

THE FOOD TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL MARIBOR (SI)

CHANGE IN PROGRESS IN EPIDORGE SCHOOL (A REPORT)

1. PRESENT YOUR TEAM OF PROJECT

The team consists of five students from different educational levels (Erna Černe, Petra Erhatic, Doris Žunko, Marko Pavalec and Jure Ploder) and four teachers (Karmen Jurčević, Tanja Slaček, Tamara Kovač and Zlatko Šehović). The members of the team haven't changed from the first year and the situation will probably stay unchanged in the last year as well.

2. EXPLAIN THE SITUATION AT THE BEGINNING

The food technology school in Maribor is a rather new school with all modern equipment necessary for successful work. Yet students spend quite some time during their brakes in the school building and during the years they have experienced a number of imperfections.

All students' findings were discussed at the school board and also at the ATTRAPPE meetings.

Three were chosen as the most outstanding ones:

- a. operating time of the school library
- b. not enough benches and litter bins in the corridors
- c. the school cafeteria .
- d.

Students were involved on all levels of decision making.

We all expected and hoped to improve the school life of the students.

3. PRESENT THE CHANGE IN PROGRESS

Decisions concerned all school population (students and staff) through a group discussion and with the help of questionnaires. During the first year we managed to change the opening hours of the school library with the "split work" of the two school librarians. The library is opened now from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students are satisfied with the change and visit the library regularly.

The second year has been dedicated to corridors (benches and litter bins). This has been a matter of discussion firstly and after that the plan of work has been made. In March we decided where to put those novelties and at the very moment of writing this report the students and the school janitor are preparing benches for fitting.

The biggest and for now the only problem was the lack of belief from the student's side in possibility of making suggestions and see them work.

4. EXPLAIN HOW STUDENTS CONTROL THE SITUATION WITH ASSISTENCE OF ADULTS

We meet every Monday for a half an hour to set the goals for the following week, to gather possible new ideas and to discuss the problems. The changes that have already been made are observed with the interviews and by the visual observation. All information has been kept in our portfolio. We managed the differences in opinion with the open conversation and in some cases also through experiences (benches).

5. SUMMARIZE THE CONDITIONS WHICH SHOULD BE MET AT BEGINNING SO THAT THE CHANGE OCCURS WELL

It is definitely important that the team meets on regular base; otherwise the students lose the track of their ideas and interests. The information about the possible changes should be given to everyone involved in the school life. The presence of adults is necessary in order to coordinate and in a way to guide the student during the process. It is also important for one of the members of the team to be the representative of the school administration.