

Münster / Canolfan y Santes Fair, 10 May 2013

To

National Correspondents of ICCS

Information on current activities of ICCS

Dear All

We would like to inform you about current developments and activities of ICCS, partly in collaboration with other networks and organisations. We hope that this will make a positive contribution to the exchange between you as a national correspondent and the board of ICCS.

The first item to report is that we had a joint board meeting with IV (the International Association for Christian Education) on 14/15 February 2013 in the EKD office in Hanover. This arrangement could provide an opportunity to deepen our collaboration with IV and to work on a number of common ICCS/IV projects.

Some examples of recent common projects include:

- In December 2012 we published the second issue of our common Newsletter. The response so far to the joint Newsletter has been very positive and we will soon start work on the next issue. The Newsletter is available in English, German and French, and it can also be downloaded from the website www.iccsweb.org. The Newsletter includes a section on ICCS activities and developments in the different countries. **As a national correspondent, we ask you to send to us short text with information of interest from your national context for inclusion in the Newsletter. Contributions are welcomed by the end of May for inclusion in the next issue planned for June 2013.**
- In April 2013 a second exchange of school leaders was organised by Dr Tania ap Sion, the ICCS Secretary and by Professor David Lankshear, former treasurer and board member of ICCS. A group of eight head teachers visited Wales and England from 16 April to 20 April and experienced a full and exciting programme based around the theme of “Church Schools and Citizenship”. Within the programme there were opportunities to explore and to reflect on relevant aspects of the education system and education provision in England and Wales through a series of seminars, visits to schools in Wales and a Further Education College, and visits to Gladstone’s Library in Hawarden and Chester Cathedral.
- Organised by IV and the Ministry of Education of the German Bundesland Baden-Württemberg, a European teacher training seminar took place from 2-5 April 2013 in Bad Wildbad in collaboration with ICCS. The theme was “Dancing with difference – opportunities for a Christian-based education in Europe”. This seminar was attended by Juha Luodeslampi and the Revd Ondrej Sobeslavsky as ICCS Correspondents. Juha gave a presentation about the situation of religious education in Finland.
- A project initiated by the EKD Church Office entitled “500 Protestant Schools worldwide celebrate 500 Years of Reformation” is planning networking activities of Protestant schools worldwide up to the Reformation Jubilee in 2017 and beyond. Dr Peter Schreiner (ICCS)

ICCS President: Dr Peter Schreiner
Comenius-Institut – Schreiberstr. 12 – 48149 Münster, Germany
Account: IBAN: DE96 3506 0190 2114 2770 13
ICCS Secretary: Dr. Tania ap Sion
Cyfarwyddydd / Director
Canolfan y Santes Fair / St Mary's Centre

phone +49 251 9810125, fax +49 251 9810150
email iccs@comenius.de; www.iccsweb.org
BIC: GENODED1DKD, KD-Bank Dortmund
phone: +44 (0) 1248680131
e-mail: t.apsion@glyndwr.ac.uk;
www.st-marys-centre.org.uk

and Dr Gerhard Pfeiffer (IV) are both members of the steering group. The start of the project was launched at the International Conference in Eisenach in April 2013. Some project 'Milestones' include the idea of planting a tree on 31 October 2013, creating pieces of art on Reformation issues and developing an interactive website which would include information about participating schools, supporting materials and activities relevant to the project. Proposed annual themes include for 2014, "Rediscover your roots in the reformation"; for 2015, "Love each other – serve each other"; for 2016, "Take responsibility and speak up"; for 2017, "Celebrate faith – live life".

- There is continued involvement with the working group, "Education" of the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches (CSC/CEC). Peter Schreiner is a member of the group with a mandate of ICCS and of the EKD. He is also the Moderator of the group. Current activities of the group are concerned with Education for Democratic Citizenship. In addition, a seminar on EU programmes in education is planned for June 2013 in Brussels.
- The publication *Education for Democratic Citizenship in the Context of Europe* has been published collaboratively by ICCS, IV and CSC/CEC. It includes material and documents of interest to churches and educators. Single copies are available for free. The book is available at the bookshop at www.comenius.de for 8 euro.
- We took part in the CSC plenary in April on the theme of "European Year of Citizens", and Peter Schreiner took part in a panel where he introduced the work of the working group "Education" (see above) and the *Education for Democratic Citizenship in the Context of Europe* publication. Peter will also be the ICCS delegate at the coming CEC General Assembly at beginning of July in Budapest. The so-called Uppsala report with proposals of a revised structure of CEC will provide the basis for a debate concerning a renewed constituency of CEC and a revised working structure.
- A new publication of the EKD church office in cooperation with the Comenius-Institut includes documents, memoranda and official statements of the EKD bodies on education. The publication is entitled: *Education from a Protestant Perspective: A Collection of Documents from the Evangelical Church in Germany*. The collection gives a comprehensive overview about education policy and perspectives in this field. The book has 320 pages and is also available through the bookshop at www.comenius.de for 17,90 euro.
- The Coordinating Group for Religion in Education in Europe (CoGREE) invites you to a conference on 20-22 November 2013 in Soesterberg, The Netherlands. The title of the conference is: "Religion in schools in secular Europe? Perspectives from Research, Politics and Practice". Programme and more information will be available on the ICCS website www.iccsweb.org
- We are thinking of organizing a consultation for ICCS correspondents in 2014 with the aim of identifying common issues and ways of organising common projects and activities. We would love to have your ideas and comments about this and maybe suggestions about where to meet.

As always this letter also likes to encourage you to make a small financial contribution to support ICCS. As you know, we do not have a regular membership fee but depend on voluntary subsidies. **Already a contribution of 100 euro per year on the ICCS account would help us tremendously.** Bank details are as follows: BIC: GENODED1DKD, KD-Bank Dortmund. **Account: IBAN: DE96 3506 0190 2114 2770 13**

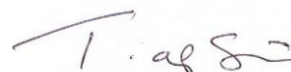
- Please note in your diary the date for the next Klingenthal Colloquy. It will be from 6-10 October 2014.

We hope that this finds you all well. It comes with our best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Dr Peter Schreiner
ICCS President



Dr Tania ap Sion
ICCS Secretary