

Uddannelsesudvalget
UDU alm. del - Bilag 57
Offentlig

The Danish Organisation for Renewable Energy

OVE International
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Folketingets uddannelsesudvalg
Christiansborg
1240 København K

Århus, den 11. november 2004

Til Folketingets Uddannelsesudvalg

Vedr. den planlagte lukning af Statens Pædagogiske Forsøgscenter

D. 21/9-23/9 2004 afholdt netværket Kids 4 energy en europæisk energiundervisningskonference på Statens Pædagogiske Forsøgscenter. Alle deltagerne var i forbindelse med konferencen på rundvisning på centeret, og var meget imponerede af centerets arbejde på det faglige og pædagogiske område. Da vi har spredt nyheden med forslaget om at skolens arbejde ikke skal fortsætte, har partnerne valgt at sende en række tilkendegivelser tilbage, som vi har samlet i vedlagte dokument., og hvoraf det fremgår hvad de udenlandske besøgende mener vil tabes ved en lukning.

Organisationen for Vedvarende Energi har stået for arrangementets praktiske side i samarbejde med Statens Pædagogiske Forsøgscenter. Vi har tidligere sendt vores indstilling til forslaget om lukning på egne vegne. Vi har samarbejdet med Statens Pædagogiske Forsøgscenter gennem mange år og mener der vil være tale om et betydeligt tab for undervisningsverdenen såfremt centeret lukkes.

Vi håber derfor at denne henvendelse vil kunne medvirke til at overbevise uddannelsesudvalget om at den meget løst begrundede beslutning om at lukke Statens Pædagogiske Forsøgscenter må tages op til revurdering.

Med venlig hilsen



Ejvin Beuse
Sekretariatsleder

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Ervin Beuse
Sekretariatsleder

Comments from participants in energyconference at SPF – september 2004

Rolf Behringer, ISES, Germany

I had the chance to visit the Innovative Centre in Denmark because of a conference about Renewable Energy at schools. Afterwards we had a two days meeting within an European Project called "Solar Schools Forum". First of all I appreciated the atmosphere on the campus. After the guided tour I was deeply impressed and inspired by what I have seen. All the houses are equipped with excellent ideas and material. A great concept that seems to work. We saw pupils very active and involved into their tasks and the good thing, they were enjoying it - which is a very important precondition for successful learning.

Later the same impression at the school. An innovative place that is really needed nowadays. School environment, including building, pupils, teachers, material and methods, is so important for the information society of today. School requires new answers for new tendencies and challenges in society. And Denmark was always a country that I liked so much for this innovative approach.

Especially as a German I was so pleased and inspired after my visit of the Centre and its school, because we are still suffering by the "PISA shock".

Therefore all my respect for the work and courage that I have observed. I hope we will have something similar in Germany one day.

Rolf Behringer - Scientific Projects Officer
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Heming Bjørnå, Kids4energy coordinator, Norge

I regret to hear that the innovative centre is due to be closed. While visiting the centre in September 2004 as a coordinator of the pan-European consortium Kids4Energy (fiananced by the European Commission), it was evident that the activities applied and pedagogical paradigm was very much consistent with what the consortium describes as a European Best Practice.

Our project has for the last years worked to synthesise the various success elements related to good projects and programmes involving children and learning (especially energy efficiency), and a guide is currently being concluded. The findings from almost 100 studies from more than 9 European countries support the following notions:

- Children have a greater learning experience when actually performing tasks themselves. In particular, behaviour seems to predict new behaviour. Attitudes and information (provided to the children through traditional teaching materials) has a weaker explanatory power.
- Engagement and involvement are strong success factors
- Educating children about energy efficiency and other environmental issues has both a long term and a short-term benefit. Equipping the next generation with the right tools, habits and values is the best life insurance for creating value at the same time taking care of the environment.

The innovation centre places Denmark in the forefront of scientific education, and the feedback from the conference (attended by representatives from 16 countries) suggested that this centre was of great value to the visitors, but first and foremost to the children fortunate enough to enjoy this high level of education.

The Kids4energy consortium hopes for the children of Copenhagen that they can continue to take advantage of the great resource that have thoroughly been built with care, integrity and pedagogical know-how. The international community would also appreciate to visit the centre in the future, using this as a best practice and establish similar activity centres and school communities in their countries.

We all hope you can find financial support to carry on the job and great value already created!

Best wishes

Heming Bjørnå
Coordinator, Kids4Energy

Richard Dunning, CREATE, England

When I visited the centre I was impressed with the youth village and the work with visiting students. My lasting impression however was the school. Indeed I distinctly remember thinking it was a place I would like my UK colleagues to have the opportunity to see – especially at this time when many secondary schools in the UK are receiving infrastructure investment. The fresh way the school looks at the how the curriculum fits to the physical environment was refreshing and innovative – and a model we should all be examining as a case of best practice. The students in the school were exemplary – and again I strongly feel that that was a product of their environment as much as the pastoral care they received.

I hope that this is a decision which, upon reflection, politicians will have the courage to reverse!

With best wishes for the future

Richard.

Richard Dunning
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Istvan Farkas, Hungary

It's really a sad story.

As a matter of fact, being back to Hungary after the meeting I myself explained in several forum that how important would be to establish such schools in Hungary. I think, your schools is a nice example how to involve all the students into the solution phase of the society's proble.

I hope that you would able to fight for continuing the school operation.

Regards,
Istvan

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Dave Dixon, Head teacher, Nottinghamshire, England

I was shocked to hear of the closure of the Innovative Centre of General Education. I visited the school as part of the European Kids4Energy Project and was very impressed with work of the staff and students. The philosophy underlying its activities of creating autonomous learners, who will be prepared for the challenges of the 21st century, is an exemplary one. In my opinion, all European schools should aspire to this ideal. I went home with ideas which I can try in my own institution.

In the UK, there has been a swing away from creative education which is only just being rectified, as research points to the value of 'brain-friendly' and cross-curricular learning. To my mind the Innovation Centre fits this model and I am amazed that a forward looking country like Denmark sees fit to dismantle it. I sincerely hope that there will be a re-think so that the school can continue to be an exemplar for Denmark and Europe.

Yours sincerely,

David Dixon, Head Teacher, Bowbridge Primary School, Bailey Road, Newark
Nottinghamshire, UK.

Sharon Bannister, West Wales

At the recent School 4 Energy conference (21st and 22nd September 2004) at the Innovative Centre in Copenhagen I had the privilege of a short tour of the school that is, I hear, to be closed. This is a tragedy as the vitality and originality were clearly evident. Pupils obviously enjoyed being at the school - the teaching and the learning were clearly of a high standard. The building encouraged this ethos with plenty of natural light and open spaces that enabled congregation.

As an education officer and trained primary school teacher, in Wales, I often looked to Denmark for exactly these innovative teaching and learning environments. To lose such examples of excellence is, as I said before, a tragedy.

Good luck

Sharon Bannister
Schools Officer
West Wales ECO Centre
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Ion Constatin Zamfir, Romania

I'm really shocked by a so brutal bad news I receive from you.

It is the third bad news about Denmark I had in the last 3 years:

1. the Danish government decision to stop any support for environmental NGOs dealing with sustainable energy;
2. the Danish government decision to stop programs on wind energy
3. the decision of the education ministry to close the school of the National Innovative centre for general education

I've spent only two wonderful days for a very interesting conference held in the the school at the innovative centre.

For me as a Romanian looking for new methods to improve the education for sustainable development, it was a very inspirational time.

I've met very good and dedicated educators, I've discovered attractive educational tools, I've seen students working in teams and understanding the challenges of today and tomorrow world.

I came back in my country, and I've trying to explain to some influential people from our Ministry of Education about this pioneering site in order to convince them that it is good to replicate in our country such project.

At the same time, I came back to Romania with the feeling that in Denmark something goes wrong from political point of view, at least in that concerning the sustainable development.

Seeing Denmark leaving the first place in the world in that concerns the intelligent energy made me sad.

Seeing Danish NGOs recognized all around the world for their efforts focussing sustainable energy policies, and being a real help and support for environmental NGOs worldwide, in the situation of not being supported by their government made me also sad. Now I'm hearing about the intentions of the education ministry of Denmark to close the school at the innovative centre. It seems to me something like a threat addressed to brilliant future of young people.... I don't know why so intelligent people I consider Danish can accept the that really good things they have built can be demolished so easy, just because somebody in the government is against the progress.

It is because I've built a wrong image of Denmark democracy?

Sorry to be so pathetic, but, I want to repeat I've saying during the confernce in September, Danish people and their incredible smart energy policy I've understood in the '90s visiting for the first time your wonderful country - changed my life, changed my understanding of the future, made me a partisan of sustainability. So I can't believe that is so short time, a small group of people can really send back Denmark in the '60s.

I'm sorry my English is so bad and I can't express in an accurate way what I'm thinking.

Please, try to make it understandable, even you have to change or/and to add words.

Thank you.

I wish you to be successful in maintaining the whole centre in the same situation like I was visiting it in September.

Best regards,

Ion Constantin Zamfir

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Lothar Eisenmann, Germany

Dear Janus,

just a few days ago I sent Kare Albrechtsen an e-mail, in which I told him, how much the Kopenhagen conference has impressed me. One reason was, of course, the innovative centre for general education, where the conference took place. Back in Germany, the first thing I told my colleagues was about the innovative centre in Denmark and that I do not know anything similar in Germany. I am very sad to hear that the school will be closed, because in my opinion this is the future of learning or it should be. I have visited some 100 schools in Germany as an consultant for energy efficiency, and I have only seen few approaches like those practiced in the innovative center. From my German point of view I think it would be a very good idea to reconsider the decision of the ministry of education, because the innovation center is one of the places, where the future of education takes place.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, if there is anything, I could help you with. Thank you very much for your hospitality during the conference

Best regards

Lothar Eisenmann

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Dr. Michael Sharp, Germany

It was really interesting to visit the innovative centre of general education in Redovre. You know, we are working for our national Ministry of Environment within a project about new possibilities to raise the attention of the young generations to global environmental problems. We took your school as one good practice of doing that. Therefore we are really astonished about the decision to close down this facility. During our studies we have learned, that a good environmental education can't be done only by cathedral teaching the pupils one or two hours a year. Pupils in Germany have to learn a lot of things, which would be worse for the future. Very often, basic knowledge about the complex reality of economy and ecology are lacking in fact that there is no place for teaching things which are really important for decision making. When we visited your school, looking at the pupils how they are learning, seeing them engaging for projects, I got the impressions that the innovative centre of general education was a really good example of combining classic education with relevant aspects of environmental education modern ways of teaching. I feel really pity, when I heard your message and I think, a big chance for a better education

of the young generation will be passed.

Sincerely Yours

Dr. Michael Scharp

IZT Institut für Futures Studies and Technology Assessment

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Meike Rathgeber, Germany

I'm very sorry to read about the plans to close the school at the innovative centre. In Germany they start to build up such schools or more free and interdisciplinary projects in normal schools, because we were very bad in the survey of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). Schools like yours motivate the pupils to learn. They learn because they are free to learn and have fun by doing something. It was a very important message from our conference, that one of the most important facts for a successful education is fun. Many Professors for education or didactics in Germany make their investigations in the field of learning in projects now. So it is a big chance to have a school, where all pupils learn in projects every day.

I hope that they will not be so stupid to close such an innovative and inspiring project.

With best regards

Meike Rathgeber

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