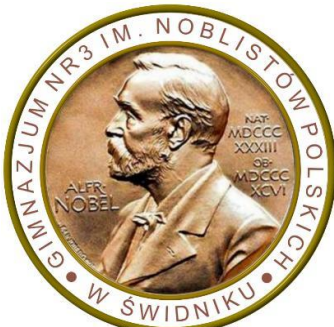



## Gimnazjum nr 3 w Zespole Szkol nr 2 w Swidniku (PL)

<b>Name of the organisation :</b>	Gimnazjum nr 3 w Zespole Szkol nr 2 w Swidniku	
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<b>Function:</b>	Teacher	
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**Type of organisation**

SME     School     University     Public Authority   
 Training     No Profit     NGO

Other (Specify)

**Fields of action**

SMEs     Youth     Universities     Public Authorities   
 Equal opportunities     Schools     Unemployed

Other (Specify)

### **Description of the organisation**

Gimnazjum nr 3 im. Noblistów Polskich is part of combined schools called Zespół Szkół nr 2 w Świdniku. Gimnazjum is a lower-secondary school for students who are aged 13-16 and continue their general education after primary school. Gimnazjum nr 3 is located in a small town of Świdnik in the east of Poland. There are 521 students and 58 teachers in the school.

Students can follow a bilingual course in English and Spanish, a special Maths major or choose a sports class with extra hours of football and swimming. Everybody studies English as the first foreign language, and there is a choice of Spanish, German and French as the second language.

There are lots of charity events organised as our school cooperates with a children's hospice, an orphanage and an animal shelter.

Last school year our school had the second place among schools with the highest number of regional competitions winners in the Lublin Province. We had 31 laureates in the humanities, foreign languages and sciences. Our athletes excel in swimming (1st place of boys and 2nd place of girls in relays in the Regional Championships), track and field, and football.

### **Experience of the organization in previous European projects**

#### **Erasmus+ KA2 – 'Water Equals Hundreds of Opportunities'**

The theme of water is so broad and diversified that it enables us to incorporate it into the main parts of the school curriculum. In each partner school there is a need to improve the school curriculum by making students more active in the learning process through more student autonomy. The improved curriculums include brain-friendly lessons and 'flipped' classroom. Using these methods, students work on the theme of water in Mathematics, Sciences, ICT, English and other European languages, students are encouraged to take a cross-curricular approach in noticing the problem, analyzing a possible solution and coming up with their own conclusions through innovations. This way, they increase their level of competencies, are motivated to study, develop their interdisciplinary skills and raise their awareness of active participation in pursuing their education and future career. It enables them to become competitive on the job market since there are more and more companies dealing with the issue of water in every European country. Also, teachers can develop their teaching skills by incorporating innovative teaching approach (neurodidactics). They also improve their language and ICT skills through working together and visiting partner schools, as well as sharing their experiences and good practices. This encourages life-long learning.

'Water Equals Hundreds of Opportunities' project enables people from different European countries to realize what water-related problems other nations have, and how their local and national governments' decisions concerning water can affect their own country or region. As a result, students' and local communities' awareness are raised and the feeling of facing the same problems and necessity of cooperation among different European nations can be created.

The end results, such as improved school curriculums, a brochure on water springs and spas, e-book containing teaching and studying material for English, Mathematics and Sciences, lesson plans of brain-friendly classes and activities, 'flipped classroom' activities, as well as instructions for carrying out experiments will ensure the widespread usage of the project ideas in other educational institutions across European community.

#### **Erasmus+ KA1 – 'Content and language integrated learning combined with information and communication technology in teaching are the key to successful bilingual classes'**

Project 'Content and language integrated learning combined with information and communication technology in teaching are the key to successful bilingual classes' has been carried out by teachers from Gimnazjum nr 3, which is a part of Zespół Szkół nr 2 w Świdniku. It addressed the needs of improving unsatisfactory exam results and the lack of effective methods and resources in English

bilingual classes. Seven teachers who were involved in bilingual teaching acquired new competences and developed their abilities in order to create a strategy for the development of English bilingual classes, effective implementation of bilingual programme in Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English.

Improved competences of the teachers ensured higher exam results. Improved curriculums, operating e-learning platform and innovative teaching methods, such as brain-friendly lessons, flipped classroom, allowed to achieve the main goals of the school and resulted in increased motivation among students. These changes also enables the students of the participating institution to continue their education in high schools which follow the International Baccalaureate and bilingual programmes, and, in the future, the possibility to study at renowned universities in the European Union and pursue their career.

#### **Socrates/Comenius – 'Beware – Be Aware'**

The project dealt with the issues of healthy lifestyle, eating disorders, e.g. bulimia, anorexia, consumerism and ergonomics.

#### **Socrates/Comenius – 'What makes us European'**

The 3-year project allowed the students to look for common themes in the arts, architecture, folk culture, sports and myths and legends to discover common features present in each European country.

#### **Youth in Action – 'Stop the Rubbish'**

The project focused on the environmental issues, such as measuring water quality, planting trees in the neighbourhood and designing 'green' neighbourhoods.

#### **Youth in Action – 'Never Forget'**

The project concentrated on teaching about the Holocaust and genocide. It involved visiting a concentration camp of Majdanek, taking part in a drama workshop by Teatr NN in Lublin and debating about human rights.

#### **Socrates School Development Project – 'A Caring School'**

Comparing different European school counselling services for students, e.g. welcoming freshmen, preventing addictions, providing healthy food.

#### **Socrates/Comenius – 'Europe Alive'**

The project focused on the cultural diversity of European countries. Its aim was to prevent prejudice and foster understanding and cooperation of students from 8 different European schools.

#### **Socrates/Comenius – 'European Ways'**

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### **Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area**

Gimnazjum nr 3 has been one of the best schools in the region for 10 years and is constantly working on implementing innovative teaching methods to cater for the needs of gifted students. There are a number of individual study programmes which allow the students to excel in Maths, Chemistry, Physics, English and Spanish.

There are also special needs students at our school. They follow a different curriculum, but are part of regular classes in order to acquire their social skills. The school employs 3 special needs teachers who have a substantial experience in working with special needs students and low-achievers.

The school has taken part in numerous projects and programmes which focused on the assessment of students' performance and evaluation of the core curriculum.

### **Contributions that can be provided to the project**

The teachers and students of Gimnazjum nr 3 will participate in the project. The school's contribution to the project will involve:

- \* analysing of the National Curriculum requirements.
- \* designing, developing the Learner Tasks and Teacher Guidelines
- \* pilot-testing the learner tasks in their school.
- \* translating the Intellectual Outputs.
- \* recording and editing videos of the pilot phase.
- \* organizing the mobility of students.
- \* providing the revision of the products and final version.
- \* carrying out the dissemination of the project by means of the network in which it takes part.

### **Reasons of involvement in the project**

Gimnazjum nr 3 is interested in implementing innovative teaching methods in its school curriculum in order to enhance the students' potential and provide them with the best environment for achieving their educational goals.

In the school there are a lot of students whose performance exceeds the level of their peers, therefore they follow individual study programmes. Their mentor teachers would like to try new methodological approaches in order to help them develop their skills even further.

The teachers of our school realise the importance of developing students' skills in Maths, Sciences and Literacy as well as to enable them to continue their education in high school and at universities.

### **Contact Person's Experience and Expertise**

Marcin Paśnikowski has been a teacher of English at Gimnazjum nr 3 w Świdniku for 18 years. He graduated from Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin and has a Masters degree in English Language Teaching. He is involved in the preparation and correction of the National High School exams in English and has been cooperating with the Regional and National Exam Committee for 10 years. He also participated in the UE-funded project 'Building the Bank of Exam Tasks' which resulted in publishing 'A Collection of Exam Tasks' in 2015.

He has taken part in numerous teacher development events and courses:

- A Comenius course 'Information and Communication Technology for Language Teachers' at the University of Limerick, Ireland
- The Summer Institute for Teachers at Columbia University in New York City, USA
- A Comenius course 'Preparation of Full Proposal and Management of European Education Projects'

in Cyprus

- A Comenius 'Teacher Development Course in Teaching English as a Foreign Language' in Easy School of Languages, Valletta, Malta
- A Comenius 'Overseas Teachers' Course in Content and Language Integrated Learning' at Alpha College of English, Dublin, Ireland
- An Erasmus+ Teacher Development Course 'English Language Development and Understanding and Applying CLIL' at Easy School of Languages, Valletta, Malta
- An Erasmus+ Course 'Technology in the Classroom' at British Study Centre, London, England
- An Erasmus+ course 'New Learning Environments - What Kind of Schools we Should Build in the Future' at eduKarjala, Joensuu, Finland

He has been responsible for coordinating international projects for more than 10 years and attended lots of meetings with coordinators from partner schools in order to plan the activities, implement evaluation and design dissemination plans. He has also successfully applied for Comenius and Erasmus+ projects.