Pressrelease, 3.2.2016

University College Zealand launch report on international youth-exchanges.

**International school-cooperation**

As a part of the EU-funded project ”Exchanges for All”, which is coordinated by CultHus, the culture-houses of Nykoebing F, Guldborgsund, DK in cooperation with schools around the South Baltic Sea, researchers from University College Zealand (UCZ) have now launched the report ”International Exchanges as a Learning Tool”.

Here Bennyé D. Austring og Ditte Schlüntz from UCZ have examined, what you are learning by participating in an international youth-exchange, a one-week on-campus mobility.

**Research project at UCZ**

The learning outcomes in focus were:

• Foreign language speaking

• Knowledge about other countries

• Understanding of democracy and human rights

• Personal development

• Art‐based learning

• Inclusion and motivation of young people

and questionnaires were, twice, send to 150 young 8th grade students from Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and Guldborgsund, DK who took part in 3 parallel projects around 1. June last year.

Furthermore there were specific observators at the projects, which to place at Stubbekoebing School, Guldborgsund, in Polish Wejherowo just outside Gdynia and in Latvian Liepaja.

Finally researcher Bennyé D. Austring interviewed both teachers and participating students at the project in Guldborgsund.

**Important knowledge about other countries**

“ First and foremost, the quantitative and qualitative research data indicate that the investigated international youth exchanges have a significant and positive impact on the students’ knowledge of other countries. This appears to be quite an essential result of an Erasmus-funded project, but, above all, it fully accords with current trends and policies on internationalization, both in general terms and specifically in educational terms.” (page 4)

**Generel positiv udvikling**

Even that, due to the limited number of persons, who were involved with the research, it is solely concerning ”Knowledge about other countries” that the research provides scientific, statistically significant, results, there are clear tendensies also for the other topics.

They show a positive devopment at participants, which is above the one found at a control-group, who didn’t go anywhere.

Requests for the report shall be emailed to project-leader Bo Otterstroem, mail: bo@guldborgsund.dk