

FLUXUS

The FLUX that is shaping US

The Latin term 'fluxus' is used in various fields (information technology, geography, maths, economics..) to designate an entity of elements evolving together. The notion of 'flux' has an underlying sense of movement, referring to an origin, a destination and a journey. In this way, the flux of people, goods or information suggests an exchange between different actors of our socio-cultural backgrounds.

In addition to the fact that the notions of travel and exchange represent the core ideas of the European Comenius projects, it is worth mentioning that the history of Luxembourg has been influenced by the transit and temporary occupation of various European empires. The flux of migrants has shaped Luxembourg as a place of invasion, of passage and of welcome, and has turned the country into a crossroads at the very heart of Europe.

Today more than ever, the notion of flux represents an important element in the social and economic development of Luxembourg. One example of this is the enormous human tidal wave of foreign commuters hitting Luxembourg every day, which can be witnessed first-hand by the school community of the Lycée Nic-Biever, as it is situated only a few hundred metres off the French border. What is more, the facts that the busiest motorway service station in Europe is located on Luxembourgish territory (Berchem), and important logistics centres are in development near Dudelange, are proof of intense transit in the area.

Consequently, the geographical location of our school allows a close observation of specific socio-economic phenomena on a small scale that are relevant to the whole country on a much larger scale. After having treated the issue of desindustrialisation in the previous Comenius project, the Lycée Nic-Biever would now like to suggest to its students to think about the notion of flux.

Moreover, we want to promote a get-together of students whose schools are located in an area that is characterized by flux: be that by its importance, its underlying problems or maybe even by its absence. In this sense, an exchange with other youths should favour an analysis of different aspects of the notion of flux within a society.

Situated in the Dardanelles strait, the city of Cannakale enjoys an important strategic position. Being the only passing point between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, and forming a bridge between Europe and Asia, Cannakale is located at the narrowest point of the straight. Hence, the city has a first-hand experience of the important maritime links that are responsible for the economic development of this area in Europe. The battle of Gallipoli in World War I illustrates Cannake's role as a place of transition that shaped the history of the birth of the Turkish nation. Bordering the Eastern and the Western world, the Canakkale Ibrahim Bodur Anadolu Lisesi School allows its students to witness the economic and social flux making up the Turkey of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

The history of Odda in Norway is equally characterized by the influence of maritime flux, but for a very different reason. Any industrial revolution relies on the flux of energy,

technology and transport. Odda represents a perfect example of a city that was transformed by the influx of labourers arriving from abroad. Although this exchange with the outside world represents yet again a factor of economic growth, the geographical situation of Odda makes it a destination rather than a place of transit. Hence today's difficulty to find new market opportunities to stop the exodus of young people studying at Odda Vidaregåande Skule. In addition, Odda is the closest city to the 'Hardangervidda', Europe's largest mountain plateau, which should allow the participating students of this project to become aware of the fact that the notion of flux does not necessarily refer to its abundance or materiality, but can represent a very solitary and individual experience.

What is more, fluxus also refers to an artistic movement inspired by Neo-Dada. Although the movement brings together artists from various backgrounds and with very different concerns (e.g. John Cage, Yoko Ono, Joseph Beuys, Nam June Paik, Ben, etc), they all have one thing in common: the desire to cross the boundaries between art and life, and to combine different forms of artistic expression like video, sound, as well as the participation of the spectator in the creative process. However, the Comenius project does not aim to explore the movement exhaustively or to copy its artistic practice, but rather wants to employ it as a reference for reflection in order to allow students to express their own experiences using new and unconventional methods, and so to encourage them to explore their own potential.

In this context, it is worth mentioning that the Centre National de l'Audiovisuel (CNA) is situated in Dudelange and holds the photographic and audio-visual archives of Luxembourg.

Consequently, it does not only represent a place of remembrance, but is also actively engaged in the creation of contemporary art. The cooperation with the CNA during the previous Comenius project entitled ‘Influence of the industrial background on the way of life in different European regions’ was a first in the history of Comenius, and resulted in the school’s commission of an original video art piece by a well-respected young artist.

For its next Comenius project, the Lycée Nic Biever, together with the participating schools, would like to develop the cooperation with the CNA and explore new possibilities. Whereas the previous project allowed the students to witness the different steps in the creation of a piece of art using their raw documentation as a blueprint, we would now like to take the experience further and encourage the students to produce their own pieces reflecting their personal Comenius experience. This could be done through the creation of so-called POMs (petits objets multi-médias), which are small art objects combining different multi-media sources like video, photography and sound.

So, all in all, we can say that the notion of ‘fluxus’ does not only refer to the subject and the final product of the Comenius project, but also to the underlying process that links the two.