

Norway Exchange – Diary

Monday 10 May

Introductions to exchange and each participant given a (brief) chance to talk about their work.

Directorate of Labour – overview of labour situation in Norway, employment trends and services offered to unemployed people.

Ministry of Education – description of Norwegian education system as it is and the proposed reforms.

Tuesday 11 May

Dropouts back on track – description of one of the many projects set up to increase retention rates in 16-19 education

Prinsdal Team – presentation of a strategy to improve classroom behaviour at a particular school. The Team now act as a trouble shooting consultancy to other schools.

Cultural input – guided walk in Vigeland Park

Wednesday 12 May

Sollerrudstranda Lower Secondary School – Presentation by the Head teacher of the alternative programmes offered at the School followed by a tour of the site workshops.

Havnoy Foundation – description by staff members of the principles of the Foundation and how it works with young people outside mainstream education/employment to provide foster care, life and work skills and eventual employment.

Velle Industries – presentation by the director outlining his philosophy for the sheltered employment scheme followed by a tour of the factory.

Dinner at a local restaurant with Aetat staff and others involved in the week's programme.

Thursday 13 May

Stovner Upper Secondary School – presentation by the staff of the innovative, IT-based reorganisation of the school and its teaching and pastoral system.

Rosenhof school – presentation by teachers and counsellors of the classes offered to refugees and immigrants in Norwegian language and other subjects.

National Centre for Multicultural Education at University College of Oslo – description by staff of the work of the Centre and its research and teaching programmes.

Friday 14 May

New Page – presentation by the Project Leader of the work done to rehabilitate young people at risk of offending including details of the criteria by which they choose which young people they will work with.

Minorities in Focus in Academia – presentation by the Director of the project's work to attract more ethnic minority students to the University of Oslo and make courses more relevant.

Conclusion and evaluation

As well as the organised parts of the programme, I

- made contact with a group of local people and ex-pats who share an interest of mine (running) and spent 2 evenings with them
- spent time in the evenings with various members of the group
- spent time sightseeing at the weekends.

Susanne Christian
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