

MAKUTANO JUNCTION

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2, December 2014



Makutano Junction: A multimedia approach to effective Development Education



Welcome to the second edition of the Makutano Junction project newsletter. In this edition you will find interesting news from Bulgaria, Estonia, Poland and United Kingdom in the area of global learning, education and sustainable development.

Project Overview

MAKUTANO JUNCTION: A MULTI-MEDIA APPROACH TO EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION is a 2-year project financed by the European Union, EuropeAid Programme that focuses on raising students' and teachers' awareness of development issues in the partner countries – Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia and UK – in cooperation with Kenya, through multi-media learning activities based around a very popular, award-winning Kenyan TV educational drama series – Makutano Junction (MJ).

MJ engages with primary schools in the UK and secondary schools and teacher trainers in Poland, Estonia and Bulgaria. It aims to promote the need for and best practice in global education, encouraging students to examine and change attitudes and behaviour towards issues facing those in developing countries.

Our goals were to raise awareness, increase understanding and change perceptions and behavior amongst a range of educational groups, from students to teachers, with the support of innovative development materials. We also want to create strong links between the partner countries.

This initiative came in response to the Millennium Development Goals, and aims to spread awareness of these goals, and focuses on global citizenship. Due to the contemporary and post-modern changes in global society, the pedagogical activities are conducted through multi-media learning platforms, namely the Makutano Junction TV series.

In April 2014 the project entered its second year. After working with UK teachers and practitioners on developing teaching resources, we are now reaching out to more schools in order to help children explore complex global interdependence, from a Kenyan perspective.

The conclusions of this project will be presented in 2015. We are currently working to understand the pre-conceptions of students about global issues, particularly about African – and Kenyan – contexts, and their perspectives at the end of the project, after all of the training sessions.

Following extensive class room trials, 12 KS2 Lesson Plans are now ready for use, and are downloadable free from:
<http://www.makutanojunction.org/en/getactivities.html>

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Reports from the Poland Team

Study Visit to Kenya

Karibu! On 18th October 15 teachers and 4 coordinators from Estonia, Bulgaria and Poland set out on a journey to Nairobi to participate in one of the most exciting activities in the Makutano Junction Project – the study visit to Kenya. The participants had an opportunity to experience the diversity of Kenya and the vibrant capital – home to government agencies, businesses, organizations, various educational institutions with two main universities: University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University. Teachers learned about traditions, national heritage, cultural richness and the overwhelming natural environment and also had an opportunity to find out how the country develops through innovative technologies (such as the mobile payments system M-PESA). The main focus of the visit was to enable the participants to explore the Kenyan education system through visits to schools, interact with school staff and pupils and finally to develop links and cooperation between Kenyan, Bulgarian, Estonian and Polish teachers.

Visiting the Schools



Photo: Anielka P. Rwaka Primary in the Limuru area, young school children playing during lunch break, tea fields in the background.

The participants visited four schools in Nairobi and the rural areas: the Valley View Academy and Destiny Education Centre, both located in informal settlements of Nairobi and Rwaka Primary and Rironi Primary schools in the Limuru area, amongst the beautiful scenery of the local tea farms, where the children of tea-pickers have a chance to develop their knowledge and skills.

In Valley View Academy teachers were divided into national groups and held lessons with three classes of Kenyan students. They showed presentations about Poland, Estonia and Bulgaria, interacted and answered questions about climate, nature, ways of living etc. Pupils were very excited and curious about the eastern European countries. Especially how people can survive during the winter when temperatures drop below zero.



In the thrilling and stimulating tour though Kenya the group was professionally hosted and guided by Education Effect Africa (EEA) – an NGO with the mission to increase access to education, enhance teachers' qualifications and facilitate access of students to running water and sanitary consumables.

Reports from the Poland Team

Makutano Junction Film Set

The meeting which was highly anticipated by the teachers and coordinators 'addicted' to the 'Makutano Junction' series, was the visit to the Makutano Junction film set. To everyone's delight quite a few of the actors found time to come to the Karen area of Nairobi and meet the excited crowd of teachers. Mr Mabuki, Maspeedy, Dr Charles, Margaret, Mr Washington and Florence were very open and friendly, talked about their roles, work and friendships formed on the set. They were astounded to hear that the soap opera has been subtitled into three languages and teachers and students in Europe enjoy the show while learning about Kenya.

The meeting was one of the unforgettable moments of the visit and left everyone full of positive emotions.



Photo: Anielka P. Makutano Junction film set, teachers and the cast with Maspeedy's milk bar at the back.

International School Partnerships

Another central element of the Kenyan visit was a full day of training with a group of 15 Kenyan teachers. Its purpose was to bring educators together and answer the question 'why do we need international school partnerships?'. It was important that the teachers established a common ground among each other and discovered the advantages of cooperation through an experience of difference and similarities. Working in smaller groups, the teachers had an opportunity to find common areas and think of possible school projects. Despite the technical challenges the first steps were taken towards making common video projects based on Millennium Development Goals themes.

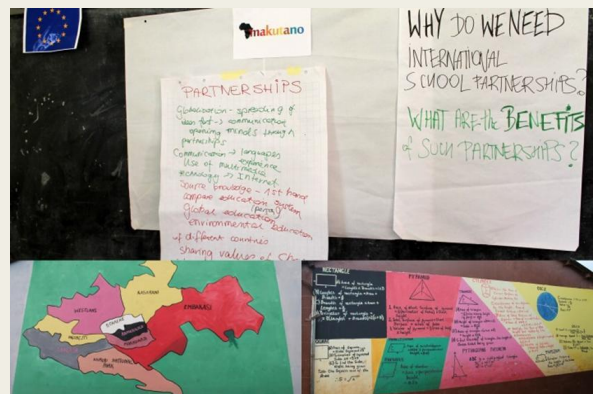


Photo: Anielka P. Bulgarian team presenting their country

Overall the study visit proved to be a success and provided an opportunity for increasing cultural awareness and sensitivity regarding Kenya and Africa. After the visit the European teachers felt very motivated to carry out activities with students at schools and prepared to spread the comprehensive image of Kenya.

Asante sana! (Thank you!)

Justyna Kalita & Anielka Pieniążek
Partners Poland Foundation

Reports the Mediae team in the UK

During this phase of the project the Mediae team has been focusing on producing resources. These 25 resources have been devised for use by teachers in primary schools in England. They have been written by a team of global learning professionals from Mediae, Institute of Education and Just Ideas working with Development Education Centres in England, and are being piloted and further developed by teachers in schools in Somerset, Yorkshire, Hampshire and Cumbria. Each resource uses a clip or episode from Makutano Junction as a catalyst or starting point for activities exploring various aspects of global learning identified as important by the teachers themselves.

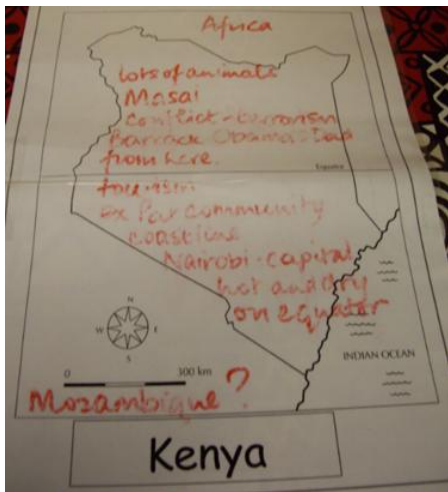
These themes are: Introduction to Kenya, to Makutano Junction and to the medium of soap opera; Introducing development, poverty and money; Environment and sustainability, and Health and Wellbeing. Each of the 25 resources has at least two activities, focusing on a particular issue, such as internet safety, control of money,

understanding stereotypes, food hygiene, taking action on climate change, malaria - an accompanied by a relevant clip of Makutano Junction. The activities include a range of approaches suitable for different ages and subject areas - art activities, literacy activities, whole school ideas, drama, even sports activities! It has been an iterative process, and you are welcome to take these resources and adapt them to your own needs - and let us know how you get on. We have found some really creative approaches being used in schools to adapt these resources to support a range of different focuses and subjects.

You will find them in their draft form on the project website - once all the comments from the piloting process have been incorporated early next year, they will be finally edited and designed and made available on the website and through other channels.

Helen Garforth and Kate Lloyd Morgan, Mediae

Makutano Junction in Somerset



St Johns First School, Frome, enjoyed free whole school CPD using Makutano Junction during Term 2. They reviewed some of the teaching materials available and tried out some taster activities including:

- A pupil baseline activity to find out what is already known about Kenya. The teachers generated some good discussion around how they knew these things and went on to suggest ways of making best use of this activity with their pupil. These included baselining activities for their partnership country, India and at the start of locality studies in Geography
- A photo activity to decide 'is this Kenya?' Taken from the GLADE Kenya collection, teachers liked the way the activity could be used to widen pupils experiences of the world around them, relevant for all ages.
- A photo sorting activity 'UK or Kenya?' to identify similarities and differences.

The excitement mounted as teachers were shown a trailer for Makutano Junction and introduced to some of the characters, including Red, Maspeedy, Pipi and Mama Mboga. And given a brief history of the soap.

Through Resource 6, we selected a couple of activities to look at stereotyping (activity 1 and activity 3), including watching the relevant episode of Makutano Junction. As predicted, they were hooked and couldn't wait to watch another episode.

Teachers critiqued resources and themes of the soap opera, showing some concern that the episodes might be too old for some of their pupils, but a desire was expressed from the Headteacher that teachers can work over the coming terms to bring the pupils to a level where they can watch Makutano Junction in the future. Teachers found the activities were very relevant to all ages, including KS1, so some will be used without the episode clips to increase global learning across the school. Others will be used to inspire deeper learning about the countries and communities St John's First School has connections with and to reflect on their own community of Frome.

What next?



- Try out a selection of activities with classes
- Make use of your free resource loans certificate
- Build into subject areas for the future
- Keep a scrap book to share across the project
- Feedback on the activities 14-25 by end of term
- All resources up on the website in final form for public use by term 3
- Pupil conference event during term 4
- Support during the terms 2 & 3 will be given by GLADE, 1-1 mentoring & tutorial visits for KS2 teachers

'Stimulating materials for upper KS2. Made me reflect on ways of embedding global learning in our curriculum.'

A selection of next steps were offered (see left).

Follow up and support for teachers will be provided during term 2 and the start of term 3, so teachers can have space and time to reflect on their own practice and the direct application of the materials in the different classrooms.

Lynn Cutler
GLADE, Somerset

Makutano Junction in Yorkshire

Teaching Resources

The first eight sets of Makutano Junction Project resources and activities are now available to download from the [project website](#). The first six provide an introduction to Kenya and the Kenyan TV soap opera Makutano Junction, and Resources 7 and 8 are focussed on the Millennium Development Goals. Each resource uses clips from Makutano Junction as a catalyst or tool for activities that explore various aspects of global learning.

Issues that arise in Makutano Junction also occur for all of us, in Poland, Estonia, Bulgaria and the UK. It is hoped that by listening and learning about each other's lives pupils will gain a greater and deeper understanding of issues such as interdependence, poverty and threats to the environment.



This term primary teachers in the UK are trialling the remaining seventeen sets of resources and activities which will be appearing on the project website early next year. A 'hands on' approach was welcomed enthusiastically by teachers in Skipton, North Yorkshire, when they were introduced to the new resources in September.

They thought about 'What makes us well and happy?', an activity where students identify the positive and negative influences on their mental and physical wellbeing, and develop strategies for enhancing wellbeing, comparing the challenges facing them and strategies for coping with those of characters in Makutano Junction. A fun activity 'Keeping bugs at bay!' using glitter followed. Everyone agreed that this was a very effective and simple way of illustrating the importance of hand washing in keeping some kinds of diseases from spreading that the Makutano Junction clip where the virtues of sterilising milk containers is being extolled was an appropriate link. One teacher's Yr6 class used the activity in a whole school assembly a few days later and it worked brilliantly.



It has also led to an opportunity to discuss the West African ebola outbreak - several schools in the Skipton area have links with schools in Sierra Leone, where the ebola outbreak is having a huge impact on the country's economy and people's lives. Children and teachers who have met Sierra Leoneans during reciprocal visits are very concerned about the situation. They have found Action Aid's new resources really useful - a quiz, Power Point, ebola information posters, an ebola response roadmap, and teachers' links. <http://www.actionaid.org.uk/school-resources/topic/health>

Liz Roodhouse
Craven DEC



Makutano Junction in Cumbria

Makutano Junction has been warmly welcomed in Cumbria, where primary teachers are now taking the teaching resources trialled in 2013-14 and using them in class. Evidence that the resources are proving useful in class is coming in from teachers involved in phase 1 of the project. At Victoria Juniors in Workington year 6 teacher and Global Learning coordinator Rebecca Lewis has been introducing each year group from year 3 upwards to Makutano Junction, so that by the time children reach year 6 they are ready to engage confidently with the deeper ideas and issues that Makutano raises. Rebecca is also training Class Room Assistants to use the resources across KS2.

Over in Holme St Cuthbert School near Maryport, KS2 teacher Kate Sharrock has successfully used the resources with her mixed age group of KS2 children and feedback one child said 'I liked it how at first their accent was mad, like they were speaking gobbledygook, and then I realised they're all speaking English and I can understand it'. Kate has since shared her experience of Makutano with colleagues from four other local schools.

During the autumn term we have been busy recruiting new schools to take part, holding training workshops to introduce Makutano and the resources. Our short film made last term showing the resources

on use - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jM_SrFih99s - is proving popular with teachers who are about to start using Makutano in class.

Paul Jenkins
CDEC



Testing the resources in a Makutano workshop for teachers

Makutano Junction in Hampshire

Brush off your Philosophers Hat for Makutano Junction

Colin Heath is a Teacher at Rookwood School near Andover, Hampshire. He joined the Makutano Junction project after attending a taster workshop in September 2014. He could see great possibilities in using Makutano Junction in PHSE and science across year 5 and 6 at KS2. "The linked activities are really well thought out and I have used some of them without having to do lots of background work."



Pupils do a warm up activity looking at statements and opinions about what Kenyan people are like. This went on to a P4C session with the question "What makes us, us?"

Colin is a Sapere trained, Philosophy for Children (P4C) practitioner. He realised very early on that he could use the issues brought up in the activities and the Soap Opera clips as a stimulus for some philosophy sessions. "Pupils have become used to the community of discussion that P4C affords. They listen to each other's opinions and this helps them to form an opinion of their own. I find it really satisfying when a pupil says they have changed their mind about something, from the discussions we have had."

Colin has found that choosing the right clip from Makutano Junction is really important in order to draw out the big philosophical questions that the pupils formulate themselves. He has been known to spend a lot of time watching episodes to find what he wants. "Although the clips are linked to the activities on the website, I sometimes want something slightly different." Teachers really like the Soap Opera format for involving pupils in real world issues that relate to all of us.

Sharon Colpman
Hampshire DEC

Reports from the Estonia Team

On 14th November, the Estonian team met with Mihhail Kõlvart, Deputy Mayor of Tallinn who is responsible for education and youth. He is interested in promoting global education promotion and promised to support cooperation with teachers and schools in global education and particularly the "Makutano Junction" project.

On 17th November the team then met with Irene Käosaar, Director of Schools and General Education at the Ministry of Education. They spoke with her for an hour about the study trip to Kenya, the Makutano Junction project and more generally about global education in schools in Estonia. She then informed the Minister of Education and other ministry staff members about what was discussed.

Two teachers, Anna Kivva and Marianna Tam, took part in a 20 minute programme on Estonian national radio about the Kenya trip, the Makutano Junction project and global education.

English language teachers Anna Verro and Anna Kivva collected €360 in their schools to support students of the Destiny Primary School in the Matara district in Nairobi. The money, which has been transferred directly to the school principal, will be used to support six orphans in continuing their education.

The Makutano Junction project was promoted at schools in Estonia during Global Education Week on November 15-23, 2014. There were meetings with teachers and students and drawing lessons. Pictures from these events will be presented at the annual Makutano Junction project event on February 2015.



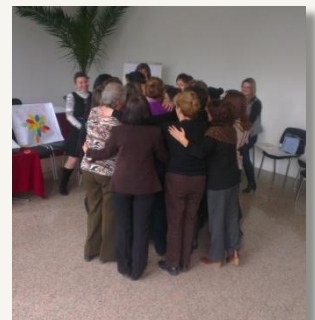
Tallinn Deputy Mayor Mihhail Kõlvart, his assistant Betina Ferman and teachers Marianna Tam, Anna Verro, Anna Kivva and Maria Reppo

Reports from the Bulgaria Team

One of the 'landmark' events for this quarter was the Third National Conference on Global Education, which was co-organised by GIP-Sofia and took place on 15-16 November. There were more than a hundred attendants this year, including representatives of the Education and Foreign Ministries. This inarguably testifies to the fact that global education is rapidly gaining popularity in Bulgaria and both non-government and government sectors recognise its importance.

The first day of the conference was devoted to the reforms in legislation and practice that need to happen in order to make education more adequate for the needs of contemporary life. Global education was pointed out as one of the possible responses to the challenges which the process of globalisation brings to the modern school and to society as a whole.

The programme for the second day included practical workshops to demonstrate various teaching tools and techniques in the sphere of global education, Makutano Junction being one of them. There was a special training seminar dedicated to the series which was delivered by Valentina Hristakeva and Lilia Krusteva.



Global Education Week in Poland

Since 1999 the third week of November has been dedicated by the Council of Europe to global education issues in a form of a Global Education Week. In Poland we celebrated the Global Education Week (GEW) as a part of Makutano Junction Project. The leitmotif of 2014 edition was "FOOD SECURITY!". We engaged the teachers, local centers of cultures, NGOs, media and local government in a variety of activities which increased social awareness of diversity and inequality at the local and global level, especially in relation to food origin, Fairtrade, our habits as consumers and its impact on life of people in Global South. GEW activities organized by teachers in secondary and primary schools included:

- sharing teachers' experiences from study visit in Kenya in October 2014
- "train the trainer" sessions held by 3 teachers who have worked in focus groups to groups of new teachers on the topics of global education with usage of multimedia tools and introducing MJ resources
- lessons based on resources and films available on the official Global Education Week website in Poland (www.teg.edu.pl) and Makutano Junction resources
- exhibitions of posters and presentations prepared by the youths about food security
- educational meeting about Ghana with a volunteer of Salesian Mission caring about street kids
- culinary workshops increasing knowledge about the food of Global South countries, e.g. explaining the term „food miles” and its meaning for natural environment
- art competition at school under the slogan "Don't waste the food"



Moreover, almost 300 students participated in Global South Film Festival organized by Foundation Partners Poland with co-financing from Ministry of Foreign affairs under patronage of United Nations Global Compact and local authorities, media writing about climate (<http://www.chronmyklimat.pl>). The audience had an opportunity to experience the film journey through Kenyan education system and to see the documentary "Blood in the Mobile" about backstage of mobile business and minerals used to produce cell phones coming from the mines in Congo. During GEW Anielka Pieniążek, one of the project coordinators from Poland held a lecture at the 1st Global Education Conference in Lublin (south of Poland)- <http://zagranica.org.pl/2014/i-lubelska-konferencja-na-rzecz-edukacji-globalnej> During the lecture Makutano Junction as a multinational and multimedia project was introduced and promoted.



All the Global Education Week activities were met with great enthusiasm and curiosity of pupils and teachers and enriched the school syllabus.

Justyna Kalita & Anielka Pieniążek
Partners Poland Foundation