



## Europe as a Learning Environment in Schools

### Background

During the Dutch EU-presidency in the second half of 2004, the project 'Elos' was officially launched. From November 2005 on, a European network with expert organisations and schools from 11 countries will develop joint concepts and tools, and get even more schools and policy makers involved.

### Project outline

The Elos project aims for high-level education, which explicitly includes the reality of the European Union and prepares students at secondary level (age 12-19, all school types) for their role as European citizens, by embedding them in a 'European Learning Environment'. The participating schools subscribe to a European and International Orientation (EIO) in the curriculum, the subject areas and their international activities with partner students and teachers abroad. The 'European competencies' of students and teachers will be defined (following the Lisbon strategy), as well as indicators for a successful 'European' standard at schools in Europe.

Elos gets implemented both in the basic secondary education of all students (age range 12-15) and in the upper secondary education (age range 16-19). At the upper secondary level, there will also be a choice of 'streams': 'European and International Orientation', deepening the basic programme; 'European Vocational Orientation', targeting specifically students at the lower educational levels (such as pre-vocational schools), with a focus on pre-vocational European competencies and practical training abroad; and/or 'Science and Technology', highlighting the International and European perspective in this subject area.

### Recognition

The network receives support from the European Commission (Comenius 3) and national authorities. Schools will take part in monitoring and evaluation activities, which are steered by a scientific committee. Schools will eventually receive an Elos school certificate based on the common standard and a visitation procedure. Students will be formally credited for their work, and receive a certificate at the end of their school career based on a student portfolio and examination of their European competence. Teachers will be able to follow accredited in-service training.

### Participation

Schools that want to join the network, can read more about the project on the website [www.elos.europeesplatform.nl](http://www.elos.europeesplatform.nl) (from 2006 on, [www.elos.eu](http://www.elos.eu)). The network's products will be published there (e.g. a manual for schools on how to start up Elos, case studies, curriculum plans, an overview of relevant learning materials, and tools such as a learner portfolio.) You can also fill out a partner search form and look for events (such as a contact seminar in 2006, or general conferences on European topics).

With specific questions, please contact the national coordinator in your country (see next page). Institutions or experts other than schools that are interested in Elos can contact the European network coordinator.



Contact in alphabetical order of country name

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Other countries (or regions/provinces within countries) and institutions other than schools: please contact the overall network coordinator EuroSchool, Kirsten Stamm,  
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