6th eRegions Conference 2016:

Cross-border eSolutions & eServices Prototypes Development

Monday-Tuesday, September 19-20, 2016, Castle Jable, Slovenia

<http://eregion.eu/conferences/derc-2016/derc-2016-program>

Panel:

Creating Environment for Entrepreneur and Innovative Grammar Schools Students

in the eRegion

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**Enthusiastic Mentors + Talented Students = Great Achievements**

In my presentation I am going to introduce few examples of the activities which were carried out for the high ability students, especially important for the development of their intellectual and practical abilities. Since our school system is extremely achievement oriented, even highly motivated and talented students make all their efforts to reach the best score instead of realizing and developing their talents, creativity and innovativeness. The traditional perception of school knowledge is based on theory, rarely realized in practice. That is why I first started with cross-curricular connections and soon, together with my colleagues, continued with extra-curricular activities. The role of the students was crucial, especially the use of their pre-experience and motivation. Most of the students in our school have some inter-cultural experience (student exchanges, travelling abroad, mixed nationality families), that is why some of the activities emphasised the knowledge of different languages more (Slovene, English, French). The other part of the activities was connected with actual global topics (global warming; green renewable energies; water as a strategic resource; migrations).

Firstly the students were given several topics (global warming and its consequences in different parts of the world; endangered animal and plant species; healthy life style; addictions; sustainable development...) in order to consider their relevance, analyse the vocabulary and find some articles with updated information and data.

Secondly they prepared short presentations showing mostly the speakers' arguments (pro et contra) about the presented facts, conclusions and suggested solutions to the problem. Doing that they also enriched their vocabulary. The top ability students started with research project design and after finishing their practical part, they prepared a written part in the Slovene and English language. In the last two years they have also participated with their projects on the international level (project Olympiads: INEPO, INESPO and GENIUS).

It is extremely important for the highly talented students that the challenge is hard enough. First it was crucial for them to find the way how to cope with the research problem. They not only designed but also conducted the whole experimental part of the project using different methods – experiment, interview, developing a prototype. Their communication skills were equally important; presentation in the classroom, in front of the professionals from different areas on the national level and finally on the international level in front of international judges. Having this experience students are aware that content knowledge is not enough for a successful personal and professional development and career.

In the future work the process will be the same. New activities will be provided to encourage entrepreneurial skills and skills to enable them to work in international teams.

Regarding individualization I am trying to participate in the students' development of strengths and talents by providing a variety of activities, possibly connected with other subjects (eg. Biology). In the last few years I have mentored students who were particularly interested in research work and innovation. It turned out that the combination of different skills and knowledge must be developed. Besides content (eg. The production of biogas using simple unicellular green algae), the use of the appropriate language is equally important. So I focused on the knowledge of professional vocabulary as well as communication skills. The final goal was the participation on the international level.