**Evaluation**

**Claire Corley and Laura McDowall, Ireland**

Day 1: Meet and Greet:

* *Opportunity to informally meet and exchange names and professional backgrounds with the partners.*
* Partners were met and introduced by Henk, Programme Coordinator and over dinner schools engaged socially and discussed some of the expectations and aspirations for the Leiden meeting.This was a critical opening to the Leiden meeting as the informality of the occasion allowed partners to meet and greet at their own pace and within the boundaries of their own personal comfort zone. It allowed the landscape to be set for a collaborative and productive couple of days.

Day 2: Welcome Ceremony, Tour of Leiden School and Presentations by Partners.

* *The school tour was conducted by Henk and the staff of Jenaplanschool de Dukdalf.*
* Henk guided the partners around the school and introduced classes and teachers. The partners had the opportunity to speak with and question staff and engage with the work the students were involved in. This provided a valuable insight into the curriculum and the day to day running of classes while also evoking and highlighting the hidden curriculum and ethos of the school. Henk’s relationship with his staff, his expectations of them, his interactions with the students and his insight into the education system of the Netherlands provided a valuable understanding of the culture of Dutch schools, their aims and philosophies.
* *A welcome ceremony was performed by the entire school cohort of students.*
* This was a truly remarkable experience of the energy, vitality and creativity of the school. It was a terrific event and the reciprocal respect between students and their teachers was evident. An engaging and rewarding event for both participants and us the audience.
* *Each Partner School presented their school to the partners*
* This was the true beginning of the journey to understanding for us. As each school presented we learned a great deal about each country in a formal setting. As the various schools elaborated on their location, student cohort and background, the pathway for our own colleagues and students going forward through the programme began to evolve.
* *Evening meal with the partners*.
* Again we feel this is an integral part of the programme as the socialisation of the partners leads to informal professional conversations and in turn professional development that is instrumental in opening our minds and attaining ideas that we may take back with us.

Day 2: Teaching Classes and Meeting to Collaborate and Plan the Programme

* *Partners had pre-prepared and had the opportunity to present a lesson to two different age groups.*
* This is a terrific opportunity for any teacher to work in a new environment with an unknown cohort who present a different range of challenges and have a different educational cultural landscape. We both enjoyed and learned from this experience. As colleagues it also presented a unique opportunity to collaborate, prepare, team teach and evaluate together, an opportunity which may not ever be presented to us as colleagues in our own school.
* *Meeting of the Partners*
* A superb learning curve in terms of the eTwinning site, its usage, our collaboration with our partners and the 2 year journey plan on which we are about to embark. This session was really well run, informative, educational and productive.
* *Evening meal with the partners*.
* This final informal meeting cemented our relationships going forward and has laid the foundations for a valuable and rewarding project over the next two years.

Day three : Cultural Day.