

PROGRAMME FOCUS REPORT FORM
Education – The Key to Progress

PART I

IDENTIFICATION: Education and culture program: new project
Date submitted: February 2003 (project start: September 2002, end: June 2003)
Club name: Soroptimist Club Antwerpen **Union:** Belgian Union
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Project title: Intercultural teachers exchange and hospitality.
SI "Program focus" topic: **Education – The Key to Progress**

Total money spent: not relevant

Total number of hours spent: not relevant

Total number of persons involved: Soroptimist members: 3 families
Heads of the Department of Architecture
Teachers: 2 Turkish, 3 Antwerp architects
Students: +/- 150 in Antwerp and Ankara

PART II

What you did:

Three Antwerp Soroptimist members gave total home hospitality during the whole Academic year 2002/2003 to two young Turkish woman architects of the University of Ankara, giving them the opportunity to join the staff of the Henry Van De Velde Institute, the department of Architecture of the University of Antwerp.

Three Antwerp architects were invited to give a workshop at the University in Ankara.

Why you did it:

As Turkey is not in the European Union, teachers and students do not have the opportunity to join exchange projects (organised by the Erasmus Program).

Soroptimist Nur Caglar, had the idea to ask the Soroptimist Clubs for help: if they could offer hospitality and if the University could offer a place in their staff, a most interesting exchange could take place.

How you did it:

Awareness: Turkish Soroptimist, architect and professor, Nur Caglar, looked for partners to start an exchange project, as she had good contacts with both the head of the departments of architecture at the Universities in Antwerp and in Ankara. She was aware of the possibility to teach in English at the Architecture Department in Antwerp and Ankara and she realised how interesting it is to work with staff members of another culture.

Advocacy:

Frieda Helsen from Soroptimist Club Antwerpen had lunch with Nur in Antwerp, they sympathised and decided to work together. (Spring 2002)

Nur contacted the two Universities with success. Frieda asked her Soroptimist clubmembers for hospitality during the academic year 2002 – 2003.

Action:

Zeynep Uludag stayed at Frieda's home during the first semester (September / December 2002). She was really member of the family, taking part in family and social life. When possible, she took part in the Soroptimist activities, (clubmeeting, lunchmeeting, concert...)

Pinar Dinc is invited for the second semester. She will be hosted by Soroptimist members Anne Marie Gepts and Micheline Bertrand.

PART III

Outcome and recommendations:

Strengths: For this project no fundraising was needed, the fact of inviting someone in your home to share your daily life for a long periode, is a gift.

Successes: Soroptimist International was not known by the staff and the students of the Henry Van de Velde Instituut, they were enthusiast about the cooperation and proposed a candidate for a grant of our organisation.

A project like this gives the opportunity to build strong friendship relations, as it is not about superficial and short encounters, but about confidence and respect between all the partners. It is a start for new encounters.