

UWC BELGIUM NEWS

Telenet helps UWC make a difference

Telenet is a market leader in Belgium for internet, telephony and digital TV. The company has gained a strong reputation for its innovation and impressive growth since its launch in 1996. Telenet became a philanthropic partner of UWC Belgium in 2008, providing two full bi-annual scholarships for young Belgians attending one of the UWC Colleges abroad. We spoke with Duco Sickinghe, Telenet's CEO, about his company's reasons for teaming up with UWC.

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Key features of UWC:

- Unique education to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future
- Two years of quality studies leading to the International Baccalaureate
- Students actively participate in social services
- 13 Colleges worldwide, with students from 120 countries including Belgium
- UWC Short Courses every summer
- Student selection based on personal merit and potential and irrespective of race, religion, politics and the ability to pay
- New UWC Benelux College launched in Maastricht

Why did Telenet decide to partner with UWC?

I visited one of the UWC schools in 2008, the UWC Atlantic College in Wales. There I witnessed how the UWC project's core focus is to make a difference by providing an understanding of cultural differences. This helps to bridge cultural divisions. UWC's approach perfectly matches the values of Telenet, which for several years has endeavoured to lessen the digital divide between groups of people, thereby providing access to information technologies to as many youngsters as possible. To say it with the baseline the company used for years "Telenet opens your world", but in a broader perspective. With the UWC collaboration we initially wanted to offer

the kids of our customers a unique, non virtual experience on an international level.

How do UWC's values match Telenet's social vision and mission?

UWC fits seamlessly within our Corporate Social Responsibility strategy, which among other things encompasses the Telenet Foundation. It is creating opportunities for our societal stakeholders. What's more, if you consider specific UWC values such as diversity, leadership through action, mutual responsibility and respect, empathy etc, these are the values and skills which we require from Telenet employees and that are central to our Telenet

Leadership & Competence Framework.

How can digital communications contribute to a better world?

Digital communications help to bring people and cultures together, at the mere click of a mouse. This facilitates



Duco Sickinghe: « Like Telenet UWC helps bring people and cultures together »

intercultural understanding
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The CAS in the life of Alexander

Alexander de Ruijter is nearing the completion of his first year at UWC Adriatic College in Duino. As every other UWC student, his days outside of the classroom are filled with so-called CAS activities: Creativity, Action, Service involving artistic pursuits, physical activity and community service. Here is a glimpse of Alexander's CAS life in Italy.

CAS ... Social Service

I am involved with a social service project to teach drama to local disadvantaged kids. Every Friday afternoon, our group of students and a supervisor, work with kids aged 8 to 14 in the community of Monfalcone. We initially got to know the children better by playing games with them. We have now started rehearsing the play, which will eventually be performed at our college. The play is set in a bar. The plot is about the mysterious connections between several of the characters and even includes spies and the bar's resident musical band. I will also act in the play: my role is to lead the musical band and play the piano, accompanying live singers.

CAS ...Creative Activity

My passion is music. At UWC Adriatic I take weekly music classes. Thanks to UWC's empowering education approach, I have been able through dialogue with my music teacher to change the focus of the classes. Initially, I did not really like the music pieces and found them too easy. Now I'm learning more difficult cords on which I improvise afterwards. The teacher is also encouraging my creativity, for example by giving me the first few notes of a melody on which I should compose further. Or he gives me the title or a genre and then I have to compose a very short piece to correspond with the title or theme. I also sing in the college choir.

CAS ... Sports

I have two main sports activities: climbing during the summer, archery in winter. We climb in a group of 12 other students. I love it, I'm quite good at it and I can't wait for it to start again. Every Thursday afternoon is devoted to climbing, which takes us to many different and exciting locations. We also had a full weekend climbing in the Dolomites, a mountain range situated to the North-West of the college. This included treks lasting 12 hours! The college provides us with all the necessary climbing gear (ropes, harnesses, climbing shoes...).

As climbing is too dangerous during winter, I have taken up archery during the cold months. Archery is not very demanding physically, but requires a lot of concentration. Some people believe archery to be a bit boring, whereas in fact it is really enjoyable and challenging to achieve ever greater levels of precision. The archery club is situated in Monfalcone, quite near to the college.

CAS...Haiti

Following the disastrous earthquake in Haiti, I became involved in a college fundraising project which so far has generated over €2.000. I am also hoping to organise a concert or performance at a theatre in Trieste, together with a co-year from Canada. Hopefully we will find the time to get this show on the road.

CAS ... Project week

I have recently returned from my "project week". I travelled to Bosnia where I gave presentations to local community groups about UWC and about SOS Sudan. This charity was founded by Uny Chan, a young UWC Adriatic graduate from Hong Kong. Its focus is on raising awareness about the plight of victims of the civil wars in Sudan. As a small NGO, we are not able to undertake direct activities ourselves. Instead, we are focussing on creating awareness about the situation and supporting bigger organisations like SOS Children and Save Darfur. I have been named the NGO's "Head of Foreign Affairs" and will probably be in charge of SOS Sudan's activities within the college next year, together with Yahia, a student from



"Life at the college is great but time is precious. The combination of lessons and homework with activities, services and some sleep makes this a very busy but really enjoyable place."





One year later...What the parents think

Paul de Ruijter and Mirjam van Lith, Alexander's parents, reflect on their son's progress as he nears the completion of his first year at the UWC College in Duino, Italy:

"We visited Alexander a couple of times at his college in Italy and were surprised to see how much more independent and mature he has become even after such a short time there. Alexander has left his childhood way behind him and is now a real adolescent. We know he's having the time of his life facing new challenges, making friends for life and hopefully preparing an even more exciting second year before obtaining his International Baccalaureate".



Mirjam & Paul, proud parents of Alexander and their family pet named...Duino



"As our society has become information rich, it has become action poor...I regard it as the foremost task of education to insure the survival of these qualities: an enterprising curiosity, an undefeatable spirit, tenacity in pursuit, readiness for sensible self denial, and above all, compassion"

*Kurt Hahn
(1886-1974)
Initiator UWC*

New UWC Committee in Congo-Brazzaville selects its first students

UWC Belgium has actively supported the creation and launch of the first national committee in Congo-Brazzaville. UWC Belgium President, Emmanuel d'Oultremont, and graduate, Natasja De Wit, facilitated the committee's first selection of students in the African republic during a three day visit in March 2010. The Belgian Ambassador in Brazzaville, Herman Merckx, provided generous practical support and warm hospitality during these proceedings, including an award ceremony attended by local dignitaries, international diplomats, NGOs, the business community and local media.



The selection committee, comprising leading national academics and Education Ministry officials, selected two students who will be offered full scholarships. Sylvia Antonella N'Kombo N'Koula will attend the UWC college in Canada and Leslie Saholy Osseté will attend the UWC in the USA. In all, 15 students from reputed local schools were admitted to the final selection round. The jury was impressed with the overall standards, maturity and potential of the diverse group of candidates. This became very apparent during the group discussions held during the selection process, an approach which is highly unusual in the Congolese education system.

The next challenge for the new Congo-Brazzaville Committee will be to secure sustainable funding to allow future generations of Congolese students to attend a UWC college.



Sylvia (left) and Leslie came top of 15 finalists and won full scholarships to attend UWC Canada and UWC USA respectively



Ambassador Herman Merckx (left), Emmanuel d'Oultremont, RDC Ambassador Kirogozi Malyabwaba Misa and Madame Macaya, advisor to the President of Congo-Brazzaville

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Contact us as info@uwc.be for more information.



United World Colleges (UWC) is a global non-profit, equal opportunities organisation that provides intercultural learning programmes for young people around the world. It is the pioneer and best practice leader in the field of global education for peace and justice.

There are 13 United World Colleges located around the world, which each year accept new students to complete their final two years of secondary school. A new College, UWC Benelux, opened in Maastricht in September 2009 and will accept students selected by their National Committees as from 2010. UWC also offers Short Courses in several countries during 2 weeks every summer.

UWC students enrol for the International Baccalaureate and are extensively engaged with extra-curricular activities such as social services, sustainable development, leadership, conflict prevention, sports and the arts.

UWC Belgium is the national representative body of UWC for Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels and the Ostkantons.

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(continued from page 1) and as such contributes to a more "comprehensible" and therefore more open-minded world. The remaining challenge is to connect those groups and cultures that are the farthest removed from digital communications to the digital highway. There is a clear parallel with UWC's mission to bridge divisions and lessen exclusion through education.



UWC's education model provides its students with a distinct skills set. Do these skills match the needs of innovative companies like Telenet?

One of the skills learned by UWC students is "out of the box thinking". This is an indispensable competence if one wishes to foster innovation. New insights and ideas are bred from seeing things differently, from a broader, more far-reaching perspective. The same applies to leadership through action and with the right attitude, which I know is expected from all UWC students. Our company likewise thrives on the ability of our staff to undertake initiatives to improve things around them and to be counted, rather than just relying on others to do it for them.

Corporate philanthropic giving is less established in Belgium than in other European countries such as the UK and the Netherlands. Do you expect this to change in the coming years?

Corporate giving is indeed less established among Belgian companies. However, the growing focus on Corporate Social Responsibility will undoubtedly lead to greater attention being paid to initiatives such as UWC. Every company has an important community contribution, besides its economic performance. Telenet is a good example of a company which contributes to society's development through its high-value services, but we wish to take this one step further by providing financial support towards socially empowering projects.