



# Experiencing Change



This year from the 18th of November to the 22nd Klex had the honour to host the annual conference of the “Transforming secondary education” network it has recently become part of. The motto of the meeting was “Educating Changemakers”. Here is what happened.

Upon the arrival of our guests from Zürich, Copenhagen and Berlin, we all met at Klusemannstraße to prepare dinner together. The visitors quickly became friends, got to savour a variety of traditional Austrian dishes and learned to dance the Waltz. Tired and happy everyone went home.

As if it wouldn't have been enough Austrian stereotypes on the night of arrival, the next morning we woke up to a fresh snowfall in Graz. Our guests toured through Klex to get familiar with our school and ways of teaching. After getting a first impression of Klex the guests continued to FH Joanneum where the conference was to take place for the next couple of days. After a little more bonding time and getting to know each other we got to work and defined our goals, took a look at every school's current situation and choose the topics we wanted to discuss and work out the next couple of days. Furthermore, we got invited to participate in a reception at city hall. The evening came to a peaceful end with some free time.

The second day started with a heated discussion about how to approach grouping the topics together because everyone felt very strongly about the importance of their issue. But that helped to create better sorted out and precise areas of topic-questions to be answered. After a very productive morning, everyone was ready for lunch and the following city tour, guided by Klex-students themselves. Succeeding the city tour everyone came back for a public panel discussion with renowned guests from the local economic, school and arts scene hosted by our principal. The Audimax FH Joanneum provided a striking environment for a very inspiring discussion.

Still feeling motivated by the interesting points from the last night we started full of vim and vigour into our last working day. We began with discussing two projects at each school that

worked out well and one that is a work in progress or one that failed. The “South-North-days” were presented by our Swiss friends who get time to understand one country they don’t know a lot about, for example this year’s nation was “Polynesia” and in groups of four, they make a presentation about one special element that country has. Germany presented their “AIA”-Project where a whole class goes abroad for three months, each student to a different location. The Danish elaborated the advantages and disadvantages of their 100%-paperless system. Afterwards, the students and teachers set out to go more in-depth and ask about the presented concepts and to learn from each other. Followed by a quick working session before lunch everyone finalized their projects they had been working on for the past days. The outcome was well worth the time invested, very thought through and will lay the groundwork for the future of the network, schools and eventually transform education.

(Emil Bauernhofer, 8k)

