



Foreign schools in Opwijk to talk about global warming

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Delegates from five foreign secondary schools are currently present at 't Schoolhuis. They are discussing a topical issue: Climate change. 't Schoolhuis has always played a pioneering role in international exchanges.

"By participating in the European Comenius Action, the vocational school extends the intercultural awareness of its pupils and teachers through international cooperation projects with foreign schools," says Mayor Albert Beerens (Open VLD). Delegations from Italy, France, Greece, Bulgaria and Poland exchange views on climate warming. They were introduced to the many measures that a village like Opwijk already took. "I wasn't even aware of some things myself," says teacher Marc De Maegdt, also chairman of the local nature protection organization "Natuurpunt IJsvogel-Opwijk."

"We educate our pupils to – positively – critical citizens. We learn to debate the climate," a colleague says.

"'t Schoolhuis was as a secondary school for special needs education for a long time a pioneer in Flanders. The school was not only the first in our society to work on internationalization, but even one of the very first schools in Flanders to take this step," says Mayor Beerens. "With Socrates, Comenius and Erasmus, the new European subsidy program that started in 2014, the school has been putting itself and our community on the European map for 21 years."

With "Climate is a topic", the international schools, under the leadership of the Polish school, want to develop a teaching and learning program to make pupils more aware on global warming. (ego)