

# Teenager Today – European Citizen Tomorrow

## Action 1 – Commenting the movies

Within the framework of the European Program (Teenager today – European Citizen tomorrow), which is held in our school, in cooperation with our partner schools in Sweden, France and Croatia, the students have been asked to comment the movies we exchanged with our partners.

The goal of this action is to give our students the chance to find differences and similarities in the way of life of teenagers in the different countries that are taking part in this project.

Our students had the chance to watch the movies and then answer a questionnaire we gave them, writing down their comments. After that we tried to summarize their answers in some paragraphs.

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## Action 1. Commenting the movies

- **Question 1: Based on the movies you have watched, what are the similarities of the lifestyle compared to the Cypriot teenage reality you have traced?**

Students have answered that they found several similarities with most commonly the available time they have to do things that they love most which are common: sport, music, computers-, to meet friends, have fun.

Also most students use bus to go to school and return home. In addition students have found common adolescent behaviors such as bullying and fringe of some children.

- **Question 2: Based on the movies you saw, what differences in lifestyle compared to the Cypriot teenage reality you have found?**

Some students answered that they found no different in behavior, while some others said that some acts of students – especially in the Swedish movie- were too extreme. Most students said that in other countries schools starts at a different time than at our own. Also pupils travel longer distances to reach their schools using different and many ways of transport, do not have such strict regulations, and are not required to wear school uniform. Students seem to be more open-minded and more independent compared to the Cypriot students.

- **Question 3: In which movie an event or behavior has caused you more impression? Substantiate your answer.**

To this question some students answered that the Croatian movie caused them more impression by their hard behavior against their new classmate, because she was not wearing expensive clothes. Others noted that the Swedish film impressed them and especially the suicide scene, as well as the homosexual relationship of schoolgirls. They were also impressed by the fact that

young people in Sweden are more open-minded and live their lives without caring of what others would think about them or if others will criticize them. They also identified that they sometimes have extreme behaviors to address their problems.

- **Question 4: Based on the movies you saw, in which country would like to live?**

There was a variety of answers on this question, as all countries were selected, among them and their own country.

- **Question 5: If you were a teenager in Croatia, what advantages and disadvantages do you think you would you have from their way of living?**

Students mentioned as advantages the variety of choices of transportation means that would allowed to them to go from one place to another, they can wear whenever they want in school, they will also had the opportunity to live in bigger country, and have fun at huge parks. As disadvantages, students pointed the abusive behavior of some students against other students, and noted that several children were victims of verbal violence. They also said that some teachers don't care at all for these problems. Finally some students mentioned the cold and hazy weather of Croatia, as well as the fact that students need to walk long distances to go to school or tutorial.

- **Question 6: If you were a teenager in Sweden, what advantages and disadvantages do you think you would you have from their way of living?**

Students mentioned as advantages the fact that students can wear whenever they want in school and the fact that young people living free and independent and more easily accept others with and their particularities. As disadvantages they mentioned that some minorities of students cannot express themselves freely, could be blamed by others and eventually make them to feel embarrassed about what they really are.

- ***Question 7: If you were a teenager in France, what advantages and disadvantages do you think you would have from their way of living?***

For this question we got the following answers: schools have more technological equipment, students can wear whenever they want in school, there is multiculturalism, there's no racism and no discrimination among students and they accept those who are different. Teachers show their love and interest to students. The disadvantages of someone living in France, students reported, the lack of respect towards their teachers, the fact that students disagreed strongly among themselves and asked pointless questions during class, since students are not punished for their misbehavior. Also because of multiculturalism students lost their own culture and tradition and therefore have common customs and habits.

- ***Question 8: In which of the cooperating countries you believe that the teen would have to face more problems?***

Most students answered Croatia.

- ***Question 8a: What is the biggest problem that may encounter someone?***

Students pointed the abusive behavior of some students against other students, and noted that several children were victims of verbal violence. Other students talked about the fact that teens judge and criticize others based on their external appearance, their economic situation or their specific choices. Some other students pointed the problem of the limited free time that doesn't leave much space to students to do things they love most.

- ***Question 9: What common problems or concerns of the teenagers you have found in all the movies?***

The common concern of teenagers, students stated that they do not freely express their opinion because they are afraid of others criticizing them, fear and anxiety that they do not fit smoothly into the new environment, as well as reflections on life in the future.

- **Question 10: State the common interests of teenagers you have found in all movies.**

The common interests of teenagers in all partner countries are dance, music, painting, sport activities and computers.

