



INSTITUT FÜR PRODUKTIVES LERNEN IN EUROPA (IPLE)

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**Invitation to
IPLE's 22nd International Seminar
"Productive Learning as international learning – activity based learning
in another country"
from 4th to 8th of October, 2010, in Créteil (France)
in cooperation with the Académie Créteil**

Dear Madam, dear Sir, dear colleagues and friends,

The Berlin *Institute for Productive Learning in Europe (IPLE)*, invites you to participate in *IPLE's 22nd International Seminar* on "*Productive Learning as international learning – activity based learning in another country*", which will be held, in France, in cooperation with l'Académie Créteil from October 4 to 8, 2010, in Champigny (Val de Marne, France). Champigny is a small town in the east of Grand-Paris, 20 minutes far from the centre of Paris, by metro/RER.

The *IPLE* and the Académie Créteil (the regional school authority) are building up a future cooperation within the *International Network of Productive Learning Projects and Schools (INEPS)* (see: www.iple.de and www.ineps.org). We thank very much monsieur le Recteur de l'Académie de Créteil for being the host of *IPLE's 22th International Seminar*. The seminar takes place at their "Centre de ressources documentaires et pédagogiques" which is situated on the beautiful banks of the river Marne (www.crdp.ac-creteil.fr/cddp94).

The Seminar is addressed to European teachers/educators, career counsellors, social workers etc., working in the field of general education with young people in school and outside school, especially those who are in conflict with traditional learning and school and/or who are at risk to drop out from the educational system. For developing their education they may need other ways and forms of learning. *Productive Learning* is one of those which has proved its effectiveness for more than 20 years. So called "bad learners" who, in the setting of regular classes, were not successful, might achieve graduation in the frame of *Productive Learning*.

What is *Productive Learning*?

Mathematics in a restaurant, history in a museum, biology in a beauty parlour: *Productive Learning* is learning on the basis of experiences gained by getting active at

“resource places” in real life situations, chosen by young people themselves. The students acquire skills and knowledge to determine and understand their acting and the conditions of it. The educational process is structured by an individual curriculum. The educators in *Productive Learning* work as *educational counsellors* supporting students to develop an autonomous and independent educational path (see: www.iple.de).

Productive Learning integrates vocational orientation with general education. By changing their “resource places” (placements) three times a year and reflecting several aspects of their experiences they become aware of which could be the field of their vocational future. Their choice of a vocational career or training is very stable where as 25% of regular high school leavers drop out of their training.

What are the aims of the Seminar?

The Seminar offers the opportunity to understand and to discuss *Productive Learning* and its methods.

You will work on following questions:

- How to prepare an international partnership?
- How to organise virtual (electronic) and real life exchange of students?
- What are methods of international learning?
- What are the essentials of *Productive Learning's* methodology?

These aims will be reached if you leave this Seminar with the decision on starting an international learning programme.

How could you prepare your participation?

The seminar is addressed mainly to educators who wish to realize an international exchange. Therefore we would like to ask you to check the interest and the motivation of educators and students as well as chances and obstacles of an exchange in your institution.

Hopefully you come to encouraging results. In this case you will need to develop conceptual ideas how to plan and to realize an exchange programme. The seminar will support you in getting the corresponding competencies.

- First of all you should ask yourself: Do you feel prepared to organize an exchange programme for students and educators with one or more international partners?
- What are your own motivation and fears?
- Are your students or some of them interested in realizing an international exchange?
- Is there a discussion about this question in your learning group?
- What are the conditions in your institution to organize an exchange (resources and restrictions)?

Please reflect these questions before travelling to Paris and try to get information about the topics. The seminar will support you in starting an international exchange!

How will the Seminar be realised?

The Seminar will be held as a “simulation game”. This method is a series of activities putting participants into a situation “as if”. Two groups of Seminar participants take over the role of exchange groups in different countries – students, educators, parents, headmaster, resource-person (practice mentor) etc. – starting international contacts from the very beginning. By playing the game, participants will pass through important stages of developing their mutual relations until meeting each other for the first time and having a common welcome party.

The Seminar will be a three-days-workshop from 5th to 7th October, 2010. Arriving on 4th of October, latest 6:00 p. m. participants will have a common welcome dinner to get to know each other.

Starting the “simulation game” next morning the participants have to face the following challenges:

- informing the own students’ group about the chance of an international encounter,
- researching about this chance by internet, phone etc.,
- getting in contact with convenient international exchange partners,
- finding out a common theme of an exchange programme,
- planning the exchange programme by communicating with the partner,
- acquiring the means for the exchange programme,
- exercising languages skills in English and in the partner’s language,
- coming together at a welcome party.

Passing through these stages of developing an exchange by simulation you will get the necessary know-how of international learning. At the end of this Seminar you will be prepared to start real exchange activities the day you come home – promised! 😊

The three days of the seminar will offer you activities in the morning and in the afternoon. In the evening you will have opportunities to deepen and develop one-to-one relations in order to get in touch with partners.

After a conclusion session on 7th of October, afternoon and a farewell dinner you will leave France on 8th of October, in the morning – hopefully very optimistic about starting international learning soon together with your students.

Organisational questions

Accommodation

We have made an optional reservation at the All Seasons Hotel in Fontenay-Sous-Bois. Please make your booking as soon as possible to get the special price (see registration form). The hotel is situated convenient for traffic; the RER train takes you quickly to the seminar site and to the centre of Paris.

Costs

For the costs of the seminar (hotel, meals, seminar fee) please see the registration form.

Registration

Please send your registration as soon as possible. The deadline is the

1st of September 2010.

Contacts

If you need more information or if you have organisational questions please feel free to contact Viola Paeschke from *IPLE*:

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Looking forward to seeing you in Paris to welcome you at our seminar

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