After the Summer holidays, the Liceo Pascal starts the school-year with a real novelty in the Italian educational system. Our Head-teacher, Laura Virli, presented a proposal to the teaching staff about having classrooms dedicated to subjects instead of groups of students (which we call “classes”, or “turmas” in Portuguese). The experiment lasted about a fortnight and it was welcome by teachers and has now been approved. As a consequence now it is the students who move to the classrooms and not the teachers, just like in many European countries. But that is only the apparent change; in fact what we want to change is the way classes are held, in order to favour lab activities and projects. The Comenius team is very happy to announce this change, which will be another occasion for teachers’ discussions and evaluation during the second mobility, when the Portuguese teachers will have an opportunity to observe our experiment and say what they think about it.

About the Italian Comenius team, we want to welcome a new teacher, Rosangela Mondelli who this year will replace Gian Luca De Angelis in teaching History and Philosophy in 4D, and therefore will be working on the SMART PACK development.

ACTIVITIES: while waiting for more instructions from our coordinator, we have fulfilled one of the tasks that had been already planned during the First Mobility, i.e. the interviews about European Identity. Our students armed with videocameras, stands, and mikes have chosen interviewees and asked them the questionnaire that they had created during the school-year and that had been included on the Project webpage in English. Not everybody was asked the same questions for reasons of length and variety and, as planned, the interview was held in Italian. The location we have chosen is the Second Edition of the Maker Faire that was held in Rome on the 3rd of October. The students agreed to choose this special event because, like last year, it hosted a huge number of visitors, including schools. And of course, because we all believe that it was really worth going again to see more of the technological innovations produced by makers all over the world, and discussing with them and with visitors the aspects of the future of work in the enlarged European space as well as in the virtual space, which is basically at the centre of our Project. Moreover, the Maker Faire underlines our idea that the competences required by youth today are varied and include creativity, informal education, and digital and linguistic abilities in order to communicate and work abroad. In fact most interviewees were really keen to answer the students’ questionnaire and were ready to discuss the hot issues around the feeling and awareness of a European identity.

We have already played the individual recordings and we are happy about it, but in the next weeks we will make the work ready for the final DVD product and for our partners’ viewing when they come over.