



Global Teenager Project

Quarterly Report 4 – 2003

A new era for the Global Teenager Project – Schoolnet Africa in the lead!

The last quarter of 2003 witnessed a major step for the Global Teenager project. SNA (www.schoolnetafrika.net) and IICD agreed on a Statement of Intent to transfer a great deal of responsibility for the project to South Africa. In addition to the main event in this quarter, more did happen! The English learning circles finished, the French learning Circles started with new participants from Senegal and Benin, a partnership with RITSEC in Egypt was formalised, the project in Romania was visited, GTP was presented in the Eminent conference as well as in one of the side events of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)!

On December 10th 2003, during the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva, IICD and SchoolNet Africa (SNA), signed a Statement of Intent that will lead to the transfer of managerial and operational responsibilities for GTP to SNA in Q1 and Q2 of 2004. (see news item and full text of the statement of intent at the [Virtual Campus](#) and www.iicd.org under news items.)

In essence the transfer means that all activities that are performed at IICD in The Hague thus far will be coordinated and managed from SNA in Johannesburg by new programme staff. The objectives of GTP in general, and the working structure will remain the same.

Why does IICD want to take such a step?

We feel that GTP needs room to grow and to mature. The focus of IICD is on poverty alleviation via ICTs for Development. Not necessarily via projects like GTP but via facilitating processes in our focus countries. It became more and more apparent that there is a big chance GTP can grow and improve more and better with an organisation that focuses purely on ICTs for Education. SNA has the networks and staff specialised in these topics! Besides, IICD remains a development organisation. If tasks can be transferred to the South, further empowering our partners, we should. GTP, as well as our partnership with SNA, has come to the point where we trust that a transfer is a sensible and viable thing to do.



Shafika Issacs (SNA) and Jac Stienen (IICD) signing the Statement of Intent

Even though SchoolNet Africa is primarily an African organisation it has no problem managing an international network. Latin America, Europe the Middle East and possibly in the future Asia and Australia will stay involved and will have exactly the same position as before, through the coordinators, the coordinators network and Johan Kooij Fellowship Network event.

Educational content: Learning Circles and other activities

The September Learning Circles English finished late December. The quantitative results were reasonable. The special Learning Circle on the Information Society, in collaboration with International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), went very well. Outcomes formed the basis of some side event discussions at WSIS. A news item is available on [Virtual Campus](#). As for the experiment with Advanced and Basic learning circles a small evaluation is planned for Q1 2004. Initial responses were

positive. The French Learning Circles ended just before the Christmas break in December. The influx of new schools from Benin and Senegal proved to be successful. The French Learning Circles did better than last time and are starting to gain momentum. Understanding Diversity is going well. New pairs have been formed in Q4 that will experience the programme. The twinning of schools as well as the assignments seems to be enjoyed by the students and teachers.

The Global Teenager countries, partnerships and presentation

The project in Romania was visited. GTP Romania is well on track and is putting in effort to gain sustainability. Especially the way in which the schools perform is impressive. In the coming period GTP Romania will focus on finding more funds for the project and to ensure a summer camp to bring together the students from all parts of the country.

In October GTP was presented and represented by four coordinators, on invitation, during the Eminent conference in Geneva. This conference focussed on ICTs for Education in developed as well as developing countries. Sithabile Urenje gave a presentation about Kalanyoni School that also serves as a community centre and uses solar power for their lab. Her presentation was very well received. In general the event was a great networking opportunity for the coordinators. They were able to experience the international setting and inform themselves on different trends in different countries.

IICD and RITSEC signed a Memorandum of Understanding and agreed on a project plan to ensure continued participation from countries from the Middle East and North African region. This was necessary after Schools Online, another partner of IICD in the Global Teenager project halted their direct involvement. In first instance, 2004, RITSEC will focus on participation from Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. Next year, 2005, RITSEC wants to involve even more countries.

Johan Kooij Fellowship Network Event and Training activities

No specific training events have taken place in Q4. In Q1 2004 the planning for the 2004 Johan Kooij Fellowship Network event will start. This will be set up by the project staff at Schoolnet Africa and probably be held in South Africa as well so that the coordinators can get to know SNA and its office and create a good atmosphere in the network.

Refresher: what is Global Teenager all about? (NEW)

In a world that is paradoxically growing smaller and smaller and developing towards an information or knowledge society, new ways of learning are needed – ways of learning aimed at developing respect and understanding for other cultures; learning aimed at developing skills to process information and turn it into genuine knowledge; learning aimed at using the tools that today's world offers for effective and efficient learning.

“Mission: To offer educational virtual exchange programmes to secondary school students worldwide, dedicated to promote cross-cultural understanding through new ways of learning, using ICTs ”



Since the first pilot experiment in 1999 between South Africa and the Netherlands, Global Teenager has expanded to 26 countries, each with a country coordinator. The project involves approximately 180 classes from 115 schools. The project is designed in such a way that it can be integrated in the school curriculum.

The main activities in the project are 'Learning Circles'. In each Circle eight to ten classes communicate with each other on-line about a specific topic such as globalisation, health, or HIV/AIDS. Each Circle includes a maximum of two classes per country in order to maximize opportunities for cross-cultural exchange. Communication in the Learning Circles takes place biannually via e-mail or the web. To follow all communication and learn more about the project, please go to www.iicd.org/virtualcampus.