeanne d'Arc College (NL) | Mr. Ton Quekel Mr. A. O. Kolle Tel.: 043 356 5856 Fax: 043-361 9152 |