



## Comenius SMASH Project

### Eight EU Schools Collaborate Virtually on Health Project Case Study

**November 2009**

#### Overview

Eight EU schools across seven countries used ThinkQuest Projects to collaborate virtually on a Comenius project entitled "SMASH," denoting its focus on Study, Mobility, Activity, Sport, and Health. The web-based project engaged over 250 students and teachers in learning about life in other countries, practicing their English language skills, and sharing ideas on how to lead healthy and active lives.

Participating schools included:

- Vrije Basisschool Bellegem in Bellegem, Belgium
- Vrij Basisonderwijs St.-Theresiaschool in Rollegem, Belgium
- 2o Dimotiko Sholio Mitilinis in Mytilene, Greece
- Vesturbæjarskóli in Reykjavik, Iceland
- Scuola Secondaria di Primo Grado Arcadia-Pertini in Milan, Italy
- Prinses Margrietschool in Nieuwegein, Netherlands
- Szkola Podstawowa nr 3 im. Jana Brzechwy in Pulawy, Poland
- Colegio Público de Infantil y Primaria Manuel Foguet in Vinaros, Spain

#### Activities

ThinkQuest Projects provided students and teachers with a secure online space in which to host the SMASH project, as well as a full suite of interactive tools to publish text, presentations, polls, debates, photos, and videos.

The project kicked off with simple activities designed to help students get to know one another and learn how to use the tools within ThinkQuest Projects. For example, students completed online treasure hunts that required them to locate partner countries on a map and gather details about local culture.

Students then progressed to cross-curricular activities, in which they researched and published content on sports, nutrition, well-being at school, and other health-related topics. Teachers guided these activities by publishing lessons and worksheets within the project space.

"ThinkQuest makes it possible for students and teachers from SMASH countries to work together, share, and communicate in a common language for a common purpose."

**Annie Mazzocco**

Teacher

Scuola Secondaria  
di Primo Grado  
Arcadia-Pertini

**“We can talk  
with children in  
other countries  
and learn their  
language.”**

**Luiza M.**

Student

Szkola Podstawowa  
nr 3 im. Jana  
Brzechwy

Because ThinkQuest Projects can be accessed from any Internet-connected computer, students and teachers were able to work autonomously from home or school. English was used as the common language so that members could improve their writing and comprehension skills

## Results

Teachers reported that ThinkQuest Projects was an easy platform to manage. The interactive tools enabled them to quickly develop activities that engaged and motivated students. They also enjoyed forging connections and exchanging strategies with fellow teachers in other EU countries.

In addition to increasing their knowledge of health topics, students learned to manage projects to meet deadlines and developed critical 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, including communication, critical thinking, teamwork, and technology skills.



The Oracle Education Foundation is a philanthropic organization funded by the Oracle Corporation. As part of its mission, the Foundation provides [ThinkQuest](#) as a free service to the global primary and secondary school community. The program is designed to connect students around the world and engage them in collaborative, project-based learning using technology.

For more information, please visit [www.oraclefoundation.org](http://www.oraclefoundation.org)