

Newsletter April 2015

Content

National Award Conference Utrecht

- ✓ **News from the International and National Organization**
- ✓ **News from the national management**
- ✓ **New materials**
- ✓ **Theme: Learning during the Award programme**
- ✓ **Theme: Youth and Safety**
- ✓ **Theme: Expeditions and Practice Expeditions**
- ✓ **Summer Break Opportunity: Residential Project in Luxembourg**

During the conference on the 10th of March we have discussed certain topics and we have exchanged information. The main points are listed in this newsletter.

News from the International and National Organisation

All the national Award organizations in the world are visited by an audit team over the past few months, in order to measure the quality of the program. They discussed many documents concerning management, administration, the support of Award units, trainings, ceremonies and internal quality processes. Moreover, the association works hard to optimize the Online Record Book and the so-called Learning Hub. The International Forum will take place from the 28th of October till the 1st of November, and the audit process will be evaluated. The plans derived from the analyses of the audit visits will be presented. A start will be made with the new strategic plan for the coming five years as well. Quantitative and Qualitative growth will be the key point.

In the beginning of January the audit team visited the Netherlands, and our license is renewed for a period of three years. We are very happy with this wonderful news, because we can focus on quantitative growth. New Award leaders from three new Award projects followed the training on the 10th of March: the Pierson in Den Bosch, the Coornhert Lyceum in Haarlem, and two staff members of Fontys University of Applied Sciences. The collaboration with the scouts will be officially written down soon. The scouts were present at the training as well, with new Award Leaders as the result. We are hoping that the conference in May will trigger more schools and organizations to offer the program to their youngsters. During the conference we will talk to a few politicians of the Commission of Education, Culture and Science, and we are expecting a huge number of journalists at a press conference (in collaboration with Nieuwspoort) and at the Golden Award Ceremony.

News from the national management

Barry Hoogendoorn has resigned from his position as treasurer and is now a member of the Advisory Board. Luc Bartholomee has taken over his job after a long transition period. Ben le Heux has resigned from his board membership in order to spend more time with his own participants at the British School in the Netherlands.

For the academic year of 2015-2016 new prices are fixed by the management. This is determined on the basis of the amount of participants. We have clarified what the Award projects can expect from the national organization, regarding the supporting materials. You will find an overview attached to this newsletter.

New materials

The Award Leaders present at the conference have received the new **Handbook in Ditch**. (version 2.0). If you were not there, we would like to hear from you if and how many Dutch Handbooks you would like to receive for the active Award Leaders at your school or in your organization. Send a mail to: pascal.le.cup@award.nl

We also have a new **Expedition guide** for participants, also in Dutch. In this guide the goal of Expeditions and Adventurous Journeys are explained, and it provides an explanation of the preparations and people involved. A new chapter discusses maps & compasses, and materials. In short, it is a very pragmatic edition available on the website in PDF, and attached to the Newsletter.

Theme: Learning during the Awardprogramme

The Awardprogramme focusses on nonformal learning. The youngsters are participating on their own initiative, outside the school environment, but within a learning environment. The programme offers them a structured and institutionalized framework in which knowledge, insights and skills will be gained. Not only will they benefit from this themselves, it will also help others, with an eye on personal development and active participation in a democratic society.

During a workshop we have discussed the ways in which the Award Leaders are working methodically on the learning processes, so the youngsters will realize their personal growth. Reflection is very important for this process, nevertheless it is often forgotten. You will find some inspiring input in this newsletter!

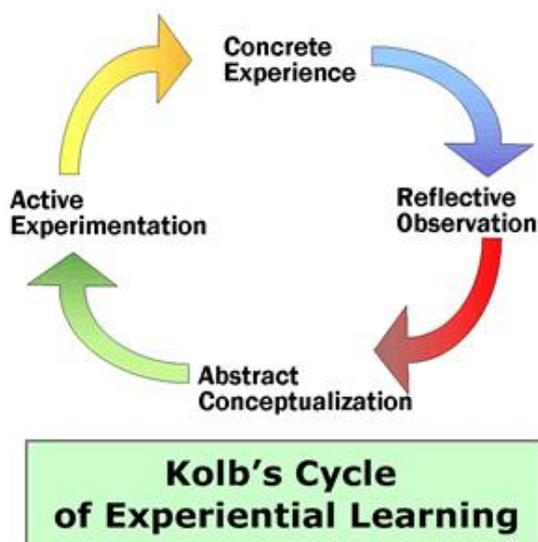


image by Karin Kirk

Theme: Youth and Safety

The law “Meldcode Huiselijk Geweld en Kindermishandeling” is brought into force for professionals on the 1st of July, 2013. The aim of this law is spot and end violence in personal situations in the earliest stage possible. This law is written down for the paid professionals in the following sectors: health care, education, day care, community support, child welfare and the administration of justice. The law does not apply for volunteer organization, but as the International Award we have listed certain points any way.

We have created a code of conduct for the volunteers falling within the responsibility of the International Award* , which is part of the volunteer contract. We are asking these volunteers for a certificate of moral conduct. The director Pascale Cup is the first contact for volunteers worrying about participants or a situations if they want to discuss a spotted signal. Together will be decided what the next step will be.

**Award Leaders and Assessors who are part of an independent Award Project fall within the responsibility of their own school or organization and can count on their support.*

Theme: Expeditions and Practice Expeditions

Safety and quality are our main concern. This is the reason why the real expedition is needed to be preceded by a Practice Expedition. This does not only apply to the Netherlands, it is a step taken worldwide. We will implement the Practice expedition in phases, because we realize the extra effort coming along with the Practice expeditions. We will evaluate the first phase to create phase two.

Phase 1: November 2014 – November 2015

Bronze Expeditions: participants need to arrange a suitable Practice Expeditions, which will give them enough knowledge and experience under the supervision of an Award Leader or Supervisor. The important skills to learn are:

- Hike or bike with a packed backpack
- Find their way with the help of a map and compass
- Prepare a simple meal
- Put up and put down a tent, and pack a tent and backpack.

Spending a night in the tent is not required yet in this phase of the Practice Expeditions.

Silver Expeditions: participants will arrange a suitable Practice Expeditions, which will expand their knowledge of experience of hiking, cycling, or canoeing supervised by an Award Leader or Supervisor.

A new compound group is required to spend a night in their tent during the Practice Expedition. A group of participants who have done their Bronze Expedition already, are not required to spend the night in this phase.

Golden Expeditions: Participants have to arrange a Practice Expedition with at least one night spend in their tent. It will have an additional value if they will do their Practice Expedition in an area that allows for training the necessary skills. For an Expedition in Nepal or South-Africa, the south of Germany, the Ardennes or Luxembourg will be a great alternative. The supervisor/Award leader is also responsible for drawing special attention to teambuilding for an Expedition of four days.

Summer break Opportunity: Residential Project in Luxembourg

We have a nice offer for the participants who are still looking for a Residential Project for their Gold Award. Participants for the Czech Republic, Israel, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Latvia will participate as well. The program is a mix of activities. You will find a first draft attached to this newsletter.

Erasmus+ is subsidizing the majority of the travel- and participant expenses. Below you will find some information to pass on to your participants.

For more information and for the application form you can contact Franck Horio; franck.horio@award.nl. In this way we can keep track of the Dutch participants. We have eight available spots, participants can apply individually or as a group.

- Date: will take place from the 24th of July – 2nd of August 2015, the arrival day will be the 24th and the departure day the 2nd of August.
- Venue: we will have our base in a youth hostel somewhere in Luxembourg, but the activities will take place in different areas of the country, bus transport will be organised.
- Travel costs: the travel distance per participant.
- Participation fee: Meals and accommodation are covered by the funding's, but as we plan to organise a variety of activities, focused on the various sections of the Award programme and in different places, obviously costs will occur. At this stage we are not aware about the exact amount, but an approximate participation fee between 200 – 250 € could be possible.
- Programme: Attached to the email you find also a draft of the programme, however during the planning process changes will be possible, the final version will be provided in due course.