REPORT OF

**EUROPEAN NETWORK OF SACRED HEART SCHOOLS**

**CORE TEAM MEETING**

**OCTOBER 22nd 23rd 2018 VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

**Introduction**

The Core Team of the European Network of Sacred Heart Schools met in Vienna 22nd-23rd October 2018.

**Present**: Reinhard Hallwirth, Headteacher of Sacré Coeur Gymnasium, Vienna, (President); Christophe Corda, Headteacher of Nantes (Vice President); Hilary Thompson, Coordinator for England and Wales (Secretary); Dorothy MacGinty, Headmistress, Kilgraston, Scotland (Vice Secretary), Sr Paqui Rodríguez Muriel RSCJ, Member of Coordination Team for Spain; Birgit Gmeindl-Oser, Coordinator for Central Europe (Treasurer); Mariolina Cervelli, Network Coordinator. Frederica Lillo,Istituto Sacro Cuore della Trinità, Rome joined the group for this session

**Apologies** were received from: Hilary Thompson, Coordinator for England and Wales (Secretary); Dorothy MacGinty, Headmistress, Kilgraston, Scotland (Vice Secretary); Maria Luisa Campa, Headteacher of Istituto Sacro Cuore della Trinità; Gail MacFadden, Head of Pastoral and Boarding, Kilgraston, Scotland.

**150th Anniversary Celebrations of Sacré Coeur Vienna**

On Monday 22nd October the Coreteam was invited to join in the procession and anniversary Mass at St Stephen’s Cathedral. It was a very special celebration. In the afternoon there was a conference with the older students of Sacré Coeur Wien at which each network gave presentations about their schools/network.

Update since the last meeting

**France**:

There have been many changes in the leadership of the French schools. Formation has been a priority. There are two days of training offered by the Tutelle every year. There has been increased involvement in international gatherings: more headteachers attended the Placeres conference and more teachers are coming to the sessions in Joigny. Fifty students and teachers went to the USA for the celebrations of St Philippine’s bicentenary. The second international young people’s conference in Nantes, Friends of the Heart, was a great success. Every four years there is a gathering of students from the French schools called, A Tout Coeur.

**Italy**

Formation is easier as it is only 1 school. Trinità holds identity days where the story and the present activities/conferences are shared. Many teachers are alumnae, as is the head. Peer formation between staff. The sessions in Joigny help this process and delegates come back inspired.

**Austria**

A formation programme is established, started by the sisters, now led by teachers. Vienna held a gathering of student representatives from all the Austrian schools and also a European wide FOH type experience with students staying with host families.

**Spain**

There is a planned formation programme at different levels (3 meetings per year for principals/leaders; 2 with pastoral staff and 2 with new staff, also for new managements teams). There are meetings for people involved with different projects. Every meeting has an element of formation. There is an online course with tutors and the first week in July there is a formation session for 120 teachers, recently linked to Interiority. They are happy to share their programme with other members of the network.

**England** (sent in by Hilary)

ENW continues to follow its usual pattern of meetings (always including an element of formation) There are 2 new Heads. The Central Team met three school leaders during their visit, a very positive experience. Heartfest, the schools’ biannual gathering, took place in October. The liturgy linked the Goal of Personal Growth, Frontiers and Philippine. Formation for the Catholic life of our schools is the responsibility of the dioceses. For the Sacred Heart mission, new leaders in key roles have sessions with Hilary, each school has SH induction for all new staff. Each school usually has a SH formation session each year.

Alack of funding and state appointment systems make formation problematical in France and Austria

**Possible new initiatives**:

Sharing the detail of formation programmes

Hosting an international meeting in France

More sessions in Joigny, though some thought this might be expensive & recruitment a challenge

Introducing a Newsletter for the European Network

**Activities across the European Network and beyond**

**Exchanges** Please remember the possibility of exchange across the network. <http://www.sacrecoeur-europe.net/exchange>

<http://www.sacrecoeur-europe.net/#!teacher-exchange/c1w9s>

See end Nantes Coreteam Meeting below\*

**Planning for the next European Headteachers’ Conference 2021**

This will take place in Rome: 14th- 17th October 2021

The possible topics, activities, accommodation and costs for the next European Heads meeting were discussed and the previous meeting in Placeres was reviewed. The team of Placeres will be in close contact with the planning committee in Rome. The evaluations and experiences from that meeting will inform planning. The committee in Rome will work on acquiring keynote speaker(s) before the next Coreteam meeting.

**The 6th International Conference for the Directors and Managers** of Sacred Heart Colleges and Institutions of Formal Education will be held in Miami, Florida, USA from 22nd to 27th April 2020 Initial letters were sent to schools in January 2019. Let Hilary know if you have not received one.

**Joigny**

24 attended the session in 2018. It went very well. There is a new lay coordinator at the Centre Sophie Barat, Nathalie. It was agreed to work towards sharing the planning and facilitation of the session. The price has stayed the same for a couple of years. This may have to rise at some point.

The next Joigny session is from Wednesday 9th October to Saturday 12th October 2019

If you wish to send a staff member, contact your Network Coordinator or Hilary at network@sacrecoeur-europe.net

**Erasmus + Project on European Identity**

Participating schools from France, Austria, Spain, Estonia, 2018- 2020 had their first meeting on November 28th 2018 in Nantes.

This is a wonderful way to bring students together to discuss current affairs internationally. Please contact the Coreteam if you wish to discover more about the process, which is straightforward.

**Faces of the Heart**A report was given about internationality project – Faces of the Heart. So far it has taken place twice, bringing students from Sacred Heart Schools from all over the world to Nantes, Paris, and Joigny. All involved think this is a wonderful project that should continue. A letter of appreciation will be sent to Luciana, the coordinator.

**Teacher exchange**

Each network shared their experiences, hopes and the challenges around teacher exchange.

Austria has been able to complete 4 exchanges. See our website for examples. Both sides involved need to be convinced of the benefit. <https://www.sacrecoeur-europe.net/teacher-exchange>

**Links between Alumnae and Coreteam/School/Network**

There is great variation across the networks.

**Rome**: they have links but the age of the alumnae tends to be high

**Spain**: Anciennes are linked but only in special projects at the school, the Barat Groups where young get involved in extracurricular and pastoral projects. Some alumnae have had formation and some keep in touch through solidarity projects.

**France**: Some alumni come to talk to students about their university, 40/50 in one school. Former students from other countries come to Nantes as language assistants, spending 6 months or 1 year. Nantes send their alumni abroad too. It is worth letting former students know that this is a possibility – food and lodging is provided. They could also apply for Erasmus+ scholarship at the moment in for these languages: Spanish, Italian, German.

**United States and Canada**: In every school someone is responsible for organising networking, service, and continuing the tradition of reunions. It is important to help students see benefit of giving back.

**Austria**: This kind of service is not in the mindset of students. It happens if there is a strong relationship with a former teacher/subject.

**England:** Alumnae groups are strong in the private schools: the marketing departments support them and they are invited back to advise students, especially re careers. In these groups and in some of the state SH schools social activities and fund raising are the main focus.

**International Education Commission**

This group, set up as a result of the RSCJs’ 2016 Chapter, met in Rome in September 2018. There are seven members: Suzanne Cooke RSCJ USC; Ma Jose Dominguez RSCJ ESP; Mieko Uno RSCJ JPN; Jose Basaula RSCJ RDC; Eloisa Gomez RSCJ ARU; Urszula Glowacka RSCJ POL; Hilary Thompson ENW. The group has 3 tasks: 1) Update our philosophy of education with an emphasis on humanization. 2) Research current programs that exist throughout the Society and develop, articulate and disseminate an International Formation to Mission Program for Educators of the Family of the Sacred Heart. 3) Assess the relationship of each province’s educational institutions (formal and non-formal) to the Society, including but not limited to responsibility for mission, financial, legal. The goal of this part of the work is to see what ways of accountability for mission in “works of the province” currently exist within each province with the idea that we look at possible future ways to oversee the mission in institutions that bear our name.

The group reflected, spent time getting to know each other and exploring what was involved in each task. Then they concentrated on the first task. There is a long way to go! As a postscript the group met via the Zoom network on March 31st 2019. More work to do with the first task is ongoing.

**The Next Coreteam Meeting will take place La Perverie, Sacre Coeur in Nantes,** France from Thursday 14th November, leaving in the afternoon of Saturday 16th October. Delegates are encouraged to bring 2 students each with them, to focus the mind on our students and to give them an international Sacred Heart experience.\*