



TO-GATHERLAND

'You ain't seen nothing yet' (Bachman, Turner Overdrive)

As a To-Gather Family we have created since 2005 an interactive and creative learning environment called To-Gatherland (see www.to-gather.org). It is also knowledge based, full of flows and peaks. After all it took us five years to make it.

Special thanks to the coordinators of the ten participating countries Hugo Verkest, Sandra Rone, Susana Goncalves, Iveta Kovalcikova, Marjanca Kuscer, Kinga Toth, Audrey Beaumont, Henrik Bak, Nilufer Perbemcioglu, Frans van Gaal and furthermore the bands Audiofeel and Vanderlinde, the designers Hans Krüger and Noël Abu Hariri, the photographers Tadej Bernik and Zigrun Bilzonis, the dancers Margarita Kamjaka and Jeffrey Hoofs, the crew with Bouke Mekel, Roeland Dijksterhuis and Arno Cupedo, the feedbackers and workshop-leaders Burcu and Duygu Akkaya, Petra and Darja Stirn, Irina Cavaion, Anja Sinnige, Kinda Tabbah, Tessa Schinkel, Henk Visser, Marijke van de Hel, Jan van Gemert, the producer Jan Doddema, the financial experts Lammert Been, Karen Hemmen, Dirk Ham and Dick Hogendorf, the management-team of the Hanze University, the webmaster Oliver Vodeb and Maja Hawlina from Poper, the teachers at the spot and the wise Advisory Board with Alistair Ross, Florebela Sousa and Beata Krzywosz-Rynkiewicz.

TO-GATHERLAND
from map to mindmap

Finally the landscape is you

The real superstars in To-Gatherland are the 2500 young people, who turned the festivals and the project into a great success and who made it alive and kicking.

'It's not on the map but the destination of all'

During the project we were standing on the shoulders of giants as Howard Gardner,

Jeremy Rifkin, Mary Helen Immordino, Peter Sloterdijk, Manuel Castells, Norman Davies, Fred Korthagen, the bands Muse and Interpol and Sigur ros. Gerhard Richter and Kishore Mhabubani. Sometimes we were didactic and theoretical criminals, stealing good practice, material and great ideas. After all we learned how learners are learning to learn and to integrate new and innovative ideas about education, history, pedagogy, brain-research, sociology, philosophy, music and art. Real life learning in the middle of the present society.

We never walked alone, gathering the nine M&Ms for To-Gatherland:

The nine M&Ms are:

1. Multiple society
2. Memories: about the past that's no history
3. Multi-disciplinary approach
4. Mind, Brain and Education (Mary-Helen Immordino-Yang)
5. 'Mind you step': multiple learning in a learning route with seven steps
6. Five Minds for the Future (Howard Gardner)
7. Multiple intelligences (Howard Gardner)
8. Empathy (Jeremy Rifkin)
9. Multiple Choice Identity to make the right choices

In To-Gatherland we did put it to gather in a creative, active, cooperative, empathic, knowledge-based, sustainable and real way as

-structured learning routes and flexible steps with individual and cooperative learning

-knowledge based and creative learning

-innovative learning strategies and practice in schools

-integrating new ideas about 'the bubble' (Peter Sloterdijk), the Five Minds for the Future (Howard Gardner), the brains (Mary Helen Immordino) and empathy (Jeremy Rifkin) .

-looking from different perspectives at the crusades, the colonisation, the World Wars, the Cold War and the future. Emphasizing the European and the Arabian perspective.

-using music as a sense opener, a source of knowledge, a problem-solver and a way of communication, creation, presentation and reflection

-making learning routes, a book and a film about, for and with young people.

-real life learning and lifelong learning at eight festivals

I cannot say it better than Iveta Kovalcikova and the students from Presov:

'Firstly I would like to express that if I were the evaluator from EC I would be impressed by complexity as well as influence of project and work done. Behind of the report a lot of personal investment, spread energy is felt. It is impressive how frontiersless project was.

You have influenced the people in a different part of the world substantially. Last week I organised the certification ceremony, we went back to festival and memories. You can mention in the report that using feedback reports from students / they expressed - 16,17,18 years old students of lyceum, that first time in life they learnt such interesting things via extraordinary and attractive way'

On 1-11-2011 the second phase of To-Gather ended. But don't worry, To-Gather is a project for and in the future.

So in 2012 it's about time to start To-Gather-Three. 'One two three let's go'

What's up?

'A splendid time is guaranteed for all' (John Lennon)

The learning routes may be used as a Tom Tom, as a flexible and creative guide to let young people find their own way in To-Gatherland. More and more good practice will be done in schools in the participating countries. A learning route or part of it may be implemented in existing modules or projects. New countries will be 'conquered' and discovered like Germany (Clemens-Brentano-Europaschule in Lollar und Staufenberg, coordinator Michael Kühn), Egypt, Morocco, Ukraine, Rumania, Italy, Syria, Poland and Sweden. Let's follow the little dragon on his 'Musade' (see the site www.to-gather.org).

1. The toolkit (go to the website) may be used in and outside of schools by project-leaders and teachers in order to start to work with the learning arrangement such as the learning routes, the CDS, the clips or other material. IKEA has shown some interest for this tool.
Most important is that you will create new routes about new themes, steps, images, knowledge, art or music.
By using the toolkit parts of To-Gather may be integrated in existing modules about history, citizenship, identity development of young people, migration, social media, inclusion, philosophies of life and family and friends.
To-Gather-Festivals will be organised in several European countries in 2012-2013 and hopefully in Syria in the post-Assad-period.
2. Training courses for teachers and Intensive Programmes for students will be organised in Kortrijk, Riga, Groningen, Istanbul, Koper and other places.

3. The making of the book and the film 'It's hard to become who you are' in 2012 and 2013. The book and the film are sources of information, inspiration and imagination for the youth of today. My inspiration is what we did together in the last five years. The book and the film are about the youth of today in Europe and the Arab world related to the past, the present and the future. Eleven young people guide you through the past, the present and the future of their own identity in Europe and the Arab world. In 2012 we will need money for the making of the film and like the leading actress Duygu Akkaya said: *'It's the film that everybody is waiting for'*.
4. The creation of links to other projects such as Future of Learning with Howard Gardner at Harvard University, Mind Brain and Education with Mary Helen Immordino, EMUNI and other projects about young people, film, music, citizenship, the digital; revolution, migration and globalisation. You are all ambassadors of and in To-Gatherland.
5. The cooperation with the network of CiCe (2011-2014), ETEN and EMUNI. In November 2010 the project was presented at the General Assembly of To-Gather in Ankara and in 2011 at the annual conference of CiCe in Dublin. . The To-Gather Family will be active in all kind of CiCe-working groups. Let's invite CiCe and EMUNI-members to come and to do some sightseeing in To-Gatherland. Also the cooperation with Future of Learning, including the presentation of the teaser of the film and a workshop by Mary Helen Immordino of MBE were highlights. In 2013 To-Gather, including the book and the film will be presented at the conference of IMBE in Los Angeles.
6. The giving of a presentation for teachers and/or students about To-Gather or a specific part, that you want to implement. The presentation will be done by a group of about four people from To-Gather, including a lecture about the concept, workshops and a performance (live or on video). The presentation may last one day or three days. Mail to w.kratsborn@planet.nl

***'Music makes the word go round
In the year 2012
Think about the other
Not only about the self
And I'll meet you there
In the circle of the square'***

Groningen / 7-1-2012

Wim Kratsborn
Project-leader To-Gather
Writer of the book and director of the film 'It's hard to become who you are'