

A Short History of the Network of Coubertin Schools



Ines Nikolaus (PhD), CIPC Vice-President
Delegate for the International Network of Coubertin Schools

The 1st Youth Forum in Le Havre (France) in 1997

- Organised in the framework of the CIPC Congress “Coubertin and Olympism –Questions for the Future”
- Students received their certificates in the Closing
- Ceremony of the Congress
- Final Declaration of the Congress: To organize such a Youth Forum every two years



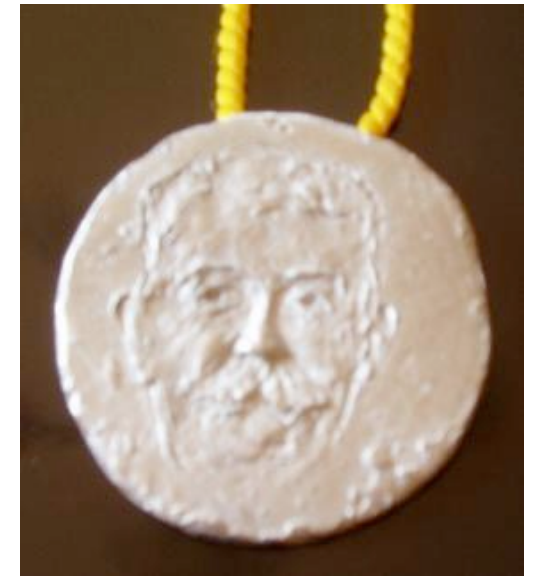
Participants of the 1st Youth Forum in front of Castle Mirville united by the Olympic rings

Introduction of the Competitions of the Pierre de Coubertin Award

These five Olympic events also pay tribute to Coubertin's concept of a harmonious development of the entire human being, an education of the body, will and mind:

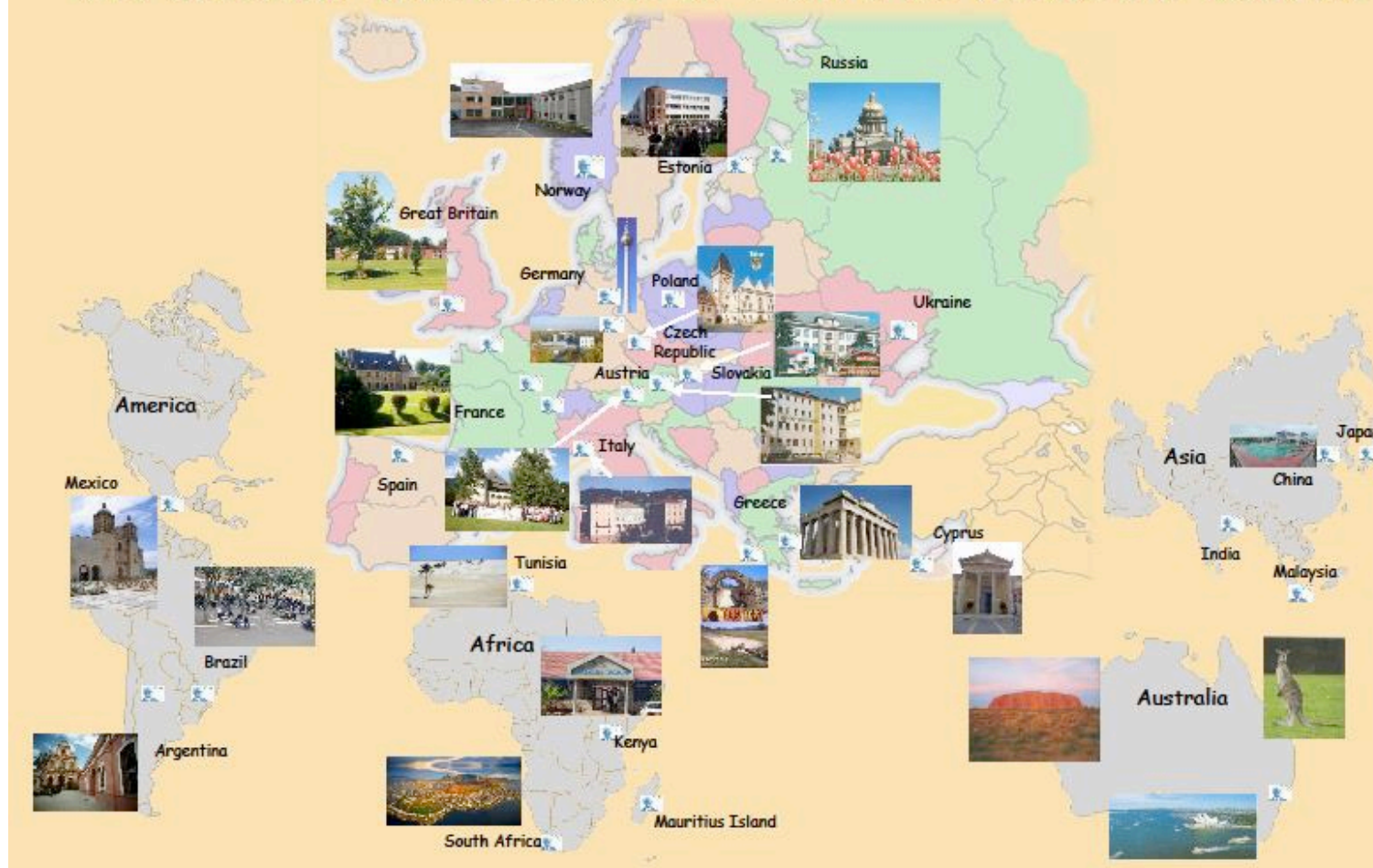
1. Social Performance
2. Olympic Knowledge Test
3. Sporting Performance
4. Cultural Performance
5. Discussions on Olympic Values

Coubertin's motto "voir loin, parler franc, agir ferme (see afar, speak frankly, act firmly)"



Pierre de Coubertin Medal,
Created by Karlheinz Oswald

The International Network of Pierre de Coubertin Schools



Since 1997:

- 12 Youth Forums with 1,400 participants overall took place
- The number of participating delegations and countries has risen steadily
- A fully functional Network of Coubertin Schools has been established
- Cooperation with 33 schools/institutions on all continents
- Many exchange programmes and joint projects between schools
- Teachers in service-trainings for the colleagues from Coubertin Schools

The 2nd Youth Forum in Much Wenlock (Great Britain) in 1999

The participants of the 2nd Youth Forum followed Dr. William Brookes' footsteps and felt the history of the Wenlock Games, initiated by him in 1850.

Dr. William
Penny Brookes



Participants of the 2nd Youth Forum in front
of the Historical Museum in Much Wenlock



Hiking in the
Shropshire
mountains

The 3rd Youth Forum in Lausanne (Switzerland) in 2001

- For the first time, not only European teenagers were among the participants, but also the winners of the *Australian Coubertin Award*
- Visit to the Olympic Museum and the IOC
- Excursion to Castle Chillon and the Swiss Alps



The first
Australian
team in front
of the IOC

The 4th Youth Forum in Arenzano /Genova (Italy) in 2003

- Introduction of a new theme: “The Olympic Games and Environmental Protection”
- Discussions on the impact of various Olympic winter sports on the environment and steps taken by TOROC to organize sustainable Winter Games
- Support by the Environment Museum “Muvita”



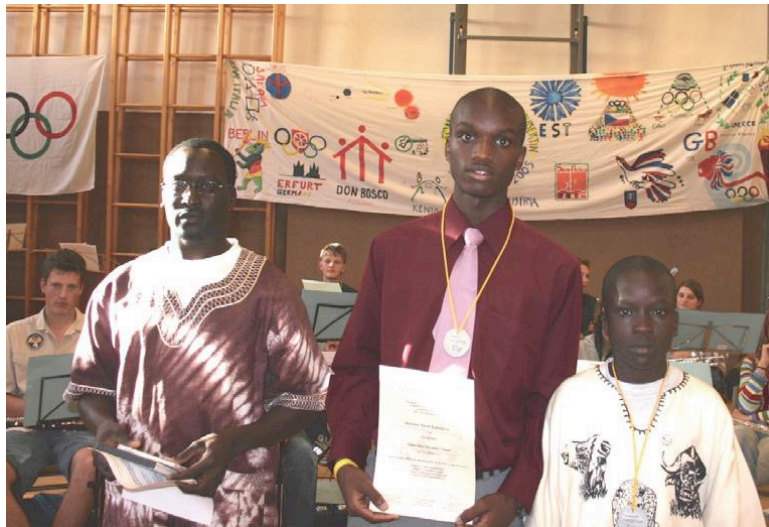
Students writing their Knowledge Test at “Muvita”



Start of the boys' cross-country-run

The 5th Youth Forum in Radstadt (Austria) in 2005

- With the first participation of representatives from Kipkeino School Kenya, the Network now spanned across three continents
- Huge support by the host school
- Since then, all results of the Youth Forum are documented in a Forum Report



The first African team at a Youth Forum



The School Orchestra performing their own composition of an Olympic anthem

The 6th Youth Forum in Tábor (Czech Republic) in 2007

- First Asian participants coming from South Korea and China: The Network now included schools from four continents
- Among the highlights were an excursion to the capital Prague and a Medieval evening the last day



Much fun at the Medieval festival



The Forum
community



The 7th Youth Forum in Ancient Olympia (Greece) in 2009

- Forum held on the campus of the IOA, close to the Ancient Olympic Stadium
- An ideal place to learn about the Ancient Olympic Games and to try Ancient sports
- All participants went on an excursion to Athens the last two days



The 8th Youth Forum in Beijing (China) 2011



- First Youth Forum outside of Europe
- With a team from Mexico five continents were represented
- Introduction of the Mini-Expo
- Visit of the Olympic venues of Beijing 2008
- Unique excursions to discover Asian culture



An exciting excursion to the Great Wall



Morning Tai Chi



Cultural exchange at the first Mini-Expo

The 9th Youth Forum in Lillehammer (Norway) in 2013

- The motto: “Sustainable Development and Closeness to Nature”
- Highlights: survival activities, the visit to the Olympic sites of Lillehammer 1994
- Paralympic Day with Norwegian Paralympic athletes



Enjoying Norwegian nature



Trying
Olympic and
Paralympic
winter
sports



The 10th Youth Forum in Piešťany (Slovakia) in 2015

The creation of a
Coubertin Puzzle



- Among the novelties were:
- Introduction of 10 international arts workshops
- The Parade of delegations ending in a dance festival together with local people



The Parade through the town



Closing Ceremony: We are the world, we are the children!

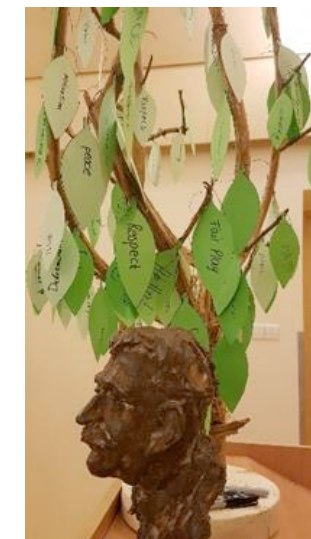
The 11th Youth Forum in Ülenurme (Estonia) in 2017

At Ülenurme Gümnaasium, we celebrated the **20th anniversary of the International Network of Coubertin Schools.**

Among the unforgettable moments were the visit to the Sports Museum and the Parade in Tartu.



The tug-of-war event,
a popular sport in Estonia



The tree of Olympic values,
created by the participants



The 12th Youth Forum in Mâcon (France) in 2019

- In August 2019, the biannual Youth Forum returned to Coubertin's home country, at the Centre Omnisports Mâcon in Burgundy.
- There the highest number of participants ever could be welcomed: 25 delegations from 25 countries.



A wonderful excursion to Cluny



An unforgettable Mini-Expo

The International Network of Coubertin Schools – a “Learning Institution”

- Has contributed to a considerable extent to the qualitative and quantitative improvement of Olympic education both during the Youth Forums and at the Network’s schools themselves.
- On many occasions, the Coubertin Schools became role models for Olympic education in their regions/countries by initiating and organising countless Olympic activities.
- The Network of Coubertin Schools now represents a model of Olympic education, recognized both by the IOC and internationally, that focuses on long-term impact.

So let's continue to give the Coubertin students from around the world a place to meet, to mingle and to get to know one another.



After the forum is before the forum!
Thanking you all for your support!