

## Summary

The exchange was made between Jean-Paul Vitry from Belgium and Filipa Andrade from Portugal.

Jean-Paul is a Media Education teacher in an elementary school in Brussels and Filipa finished her master degree by developing a thesis in Media Education, in Castelo Branco. The project was developed from March to June 2012, happening the first session in Castelo Branco, in March, and the second session in Brussels in May.

The TV news is the first mass media with information character to which children have contact with. Although children are part of the audience, they are considered a minority public in the mass media world.

We have developed this unit with the purpose of getting to know the way children recognize themselves in the journalistic reports, pieces of news, and getting to know in which way children can share their feelings about the journalistic work. This project together aimed the creation of a working tool designed for children, between ten and twelve years old, having the possibility of being used by children and youngsters of other ages, and also professional journalists/reporters.

We made a proposal of three activities which will allow the development of media messages critical analysis skills, an essential competence in what media education is concerned. This proposal will also allow the contact and awareness of media professionals, developing the possibility of exchanging points of view.

In the subsequent months between the first and the second sessions, we developed, in each country, the three activities. In Belgium the work involved 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes, meaning children between eleven and twelve years old, and in Portugal it involved three classes of 4<sup>th</sup> grade, meaning children from nine to eleven years old. The opinions of the subjects of study were shared with three journalists of each country. Later on the subjects had feedback from the journalists.

Next, we present a short resume of the activities created and developed in both countries.

### 1- Analysis of TV reports with students.

The main objective of this activity was to develop critical competences about TV reports. We intend to make children explain in which way they recognize their point of view in each of the stories, considering all sorts of diversity: age, gender, special needs, origin, sexual orientation and religion.

## 2- Share of children's opinions with professional journalists.

Considering the previous activity, the purpose of this activity is giving knowledge of children's opinions about TV reports to journalists. Journalists need to be conscious that children are part of the big audience that watch the news at home, usually in the company of parents or relatives.

## 3- Share of journalists' opinions with children.

In this activity children get to know the journalists' opinions about what they have said before. It is essential that children recognize the complexity of a journalist work. The motivation for children to produce media messages having diversity theme as a start is very important. This way, children can build suitable tools for their development, which can be reused, who knows, by TV stations through the creation of information spaces directed to lower age public, meaning children.