

## **Future Lab: “Looking at the horizon and back”**

Date, Time: Thursday, 25.03.2010, 10:30 – 12:30 and 14:15 – 16:15

**Trainer: Kadidja Hildebrandt**

### **Workshop content/theme**

Focus group discussion on the four topics of the external evaluation of aces:

- selection process
- unintended effects
- non-awarded schools
- key events

### **Aims**

As the workshop was originally intended to be for teachers only, it focused on the above-mentioned topics from a teacher’s perspective. Yet, with two representatives of the Ministries of Education being present (from Hungary and Czech Republic), it revealed itself as better than originally planned as it allowed exchange between actors at the school and those at policy/curriculum-level from different countries.

### **Method(s)/Approach**

Focus group (an evaluation method for qualitative data collection). A question guide was prepared in advance on the four evaluation topics to stimulate discussion among the participants.

### **Impressions, Outcomes of the workshop**

Some elements were discussed which might merit further reflection. They will also be reflected in the final evaluation report.

- Administrative work awaiting teachers when they come back from either aces key events or school visits. It seems that it is sometimes expected that they make up completely for the time the missed.
- A proposal was made to possibly include non-awarded schools in the region/town of the awarded school by making networking (that is to include non-awarded schools) an additional informal and non-compulsory criterion, if appropriate to the project idea.
- The application process was considered to be easy by the present (three) teachers. *(For the final evaluation report, this will later be correlated with results from the online questionnaire and interviews with non-awarded schools.)*