



**EDITORS NOTE:** Traditionally we open the new school year with a greeting from our President. Fortunately she was occupied with a new grandchild. So we will hear from her in October. However, ever since we learned about this in Bulgaria we have asked Bodo Jager and Erhard Arnold from the Berolina School to write this up for the INEPS Newsletter. We are sure that you will be as impressed as we were.

## Overview about the international activities of the Berlin PL-project at Berolina-school

In a discussion with our participants in 1999 concerning our international activities there arose the idea to start an aid project that is focused on an orphanage in the town of Bourgas in Bulgaria. The intention was to enable a large number of our students to take part in this international project and to utilize the practical experience, skills and abilities they gained in PL for the benefit of the orphanage. One of our aims was also to develop social competencies in our participants and to reach a common goal as well. From 1999 to 2004 we organized 6 donation transfers by ship, air or truck, at a cost of all in all 40.000 €. The donations included among other things clothing, toys, furniture, bicycles, computers, various teaching and learning materials, building materials, tools and sweets as well. From 2000 to 2004 a group of about 15 PL students and two teachers went to Bourgas for 2 week stays each year in order to do practical work, especially renovating rooms in the dormitory, painting and papering floors, renewing male and female bathrooms etc. About ten Bulgarian students of the orphanage joined us. As a result of those 5 actions about 110 youngsters from Berlin and Bourgas were involved and reached the following goals:

- 10 bedrooms and 5 living rooms were redecorated,
- 140 square meters of floors as well,
- upgrading of the cafeteria (about 400 square meters )
- Creating a computer lab facility, creating a room for playing and a fitness room as well,
- Upgrading of the boys and girls bathrooms

It has been a very important experience for our German youngsters to get such a close look into the difficult time in Bourgas. We also learned more about other cultures and life styles.

Another highlight of our cooperation was a fort night stay of a Bulgarian group of about 30 youngsters in Berlin in September 2002. They learned a lot about Berlin and its surroundings and took part in five workshops together with PL - students of Berolina-school and got an idea about what life is like in Germany.

Since 2002 we intensified our cooperation with the schools of Bourgas at first in particular with Ivan-Vasov-school where they tried to introduce and implement Productive Learning. At the moment there are 4 schools in Bourgas on the way to put the ideas of PL into practice. We do hope that students of our school will soon get the chance again to see Bulgaria - but this time with the main aim to further exchange experience of Productive Learning.

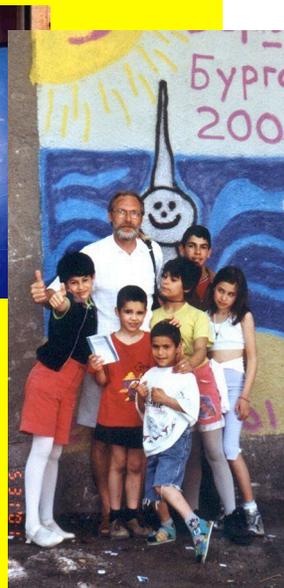


Result from the workshop "graffiti" 2002

Arrival of the donation in front of the orphanage 2003



Bulgarian children in the municipality "Rotes Rathaus" in Berlin 2002



Dr. Arnold and children from the orphanage 2001