

An International Network, Concluding discussion

This is a summary of the final discussion of the symposium to sum up and to discuss ideas for the future.

1. International network in Historic environment Education and Time Travels formed

The question was how to stay connected in the future? Much interest was expressed in continuing with connections in different ways.

The participants decided to form an International Network in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels. Everyone that has taken part in the symposium is part of that network.

Kalmar Läns Museum is the coordinator of the network.



The participants at the symposium in Vimmerby, November 2004 - About 35 people from museums, schools and universities in eight countries. They decided to form an International Network in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels, called Bridging Ages.



The dinner at Stadshotellet in Vimmerby, inspired in many ways by the 1880s.

2. Report

The aim is to draw up a report of the symposium, a report that will present the work that is going on in various countries and that also can inspire others in the field of Historic Environment Education and Time Travels. Kalmar Läns Museum and the Vimmerby Academy will try to find financing for the printing of the report.

3. Research, international survey

An important task for the network is to do research on the Time Travel method. The importance of empirical results was pointed out. How does the method influence individuals and the society? How do we measure this? What do students remember and what knowledge have they gained after a time travel?

Jon Hunner took the responsibility of working out a possible international survey. The participants of the symposium were asked to e-mail questions and parameters that could be useful in the survey to Jon Hunner.

4. Website, Publications

Other ideas for the network: creating a website where news, activities and research in Historic Environment Education and Time Travels could be presented. Maybe even start a periodical publication on the Internet (as part of the website).

5. EU grants

Possible grants were discussed. Jon Hunner, Eugenia Bolognesi and Kalmar Läns Museum will look for possible EU grants and grants for collaboration EU and the USA.

6. Next meeting

There was a lot of interest in more meetings, maybe once a year, rotating between the countries.

Eugenia Bolognesi aims at arranging a conference at the Swedish Institute in Rome in 2006.

Erkki Lahti wanted another meeting in Vimmerby in 2007, the 100th birthday of Astrid Lindgren. He also mentioned a possible topic: community development and entrepreneurship.

It is open for others to arrange meetings in their countries.

7. Interesting topics

Several interesting topics to discuss and develop were mentioned:

- Integration
- The methods of Historic Environment Education and Time Travels
- Acceptance and implementation of the method. Results
- Community and regional development
- Gender issues

8. More ideas

- Jon Hunner and Nina Clark will apply for presentations of the time travel method at national historical and museum conferences in the USA.
- Is it possible to construct virtual games like the "Age of Empires", but more historically accurate?

It was stated that the participants at the symposium have a common ideological ground with Historic Environment Education and Time Travels as a way of learning. There are other institutions doing similar kind of things, but maybe not exactly the same. It would of course be interesting to expand the network in the future.

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