

EARLY RETURNS

Why should we use the Early Returns' questionnaire?

■ HISTORY and CHALLENGE

After realizing that a **high number of students were breaking off their Long Term Exchange** prematurely (**some 10 %**), a figure which has been progressively getting worse, work was started by a small team (including Dennis White WI and Peter Golombek CA et al.) to pinpoint reasons for this development, reaching beyond existing opinions and statistics which had limited informative value.

Initially we had intended to **introduce a survey** among those affected by an Early Return (ER). Subsequently the survey was expanded to **include all students** in order to monitor the condition of all exchanges at various stages.

Future **inclusion of other parties** to exchanges – host clubs/districts, host parents, schools, sending districts and parents – will allow for a more complete picture.

A failure rate of approximately **10%** may be considered acceptable by some, however about 10 years ago this failure rate stood at 3.6%. Thus **immediate action** is certainly justified and necessary.

■ PROPOSAL for IMPROVEMENT

We want to provide you – chair people and YE-teams in your districts - **a tool to make the quality of the exchanges** of your inbounds and outbounds **measurable** and to draw conclusions from this.

Surveys can be made

- ~ halfway through the exchange to allow for corrective action
- ~ to analyze success of exchanges – with rebounds after the event.
- ~ to analyze reasons which led to Early Returns.

A minimum of additional burden on YEOs and other parties will be caused by offering:

- ~ Links for downloading the questionnaire to be delivered by eMail.
- ~ The number of questions to be limited.
- ~ The questionnaire to be filled in online, preferably with multiple choice answers
- ~ The evaluation to be prepared by a database program which is ready for use by YEOs.

Trial surveys with students have already been run and results of approximately 500 were analyzed and conditions of exchanges monitored.

Please see results of trials in ppt demo attached: “12.03.07 Early Returns pp”, frame 4 et sqq.

At the **basic level** results **of the survey** were **encouraging**, giving **answers of high satisfaction** by students concerning “value of the exchange to the student” and “support by the host families”.

Answers with less satisfaction were given regarding “support by the clubs” and particularly regarding “performance at school”.

More detailed reasons for performances are given in a **higher level of analysis** with detailed answers. For example **language: school performances** of students with **good initial knowledge** of the host language are **twice as good** as those of students with very little prior knowledge!

The survey is ready for use. Follow <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WJSHRZ2> to view a sample of this student questionnaire.

However, **please do NOT use THIS to conduct a survey!**

■ **HOW to CONDUCT A SURVEY** within your district:

- ~ **contact webmaster Niels Oehlenschlaeger** noe@rotary-yep.dk in Denmark to provide you with a link to our questionnaire in the database program “ServiceMonkey”,
- ~ **forward this link to a group of your students** inviting them to download and complete the questionnaire.
- ~ **The final report** with graphs and students’ comments will be collected and forwarded to you by the webmaster.

All this could be done within a few days, depending on the reaction time of the students.

We would strongly encourage you to **start this survey in your District/Multidistrict** for your own information – available with just a few clicks on your keyboard.

It would allow you to **have a quick look into actual exchange conditions of your students.**

You will find that some will be very happy but some may need support.

Furthermore sharing your experience with this survey with other districts will allow us to **make improvements to the system itself** where necessary. Crosstabs between districts could provide us with a much wider picture of conditions leading to Early Returns.

Districts which have already introduced some form of survey are invited to share their findings.

Starting this survey on a global level could be one of the **achievements of this NAYEN conference** and **turn ideas into reality!**

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