**From:** Gunther De Geeter <gunther.degeeter@ka-geraardsbergen.be>   
**Sent:** Sunday, April 11, 2021 12:38 PM  
**Subject:** Greetings from Belgian partner in online seminar next Tuesday

Hello possible partner

I hope you and your family are all doing well in this weird pandemic situation. I assume we are dealing with the same problems with the number of infections but also not having the opportunity to travel with the several Erasmus-projects we are all in.

I took the change to mail you to present my school and the plans we have in the future.

I hope to find several partners in all kinds of interests : School or VET-education - Teachers or students mobility.

We are also interested in KA1 or KA2, we have experience in all these materials.

I hope to hear from you very soon, Kind regards.

**My school:**

The GO! Atheneum Geraardsbergen is a medium-sized grammar school (900 pupils) in Geraardsbergen, a city located in the South of East Flanders, close to the language border. The school has 140 teachers.

The campus accommodates pupils from the second stage of ASO (Latin, Science, Economics, Human Sciences, and from the third degree onwards) these directions are split up further. Our school offers both BSO and TSO courses from the hard sector as well as the soft sector such as Trade, Office, Accounting-Informatics, Social-technical Sciences, Technology-Sciences, Electromechanics, Secretariat Languages, Industrial ICT, Woodworking, Basic Mechanics, Electrical installations, Integral safety, Care-Nutrition, Painting and decorative work, Bodywork, Childcare and Home and Elderly care. Pupils can also follow a 7th specialization year in BSO and go on internships in the field from the third grade.

The students of the third stage TSO must also complete an internship according to the curriculum. We want to offer education in the broad sense of the word. We guide our students to the right study and career choice. At the same time, we shape them socially, emotionally and personally. With us you will find a colorful mix of personalities. We pay attention to all teenagers, also for those who need additional guidance. The school team dedicates itself daily to pupil-oriented and pupil-friendly action so that pupils can develop their talents to the maximum.

We offer dual learning in our school.

We got the accreditation on VET-education and want to apply for the accreditation on SCHOOL-education next october. We also received the eTwinning school label 2021-2022.

==> we are looking for schools we can help us to find companies who wants to host our students and schools who offer possibilities for jobshadowing

**New teaching methodologies/21 st century skills:**

The school is currently on an innovation course (our Belgian system of education is in a transformation since 2 years) focusing on different types of education, the main focus this school year being the AGORA-classroom and dual learning. Last year, the focus was on elaborating a new curriculum for the last two college years (16-18 y-o) in the general education stream by offering our students a number of different modules of choice to explore in the complimentary hours. The search for new qualitative course material as well as experimenting with new educational techniques has resulted in the foundation of the AGORA-classroom. ‘Agora’ refers to ‘a (market) square’, a traditional learning spot in ancient Greece. Students come together in the same classroom to study different courses all supporting the same idea and goal, just like different merchants on the same square to sell their merchandise all aiming to reach as many customers as possible. At its best, the interactive aspect of this educational technique aims to reflect the ample society in which the students will end up taking their place in a not so distant future. Pedagogic innovation (including flipping the classroom) often demands an adapted infrastructure. The KA Geraardsbergen strongly believes education requires specific framing and for that reason we are working hard to provide a physical classroom suitable for realising the new AGORA-project as good as possible. This new and pioneer classroom, first to be used in September 2018, will be an inspiring building that will enable both teachers as students to test new learning methods each at his/her own pace. The school aspires quality in the long-run by giving their teachers the possibility to take the role of (individual) mentor/coach instead of traditional teacher standing in front of a group of students; giving them a chance to interact more with the individual student or smaller groups of students, focusing on their specific needs and questions. The adapted layout of the instruction space will allow the use of new didactics. A glass wall will separate the instruction space from the other large space which in its turn as well will be divided into different niches. On the one hand, the Agora principle will reinforce the students’ independence, which can be an excellent benefit in succeeding higher studies in the future. On the other hand, the students again become the ‘owner’ of their learning process encouraging more motivation and consent. By giving the students their own learning process back (ownership), we give them the power to control their own weekly schedule. At the beginning of the week, the students are given a weekly overview of which tasks and assignments they need to complete by the end of that week. The responsibility of deciding when they will do what is entirely up to them. It speaks for itself that the use of Chromebooks (Google for Education) is indispensable in a classroom like this. We hope this innovative way of teaching will inspire and persuade other teachers to imply these methods in other courses and class practices in order to reach a higher number of students benefiting from these educational techniques. The building itself will be physically divided into the different niches of competence-based education (instruction space, library, student-isles, …)

By offering both students and teachers the chance of starting their courses in a correct and innovative context, the school wants to obtain an increased starter motivation from its teachers as well as from its students. The idea of self-guided education in the last two college years is a fairly unique fact in Flanders. More often, similar projects are started on a smaller scale in the first two years of college. We go way beyond this by allowing our students to own their learning process again using Chromebooks. The fact that the teachers involved have elaborated the courses for the different subjects based on overlapping syllabus objectives and contents is in itself quite unique. It is being proposed to imply this idea in the upcoming educational innovation of the first two college years in 2019.

==> we host partners for a jobshadowing in our school

**Erasmus-plans:**

We are interested in VET/SCHOOL Education for students and teachers as well.

We also want to install a summer school program next summer 2022, if we can find the right partners.

**Search for partners in KA220 – Highly gifted students**

At this moment we are urgently looking for possible partners (from Scandinavia) on the topic “Highly gifted students”. We started a class of Highly gifted students (age 12-16 years) and we would like to meet other schools experienced with this kind of students.  
We want to write a KA 101 (jobshadowing maybe in both directions) and/or a KA220 where we can exchange good practices so students can learn how it works in other European countries.  
Application deadline : 20 may 2021.

Maybe you can help us to find the right reliable and decent partner?

Keep in touch and stay safe!

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Met vriendelijke groet



Gunther De Geeter

beleidsmedewerker

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Deze school maakt deel uit van Scholengroep 20 Zuid-Oost-Vlaanderen.

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