



## Anti Bullying Village

ABV Project Overview and Invitation Letter.

28<sup>th</sup> March 2011

To: whom it may concern

I am writing to invite you to become involved in a new and exciting European anti-bullying and teenage parliament project.

In January this year we and our partners from Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Israel and Bulgaria launched a new European project called "ABV4Kids – the virtual Anti-Bullying-Village for Kids and Teens". The ABV4Kids aims to be a virtual village for young people created by young people in the 3D virtual learning environment of OpenSim and addresses the problems of school bullying and violence, racism and xenophobia.

Our project builds on the educational potential 3D virtual learning environments offer. More than other online platforms they give their users a sense of real time involvement, promote new forms of social interaction and give them room for creative processes.

As we learnt from two previous projects "aVataR@schools" ([www.avataratschool.eu](http://www.avataratschool.eu)) and the Anti-Violence Campus (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yihqUb9KRgg>) that it can be motivational and highly attractive for young people to interact and cooperate with young people from other countries in 3D virtual learning environments. In a creative way it also helps them acquire basic skills needed in modern society such as social thinking, e-collaboration, conflict resolution and e-competences in terms of working with Web 2.0. Moreover, it will also encourage the reflection of the cultural diversity of Europe in terms of languages, working styles and ways of thinking.

For our project we would like to involve two schools from England who will work in cooperation with us and schools from Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Israel and Bulgaria. Together we will commonly plan and create the virtual Anti-Bullying-Village that will consist of a virtual school, a virtual parliament and a creative arts centre. In close cooperation with young people the virtual Anti-Bullying-Village will host various events targeting school bullying and violence, racism and xenophobia, such as work shops, role plays, public discussions, exhibitions, film displays, and many others.

### 7 reasons for your school to become involved in this project?

Amongst others the pupils from your school will have the opportunity to:

- 1) interact & cooperate with schools & young people from countries in & outside Europe
- 2) explore and reflect the use of new media in a creative way
- 3) reflect about school bullying and violence at your school, your country and on an International level
- 4) meet and discuss with experts on school bullying from your own and other countries
- 5) learn more about other countries' cultures, their way of thinking, working styles etc.
- 6) practice e-cooperation and get to know strategies of overcoming difficulties in a cooperative way
- 7) be "pioneers" in an innovative European project

Moreover, your school will have the opportunity to:

- establish links and partnerships with schools from Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Israel and Bulgaria
- be credited on our web site, our International web campaigns, papers we publish, at conferences etc.
- create a virtual representation of your school in a 3D virtual learning environment (e.g. in form of a classroom or a small virtual building) that can be used by the pupils of your school
- get a certificate for your participation at our International project

What would be the tasks of your school?

- To form a team of pupils (preferably aged 14-16) from your schools, supported by 1-2 teachers
- Meet our team's experts from your country once a month (or more often if you want), at the beginning "face-to-face", later on predominantly online at our virtual Anti-Bullying-Village
- Plan and create the virtual Anti-Bullying-Village together with us and schools from the partner countries
- Participating with 1-2 persons from your school at our transnational "parliamentary sessions" in which all schools and all partners will be represented (every 4-6 weeks) and where the major planning and decisions related to the virtual Anti-Bullying-Village will be made
- Organizing one event related to school bullying and violence, racism and xenophobia in the project's second year (e.g. presenting projects from your school, holding an exhibition, creating a poster etc.).

Please note that there would be no financial cost or charge for you to be involved in this project.

If you are interested in getting involved in our project or if you have any questions related to the ABV4Kids project, please contact us via Dr Andy Hickson, Actionwork, PO Box 433, Weston-super-Mare, North Somerset BS24 0NF. Tel: 01934 815163. E-mail [actionwork@gmail.com](mailto:actionwork@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Dr Andy Hickson  
Director  
Actionwork  
[www.actionwork.com](http://www.actionwork.com)

On behalf of the ABV4Kids partners

- Zentrum für empirische pädagogische Forschung, Universität Koblenz-Landau (Germany)
- CINECA - Consorzio Interuniversitario (Italy)
- ET Infoart (Bulgaria)
- Actionwork (United Kingdom)
- Barnevakten - Kids and Media (Norway)
- Pedagogy Academy of Lodz (Poland)
- The Open University (Israel)