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Our idea of social cohesion

***"Education and training have a fundamental role to play in achieving the 'Europe 2020' objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, notably by equipping citizens with the skills and competences which the European economy and European society need in order to remain competitive and innovative, but also by helping to promote social cohesion and inclusion"* (Council Conclusions, 2011/C 70/01).**

Dear partners,

Herewith we propose our approach to social skills and social competences, which arises from our national curricula and from European guidelines and documents. We maintain that these skills are far from being achieved fully, so we used a model to show you the actions we already take in our school, as well as weaknesses and obstacles which prevent our goals to be fulfilled completely.

The model we used is called "Swot matrix", you may already be familiar with it, anyway a short preliminary explanation will be useful to understand it in details:

From Wikipedia:

"SWOT analysis (alternatively SWOT Matrix) is a structured planning method used to evaluate the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats involved in a project or in a business venture. A SWOT analysis can be carried out for a product, place, industry or person. It involves specifying the objective of the business venture or project and identifying the internal and external factors that are favorable and unfavorable to achieving that objective. The technique is credited to Albert Humphrey, who led a convention at the Stanford Research Institute (now SRI International) in the 1960s and 1970s using data from Fortune 500 companies.

Setting the objective should be done after the SWOT analysis has been performed. This would allow achievable goals or objectives to be set for the organization.

- **Strengths**: characteristics of the business or project that give it an advantage over others
- **Weaknesses:** are characteristics that place the team at a disadvantage relative to others
- **Opportunities**: elements that the project could exploit to its advantage
- **Threats**: elements in the environment that could cause trouble for the business or project

Identification of SWOTs is important because they can inform later steps in planning to achieve the objective…"

Swot matrix referring to our experience and subsequent objectives

	Beneficial To achieve the objectives of social cohesion	Harmful To achieve the objectives of social cohesion
Internal	**Strenghts** S - School trips - School Exchange - Student Exchange - Counselling - Theatre Workshop - Remedial work with afternoon courses - Counselling - Tutoring - Integration of Students with Special Education Needs - Welcoming refugees (Curricular and Extracurricular Projects) - Writing Workshops - Developing civic competences through Extracurricular Projects: LIBERA: Let's fight against mafie; - Acquisition of human rights - Sport Championship - Health Education	**Weaknesses** W - Too much importance given to assessment rather than formation - Students drop out - Teachers' demotivation - Students' disaffection - Lack of shared planning, methods, strategies - Lack of tools - Lack of IT competence for teachers - Inadequate Integration of foreign students
External	**Opportunities** O - European funds - Cooperative Learning - Life Long Learning - CLIL - More opportunities for teachers to improve foreign languages - Flipped Classroom as a form of revolved pedagogy	**Threads** T - Economic crisis - Political instability - Lack of funds - Lack of investment in education - Disqualification of teaching as a profession - Low salaries - No in-services training - Not much time devoted to foreign languages (3 hours per week) - Lack of a national system of evaluation - Only one foreign language taught - Burn out of teachers

Our Objectives:

- raise students 'educational, personal and professional standard aimed at more than 80% students' qualification
- increase of study efficiency
- Fight against disaffection and disruption
- Lifelong learning
- Inclusion in education as a form of social justice.