

1 - OUR PROJECT

TARBES, MIDI PYRENEES, FRANCE LYCEE LAUTREAMONT EUROSUTRA SEX, GENDER & SOCIETY

In September 2009, the Association 'Les Eco-Liés' issued an appeal for projects called 'Eurosutra', Sex and stereotypes in Europe, to bring together cultures' in order to build a network of groups of young people, working on sexuality.

At the time, we were in fifth form, studying Accounting and two members of the Lautréamont high school staff asked us if we were interested in this project.

Of course we were. Among the selected topics, we chose "sex today" and "sex and art" and since then, we haven't stopped working on it...

The aim of the project was to encourage teenagers to talk about sexuality and their sexuality which remains a taboo. Speak about sexuality without systematically talking about prevention but still talking about it. To speak about girls' and boys' sexuality, the building up of stereotypes on sexes, gender, stereotypes we integrated. To speak about sexuality and to speak about well-established pre-made ideas.

From January 2009, we worked one hour a week on the project. First we tried to define some words related to sexuality such as sex, sexuality, pornography, conventions, taboos, orgasms, pleasure, gender, heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality and desire.

In class, we debated on words and concepts. Next, we did some research on women's rights in the world, excision, homosexuality and homophobia in the world.... We watched a film about excision called 'Desert Flower'. We decided to start with a questionnaire intended for all the pupils in our school. Each of us had to suggest ten questions we would like to be seen in the questionnaire. In class, we chose those we liked best, we gathered them and sorted them. After that, we sent them to Gwénaél Lefeuvre, a lecturer specializing in sociology working at the University Toulouse Le Mirail, who gave us some clues. Then, we organized the questions. We went to Toulouse to present our project and submitted the questionnaire to the people who attended the Eurosutra Day organized by the Association and Sophia Idayassine, the coordinator of the project we had been working with since the beginning. When we returned, we submitted the questionnaire to classmates in upper sixth forms and then we finalized it.

Summer holidays arrived and when school started again, we revised the questionnaire for the last time with Gwénaél before handing it out.

Each form of our school was divided into two groups and the pupils came into a specific room where the chairs and tables had been separated to let the pupils answer the questions in complete anonymity. 23 forms and 409 pupils were surveyed from October 2010 to January 2011. In December 2010, Sophia and Gwénaél spent one day in our school and together we discussed the project and began to think about the way we would deal with the questionnaire.

Though we had a two-month work placement, the few remaining hours we had were devoted to the building up of hypotheses regarding the pupils' answers. Each of us suggested five hypotheses. Then the supervisors entered the answers in a software to make the process of data easier. (409 pupils, 37 questions representing more than 80 working hours!) After our work experience, we dealt with the results of the questionnaire to check our hypotheses and we started to debate...

During our school Open Day, we presented our hypotheses and the results of our questionnaire to the visitors (families of our pupils to-be). Since the Open Day, we finalized the number of boards with a specific topic mentioned on each of them.

Our work was organized according to the same pattern : we dealt with our hypotheses, the results and debated on them...

Each board was organized according to the same pattern: a title, basic hypotheses, results, analysis and debates by the pupils.

The aim of each board is not to say what you must think or not think but to let the reader ask questions to him/herself and to think about the topic to see what sort of debates can emerge.

The Région Midi-Pyrénées, the Conseil Général des Hautes-Pyrénées, the Mutualité Française and the MGEN accepted to grant funds to the project which enables Vincent Huet, a graphic designer to finalize the layout of the exhibition. Our work could have been printed out on a fabric. The exhibition was opened on Tuesday 6 December 2011 during a private viewing at our school and we hope it will be used in all the schools of the region as an educational medium on sexuality and gender equity.

The fifth formers from Lautréamont High School, Tarbes.

Find us on :

www.eurosutra-lautreamont.fr

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2 – EUROSUTRA : TEENAGERS' SEXUALITY IN ALL ITS STATES...

Eurosutra is a project on teenagers' sexuality and is part of an appeal launched by the Eco-liés, an association from Toulouse. A group of pupils from our school chose to work on sex, gender and society focusing more particularly on a real inventory of teenagers' sexuality (sex nowadays, sexual practical experience, what practical experience in the future?) and then to work on sexuality in art.

Here we will deal with the first topic.

The main objective was to:

- allow the teenagers from our school to talk about their sexuality and thus, to create an educational aid for teenagers built by teenagers, with words and analyses from teenagers;
- tackle the idea of gender and the unequal treatment of men and women thanks to this project on sexuality.

The final objective was the creation of a teaching aid on sexuality which could circulate in other schools.

Our pupils chose to set up and use a questionnaire enabling them to develop discussions and debates : to bring out truths regarding the behaviour of girls and boys as far as their sexuality and sexual intercourse are concerned and then facing stereotypes, (...)

It enabled and will enable them to debate and discuss sometimes in a conflicting but always in a well-argued manner.

School years 2009/2010 and 2010/2011

1. Inventory

- They had difficulty in freeing themselves from some conventional enduring stereotypes, schemas especially about what sexuality “must be” and about the importance of women and men in our society.
- During sex and emotional education sessions they also had difficulty in tackling topics related to intimacy and emotional life while they had no difficulty in tackling prevention.
- They had difficulty in working on gender matters in other places different from the specific sessions.
- Increase in unprotected sex and unwanted pregnancies.

2. Need analysis

- A real inventory of the pupils' connection with sexuality or their sexuality.
- Developing an educational aid, created by the teenagers themselves to tackle, within schools the matter of sexuality in an easier way which may be more appropriate to their needs.
- Parallel to a prevention and contraception session, a more playful approach of sexuality which did not really focus on prevention but much more on emotional life and sexuality.

3. Objectives

- Let all the schools know about our pupils' work on sex education matters and teenagers' sexuality.
- Minimize the difficult situations teenagers can be confronted with which can allow them, through a teaching aid to make them realize they are not alone.
- Create a teaching aid on these matters which can be moved and shared by teenagers different from our pupils.

4. The means we used

- A two-year project done by 14 fifth formers studying accounting. For six months, they researched gender and sexuality matters, then they built up a questionnaire and handed it out to all the pupils in our school in order to make scientific and sociological research on teenager's sexuality today.
- Pluridisciplinarity of the contributors working on the project.
- A weekly meeting between the pupils on sexuality matters alternating with a phase of personal work from the pupils and contributors between each session.
- Creation of an exhibition and explanatory booklet on teenagers' sexuality today.
- Setting up of a travelling exhibition in other schools to spread the information and questions that could have emerged during the project.
- Distribution of flyers and posters about the exhibition to make Midi-Pyrénées high school students aware of these matters.
- Creation of an official website and social networks to let people know about the exhibition.

5. Assessment

Throughout the project by the pupils and contributors.

3. THE QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is anonymous. It was made by the fifth formers studying Accounting within a project on sexuality they had been working on for one year. You are required to fill it in conscientiously. To do so, here is the definition of a word you will often come across.

Definition of sexual intercourse: a situation between at least two persons where sex takes place with or without penetration to have pleasure.

1. How old are you ?years old
2. Are you a female ? a male ?
3. Where do you live?
 in town in the country in the mountains
4. Do you live
 with your companion? alone ? with your family? other?
5. Do you define yourself as
 Homosexual? Heterosexual? Bisexual? I don't know
6. Have you got a girlfriend/boyfriend?
 Yes (for how long?) No Other
7. Do you feel ashamed of not having sexual relationship yet when most of the people around say they have?
 Yes No Other
8. Have you ever been attracted to someone of the same sex as you?
 Yes No
9. According to you, what is the ideal place to have sexual intercourse?
10. What are you first attracted by in a potential partner?
11. According to you , sex in a couple is
 essential very important important not very important other
12. Are preliminaries important?
 Yes No other
13. Is a sexual intercourse achieved only if orgasm is systematically reached ?
 Yes No other
14. Who do you speak sexuality with?
 your partner your parents your brothers/sisters your girl friends
 your boy friends your doctor other
15. According to you, what is the average age of people when they have their first sexual intercourse?
.....
16. According to you, when can you have a sexual intercourse and until when? Circle the age when you start and when you end on the time scale below:
0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 DEATH
17. Is teenagers' sexuality the same as adults' ?
 Yes No why?
18. Does being in love necessarily mean having sexual intercourse?
 Yes No other
19. Does having sexual intercourse mean being in love?
 Yes No other
20. Were or are you afraid of having sexual intercourse?
 Yes If so, why?.....
 No
21. Is the choice of your partner for the first time important?
 Yes No why?

22. According to you, what does being in love mean?
Write down three words that cross your mind and rank them in order of importance.
1.....2.....3.....

23. Have you ever had sexual fantasies?
 Yes No other

If so, have you ever achieved one or several of them?
 Yes No other

24. When spouses trust each other, do you think they must use condoms?
 Yes No

25. Have you ever watched pornographic documents?
 Often Sometimes Seldom
 Only once Never
If so, how old were you?.....
If so, through which means?
 the Internet Books, magazines DVD TV
 Others.....

26. Do you think pornographic films have an influence on your sexuality?
 Yes No other

27. Have you ever had sexual intercourse?
 Yes If so, how old were you? No
If you haven't, skip directly to question 36
If so, did you have heterosexual intercourse homosexual intercourse

28. Where did you have your first sexual intercourse?
(Example: at home and in bed)
.....

29. How many partners have you had?
.....

30. Have you ever had sexual intercourse with several persons at the same time?
 Yes No

31. Dare you be naked in front of your partner?
 Yes No other

32. Which preliminaries do you prefer?
.....

33. How often a week do you have sexual intercourse?
.....

34. Where did you meet your partners?
 At school in a pub through the Internet at a local fair
 at a sports club at friends' house in a night club others.....

35. Have you ever feigned pleasure?
 yes no others
If so, why?
 to please your partner you were afraid of confessing that you experienced nothing
 other.....

36. According to you , what is a successful sexual intercourse?.....

37. Do you use a contraceptive method?
 yes no
If so, which one? pill condom rim
 implant spermicide I.U.D patch
 others

At what age?.....

Thank you for filling it in!
The fifth formers in Accounting from Lautréamont High School, Tarbes.

4. WHO ARE THE GIRLS AND WHO ARE THE BOYS?

When reading the boards of the exhibition you will come across different figures.

409 pupils have been interviewed but they did not answer all the questions.

On this board you will be able to learn further details about the “profiles” of the pupils we interviewed.

The boys and girls

THE GIRLS

254 / 62,10%

THE BOYS

155 / 37,9%

TOTAL

409

Their age

AGE	THE GIRLS	THE BOYS	%
14	0	3	0,74
15	36	24	14,7
16	69	38	26,23
17	54	40	23,03
18	45	24	16,92
19	30	19	12
20	15	3	4,41
21	3	3	1,47
22	2	0	0,5
Total	254	154	100

In a couple or not.....

SINGLE/BACHELOR	211
IN A COUPLE	191
OTHER	3
Total	405

living with someone?
it depends...

In a couple for...

6 MONTHS	88
1 YEAR	53
1 TO 2 YEARS	29
2 TO 3 YEARS	8
OVER 3 YEARS	6
Total	184

Where do they live?

IN A TOWN	218	53,43%
AT THE COUNTRY	159	38,97%
IN THE MOUNTAINS	31	7,60%
Total	408	100%

They live ...

WITH A PARTNER	21
ALONE	11
WITH ONE PARENT OR THEIR PARENTS	371
IN A HOST FAMILY	1
IN A COMMUNITY HOME	1
WITH A RELATIVE	2
IT'S COMPLICATED	1
Total	408

5 SPEAKING OF LOVE...

What does being in love mean to you?

On this board only the pupils' first choice of words (out of three) were taken into account.

That is why the figures are different from the ones on board 6 on which all the answers given by the pupils were processed. Their answers have been sorted according to the topics chosen by the pupils. Otherwise there would have been more than 350 different words.

FEELING 35%

DESIRE 8,9%

FAITHFULNESS 6% TOUCH 6%

COMPLICITY 5% RESPECT 4,5%

PLAN/FUTURE 4%

SHARING 3,9% FULFILLED 3,9%

HAPPY 3,7% SEXUALITY 3,8%

HAPPINESS 2,8% PASSION 2,5%

FEELING GOOD 2,4%

AFFECTION 2,2%

ATTRACTION 1,9%

TENDERNESS 1,3%

SENSUALITY 1%

DISILLUSION 0,7%

SUFFERING 0,3%

SPLIT 0,2%

6 GIRLS AND BOYS SPEAKING OF LOVE

Our hypothesis : girls and boys do not have the same definition of love

What does being in love mean to you?

On this board all the answers given by the pupils have been taken into account. That is why the figures are different from those on board 5 on which only the first choices (out of three) have been processed. The pupils working on the project have sorted all the answers given by the pupils interviewed (one, two or three choices, some of them not having answered the question) in terms of sex and topic. The percentage of the topics is proportionate to the total number of answers.

FUTURE	GIRLS	BOYS
Happiness	3,66%	2,68%
Plan/future	1%	1,7%
EMOTION	GIRLS	BOYS
Feeling	26,33%	26,26%
Respect	3%	12,5%
Complicity	20,16%	7,46%
Sharing	5%	5,9%
Desire	4,83%	5%
Affection	3,16%	4,4%
Faithfulness	4,5%	3,2%
Tenderness	1,5%	2%
Happiness	5,5%	1,19%
Passion		1,19%
is		
Fulfilment	0,83%	
GRIEF	GIRLS	BOYS
Disillusion	0,5%	0,5%
Split	0,66%	0,29%
Suffering	1,32%	1,19%

PHYSICAL (???)	GIRLS	BOYS
Touching	0,5%	2,8%
Feeling good	5,33%	4,44%
Attraction	5,5%	9,8%
Sensuality	0,33%	0,5%
Sexuality	1%	7%

OTHER	GIRLS	BOYS
	4,59%	

Why do we think there is a difference between boys and girls?
Is there a real difference? Where do they stand? Why?

We initially thought that girls were more naively sentimental, as this is their stereotypical image. Yet, when we read the answers they gave it is not so simple. We realize that boys speak more about respect, affection and sexuality. Girls speak more about complicity, happiness and attraction. But we wondered : we classified the word 'attraction' in physical but didn't they mean a feeling? Out of 21 possibilities we see a real difference between boys and girls on only 5 words:

respect

Respect: we thought that girls would attach more importance to respect. Maybe boys today feel like being respected or they speak about respect because as people often say boys do not respect girls.

complicity

Complicity: maybe girls speak more about this word because they attach more importance to common points between two persons in a love affair. Would girls be more involved in a long-dated relationship, in the future and boys more involved in the present time? Why is that?

affection

Affection: boys speak more about this word. Though they rarely act as such! Boys do not show their affection but are able to write it down because it is anonymous. They are afraid of showing their feelings because they are expected to be proud and "masculine".

attraction

Attraction: when we chose our topics, we directly classified attraction in physical attraction but maybe it is more complicated.

sexuality

sexuality: why do boys speak more about it? We have difficulty in figuring it out. We work on the assumption that boys and girls are not different at birth but they have been educated differently. Boys are allowed to take a sexual lead more than girls...

Our first hypothesis is not completely confirmed, we thought that disparities would be more important... **stereotypes again?**

7 SEX AND LOVE, LOVE AND SEX...

Our hypotheses:

Boys think that being in love means having sexual intercourse.

Being in love does not necessarily mean having sexual intercourse.

Girls think that you must be in love to have sexual intercourse.

Both boys and girls think that you must be in love to have sexual intercourse.

no

		GIRLS	BOYS	%TOTAL	%GIRLS	%BOYS
Does having sexual intercourse mean being in love?	Yes	90	38	31,6	35,7	24,8
	No	150	115	65,43	59,5	75,2
	No opinion	12	0	2,97	4,8	0
	Total	252	153	100	100	100

&

		GIRLS	BOYS	%TOTAL	%GIRLS	%BOYS
Does being in love mean having sexual intercourse?	Yes	29	29	14,34	11,5	19,08
	No	216	116	82,2	85,72	76,32
	No opinion	7	7	3,46	2,78	4,6
	Total	252	152	100	100	100

no

When you read the answers, there is actually a gap between the girls and the boys along the same lines as our hypotheses but in the end this gap is not as huge as we thought it would be...

There is not a big gap. The gap between the sexes is not so difficult to get over...

Do the boys or the girls conceal their feelings/ play their cards close to their chest in real life?

The relationship between love and sex is not obvious and the answers differ regarding the two questions. If love apparently can exist without sex, sexuality is understandable in a love relationship...

But most of the pupils think that they can have sex without having any feelings. We must wonder what we understand by sexuality: do we look for pleasure, sharing, physical or love complicity?

8 TO BE OR NOT TO BE ?

Do you consider yourself as

homosexual

2 girls/0 boys

heterosexual

229 girls / 141 boys

bisexual

14 girls / 3 boys

I don't know

10 girls / 10 boys

TOTAL:

255 girls / 154 boys

Have you ever had sexual intercourse...

You consider yourself as...

	HOMO SEXUAL	HETERO SEXUAL	BISEXUAL	I DON'T KNOW	NO OPINION	TOTAL
Yes heterosexual	0	250	8	1	1	260
Yes homosexual	0	1	0	0	0	1
Yes both heterosexual and homosexual	0	2	7	1	0	10
Yes	0	9	0	3	4	16
No	2	99	2	5	4	112
No opinion	0	9	0	0	1	10
Total	2	370	17	10	10	409

There are practically as many profiles as categories. Everyone is unique, some give their opinion, others don't... Sexual tendencies are not related to sexual activity, it does not correspond to a particular profile : 99 pupils consider themselves as heterosexual though they did not experience sexual intercourse.

Not a single boy and very few girls consider themselves as homosexual. They are afraid of confessing they are homosexual. Fear and shame are stronger than their real desires.

Those who are homosexual are afraid of what people think often due to the fact that they think being homosexual is unconventional, they fear to be rejected!

Homosexuality had been considered as a mental disease in France until 1981 ! As if loving someone without keeping within the norm could be a disease!

People fear to confess their homosexuality because being different, unconventional is difficult.

Did homosexuals choose "I don't know" or "bisexual" because it is easier to confess, to admit even for themselves?

Homosexual is still a taboo! Why?

When you experience life and when you grow up, it is easier to admit it, to assume it.

Sexual intercourse is not necessarily related to sexual trend.

9 ... THAT IS THE QUESTION

Hypotheses

Heterosexuals can be attracted by people of the same sex.

Heterosexuals cannot be attracted by someone of the same sex.

Girls confess more easily having been attracted by someone of the same sex.

Have you ever been attracted by a person of the same sex?

	GIRLS	BOYS	%GIRLS	%BOYS		TOTAL
Yes	27	8	10,71	5,26		35
No	225	144	89,29	94,74		369
Total	252	152	100	100		404

...and you consider yourself as....

	HOMOSEXUAL	HETEROSEXUAL	BISEXUAL	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Yes	1	15	16	3	35
No	1	361	1	6	369
Total	2	376	17	9	404

The girls confess more easily to having been attracted to someone of the same sex, why such a difference?

Is lesbianism more acceptable? Or are girls feel less ashamed? Undoubtedly, it may be less simple than that. Today being a lesbian is synonymous with suffering from violence.

Male homosexuality is less acceptable because being a homosexual in a society appears to be considered as less masculine, less than a man. A lot of stereotypes on homosexuals are widespread, some clichés are still lasting.

It is really difficult to accept being a homosexual, to stay true to one's desires

because from birth we are told that men should be with women and women with men, girls in a kitchen, and men at work to earn the money of the household and be masculine.

We still keep in mind a Middle Ages family model!

Parents buy cars for their boys and dolls for their girls and we feel concerned about boy's masculinity and sexual tendency when he plays with a doll!

Maybe we do not actually have this idea yet, we are meant to when we read through a toy magazine.

8,6% of our pupils have already been attracted by someone of the same sex.

"Discovering each other together..."

Must we have sexual intercourse to try to define ourselves? No.

Is our sexual trend the same all along our life? No. When do we find it then?

Is attraction only based on sex?

There was a debate in our group: we can be attracted without feeling like having sex.

It's complicated.

At this point of the debate, we still disagree...those who think that you can be heterosexual and be attracted by someone of the same sex, and those who think the opposite.

How to find a consensus?

Is it necessary to define oneself?

Finally we came to an agreement:

We cannot have a long-term definition of our sexuality because we do not know what can happen to us.

We define ourselves at the present time.

Even though it is difficult for some of them to understand how we can change.

Sexuality is like having flashes, it is like discovering each other together.

10 I'M AFRAID...

Were or are you afraid of having sexual intercourse?	YES	NO	OTHER	TOTAL
22 years old	1	1	0	2
21 years old	1	5	0	6
20 years old	7	10	1	18
19 years old	20	29	0	49
18 years old	22	47	0	69
17 years old	21	72	0	93
16 years old	28	77	0	105
15 years old	8	50	0	58
14 years old	0	3	0	3
%	27	73		100
Total	108	295	1	404
	GIRLS	BOYS		
Yes	92	17		
No	159	136		
Other				
Total	251	153		

When we read the answers of the pupils who are or were afraid of having sexual intercourse, we learn that they “are afraid of feeling the pain, not feeling up to it, not knowing how to set about it, what my partner thinks, afraid of their body, feeling like or not, inexperienced, the first time because it is the first time”.

Why are we afraid of having sexual intercourse?

Afraid of not knowing how to do?

Not feeling up to it?

Feeling the pain?

Afraid of diseases, undesired pregnancies?

Boys and girls are afraid of showing their bodies, of what their partners think and have complexes. Why?

What can we do not to be afraid anymore?

If we feel self-confident, we are less afraid, if we talk about it we fear less.

It is a matter of taking time....and speaking....with our friends, our future partners, exchanging without cheating...

“Fear to feel the pain, not to feel it up, not to know how to set about it, afraid of what my partner thinks, afraid of my body, feeling like or not, inexperience, because it’s the first time”

11 WHO WITH AND WHERE?

Hypothesis

Girls attach more importance to the choice of their partner for their first time.

Where did you have your first sexual intercourse?

House, bed	227
Outside	37
Car	9
Total	273

According to you, what is the ideal place to have sex?

House, bed	81,12%
Unusual places	3,12%
Everywhere	3,12%
Intimate places	2,33%
Places where you have pleasure	2,08%
Nature	2,08%
No ideal place	2,08%
I don't know	2,08%
Hotel	2,08%
Total	100

“On the grass, in a tent, in wildlife, at night behind a night club, in a corn field, a climbing wall, in the mountains in a landslide, a hill...”

“A desert island, hammam, a place where you cannot be seen...”

Is the choice of the partner important for the first time?

	GIRLS	BOYS	%GIRLS	%BOYS
Yes	243	122	97	80,8
No	8	28	3	18,6
I don't know	0	1	0	0,6
Total	251	151	100	100

About the first time:

Boys consider that it is not really important because, they often think that at a certain age, they must have had it otherwise they feel ashamed. It is as if the act in itself was more important than the person they had the intercourse with. But, again, it is just hypotheses, stereotypes...

Parents, especially mothers speak more about the first time with their daughters compared to their sons, and are more harsher with girls. Girls are more protected by their parents because they fear undesired pregnancies. But it is also very important to speak about it with boys!

Where did you meet your partners?

At school	154
In a pub	40
On the Internet	33
At a town fair	110
In a sports club	23
At some friends' house	138
In a night club	86
Via friends or relatives	10
On the street, in shops, at the swimming-pool, on a train, a bus, at a train station	7
On holidays	4
During a work experience, at work	4
Others	4
Total	613

About the place

We were surprised to see the importance of the Internet at our age!

The Internet can be dangerous, we do not really know who stands behind the screen, we can't see each other, we do not really feel each other. Why choose this place? There are plenty of places where we can meet people, more accessible, safer. Why surf on the Internet?

On the Internet, we can be the one we would like to be, have another face...

12 THE BODY IN ALL ITS GLORY...

Hypotheses:

Boys attach more importance to physical appearance than girls

Girls do not dare to be naked in front of their partner.

Dare you be naked in front of your partner?

	GIRLS	BOYS	%GIRLS	%BOYS	TOTAL
Yes	113	117	75	88	230
No	37	16	25	12	53
Total	150	133	100	100	283

What do you look at in a potential partner?

	GIRLS	BOYS	%GIRLS	%BOYS	TOTAL
Face (mouth, hair, nose)	38	70	26	49	108
Physical appearance (forms, appearance, height)	41	12	29	8	53
Eyes (look)	15	10	11	7	25
Personality (character, kindness, mentality ???)	35	30	24	21	65
Buttocks	13	22	9	15	35
Hands	2	0	1	0	2
Total	144	144	100	100	288

Girls are more shy and more hung-up about their body. There is a strong social pressure in general on physical beauty, they worry about having a big bottoms, they read magazines, but not all girls are alike.

Physical appearance has a real impact on sexuality.

The youngest are more modest as their body changes or has no form, it is more difficult for them.

When we show our body, we fear to be judged, we only see its defects.

About what we look at in a partner:

Did the boys lie or did we have a distorted image of them? An image of sex maniacs? Basically, girls and boys do not really differ...sometimes girls attach less importance to "mind" than we thought?

Maybe girls dare to write about physical appearance rather than speak openly about it...

Finally, the boys are maybe more mature than we thought... We still have a very different picture of boys and girls (girls are kinder, more cerebral, boys addicted to sex) and we may be wrong...

13 SEXUALITY ALL ALONG OUR LIFE

Our hypotheses:

Boys are younger than girls when they have sex for the first time.
The age when we have sex for the first time is not the average age.

At what age can we have sex and until when?

From 15 until death	75
From 15 to 65	41
From 15 to 80	33
From 15 to 70	32
From 15 to 60	32
From 15 to 75	29
From 15 to 55	29
From 15 to 50	20
From 15 to 85	15
From 15 to 90	10
From 15 to 45	10
From 20 to 55	8
From 10 until death	6
From 20 to death	5
Others (under 5 answers)	53
Total	404

Is teenagers' sexuality the same as adults?

YES	82
NO	295
I don't know	18
Total	395

According to you, what is the average age of the first sexual intercourse?

12	3
13	2
14	36
15	92
16	142
17	78
18	21
20	1
I don't know	3
When we feel ready	5
Anytime	8
When we get married	4
Others	5
Total	400

"No because teenagers have more energy!"

We have more time when we are adult, sexual intercourse are often longer...?

287 pupils have already had heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual intercourse.

The gap between boys and girls is not huge and we thought that the average age when we had sex was higher. But we must compare these results with the number of girls and boys at our school, we cannot compare them to the national ones.

For most of the pupils, we are sexually active from 15 until we die.

Why 15?

Why should we stop before death?

Are sexuality and sensuality the same?

Is sexuality different from having sex?

We are surprised at reading until death. It's hard for us to see ourselves as elderly people. It is hard for us to talk about elderly people's sexuality, it is like a taboo for us. We are afraid of getting old, our body undergoes changes...

When we talk about elderly people's sexuality, it is like talking about our parents or grandparents though we are aware that one day we will be old...

Concerning the difference between adults and teenagers, we think that there is a disparity because as we get older, the more experienced we are. The older we get, the more we build our sexuality. But how do we build it?

We should speak more about pleasure, trust our partners more.

How old were you when you had sex?

	GIRLS	BOYS	TOTAL
13	5	3	8
14	37	25	62
15	48	35	83
16	47	25	72
17	23	13	36
18	6	7	13
19	3	0	3
Don't tell	1	0	1
Other	3	2	5
Total	173	110	283

%GIRLS

%BOYS

13	2,83	2,73
14	21,39	22,73
15	27,75	31,82
16	27,17	22,73
17	13,29	11,82
18	3,47	6,36
19	1,73	0
Don't tell	0,58	0
Other	1,73	1,82
Total	100	100

14 LITTLE SECRETS...

HYPOTHESIS:

Boys do not talk much about their sexuality with their parents.

Who do you talk sexuality with? (several possible answers)

	GIRLS	BOYS	TOTAL
My partner	175	97	272
My parents	75	46	121
My brothers/sisters	75	46	121
My girl friends	221	87	308
we			
My boy friends	121	110	231
My doctor	30	10	40
My best friend	2	1	3
Family planning	1	0	1
I don't speak about it	5	6	11
Everybody	0	2	2
My cousins	1	1	2
Total	706	406	1112

Finally, boys speak as much as girls with their parents...

We are surprised at reading answers such as doctors or planning. Why rather speak with our doctors than our friends?

When girls need a contraceptive method they need to see a doctor who must keep medical secrecy... It depends on the family

live with, the doctor may be the only person we can see alone.

Other persons such as nurses must keep medical secrecy.

Besides, we have intentionally chosen not to suggest 'school' in our propositions and nobody wrote it in the category 'other'.

Yet, at school, we speak about sexuality and some confide in some staff members...

Yes but finally, the question was about OUR sexuality not sexuality in general.

At school, we speak about sexuality in the general sense of the word.

Is school a place where we can talk about it?

Yes, for prevention, it is necessary.

About sexuality, except for prevention, why not, it should be a place of exchange but with people who do not work in our school and who would be there regularly...

A good idea? What do you think about it?

15 I PROTECT MYSELF, I PROTECT YOU, YOU PROTECT YOURSELF, YOU PROTECT ME.

According to you, when two spouses trust each other, must they use condoms?

	GIRLS	BOYS	%GIRLS	%BOYS	%TOTAL
Yes	152	90	61	59	60
No	99	63	39	41	40
Total	251	153	100	100	100

Does AIDS only happen to others?
Why and from what do we protect ourselves?
Do we protect ourselves together?
How do we say to our partner that we want to protect ourselves?
Trust is different from love.

40% of pupils think that when we trust each other, we can do without a condom...
But that's sheer madness, you play with your own life and your partner's.
Only the test can prove it, it does not mean that we do not love each other.
Sometimes we do not know if we are carrying a disease or not...

What is trust? We can trust our partner without removing the condom...
It is sheer madness or gullibility to answer that we can remove the condom?

We have a feeling that we are not aware of the dangers in spite of all the information, why is that?
Yet, we play with others' lives when we do not protect ourselves.

16... WE PROTECT EACH OTHER

HYPOTHESIS:

During a heterosexual relationship, girls are more careful than boys with contraceptive methods.

Do you use a contraceptive method? (Reminder: 287 pupils already have sexual intercourse)

	GIRLS	BOYS	%GIRLS	%BOYS	TOTAL
Yes	179	104	78	80	283
No	51	26	22	20	77
Total	230	130	100	100	360

If so, what contraceptive method do you use?

	GIRLS	BOYS	%GIRLS	%BOYS
Pill	143	4	57	4
Condoms	103	105	41	96
Vaginal ring	1	0	0,4	0
Implant	1	0	0,4	0
Patch	3	0	1,2	0
Total	251	109	100	100

There are many contraceptive methods not only the pill! And yet, often we only mention the pill while others are as efficient for teenagers (they are less likely to forget them!)

We should be informed about them so that we have the choice.

Is contraceptive method a lonely choice or a common one?

A common one...and the condom, the pill are even better before being subjected to a test!

4% boys say they take the pill, they have integrated their partners' contraceptive method!
The pill is not only girls' business!

17 PRIVACY....

HYPOTHESIS :

It is only a question for girls, isn't it?

Have you ever feigned pleasure?

	GIRLS	BOYS	%GIRLS	%BOYS	TOTAL
Yes	63	19	36,63	16,67	82
No	109	95	63,37	83,33	204
Total	172	114	100	100	286

If so, why?

	GIRLS	BOYS	%GIRLS	%BOYS	TOTAL
To please my partner	46	11	66,67	64,71	57
Fear to confess that you felt nothing	22	5	31,88	29,41	27
Other	1	1	1,45	5,88	2
Total	69	17	100	100	86

“Not to spoil the moment, not to disappoint our partner, not to hurt his/her esteem because it can be hurtful to know that our partner feels nothing.”

There is a difference between the figures but the boys do also feign!

Why do without pleasure? How to identify it? How to communicate with our partner?

What does feigning pleasure mean?

Make our partner believe we feel pleasure.

Feigning pleasure is different from feigning orgasm.

Pleasure is complicated, sometimes even though we do not feel much physically, if we feel good with our partner, we feel pleasure all the same, we feel the pleasure our partner feels.

So why do we feign?

“Not to spoil the moment, not to disappoint our partner, not to hurt his/her esteem because it can be hurtful to know that our partner feels nothing.”

Boys and girls feign for the same reason and some fear to speak about it. Why?

They fear not to be normal, to disappoint their partner, to be jilted ... to tackle that topic we do not talk about much ...

Yet, sexual intercourse is to have pleasure!!! We must not forget that “goal”!

We must learn together to have a sexual intercourse, to go beyond our fears to feel good together, communicate... **Finally, experiencing our sexuality and our pleasure is like riding a bike, we must learn...**

18 THE INFLUENCE OF PORNOGRAPHY

HYPOTHESES:

Pornographic documents are much more watched on the Internet.
Boys watch more pornographic films than girls.

Have you ever watched pornographic documents?

	GIRLS	BOYS	%GIRLS	%BOYS	TOTAL (%)
Often	1	17	0,4	11,26	4,52
Sometimes	18	54	7,3	35,76	18,09
Rarely	46	60	18,62	39,74	26,63
Only once	75	9	30,36	5,96	21,11
Never	107	11	43,32	7,28	29,65
Total	247	151	100	100	100

If so, what was the medium?

The Internet	182
Books or magazines	52
DVD	61
TV	140

How old were you when you watched pornographic documents?

	%
11	5,5
12	2,5
13	7,4
14	7,4
15	23
16	25,5
17	18,9
18	5,3
Other	4,5
Total	100

"They even wear foundation on their bottoms."

We can notice the importance we attach to the Internet and TV.

We have an easy access on the Internet, finally should we use parental control more often?

Did the pupils mistake pornography for eroticism?

What is pornography?

"We see, it's hard and the sex act is grossly shown, the films show a degrading picture of women"

When we watch porn films, we build our sexuality on fantasy, it's not reality.

We are not saying that it is right or wrong but we must be careful of what porn conveys.

The sex acts are violent, men and women's bodies do not correspond to reality.

Women have a silicone-implanted bosom and men have enormous sex organs.

Everything is disproportionate, their bodies, sex acts... the language is violent.

Porn conveys a picture of male domination and of female objects.

("They even have foundation cream on their buttocks.")

We are dismayed to see how young the pupils are when they watch porn films. They could build their sexuality on unreality...

19 THE INFLUENCE OF PORNOGRAPHY (CONTINUED)

HYPOTHESES:

Watching porn films has an impact on sexuality.

The younger we are, the more porn films have influence on our sexuality.

Boys have more fantasies than girls.

The more we watch porn films, the more we have fantasies.

Do those films have an impact on your sexuality?

[You have already watched porn documents...]	YES	NO	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
Often	8	8	0	16
Sometimes	26	46	0	72
Rarely	19	84	2	105
Only once	18	65	1	84
Never	25	67	1	93
Total	96	270	4	370

	YES	NO	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
GIRLS	47	176	3	226
BOYS	48	97	4	149
Total	95	273	7	375

	YES	NO	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
14	1	1	0	2
15	17	36	2	55
16	25	70	1	96
17	16	67	0	83
18	13	52	0	65
19	13	33	0	46
20	6	10	1	17
21	2	3	0	5
22	1	1	0	2
Total				371

[Do you have fantasies?]	YES	NO	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
YES	61	169	3	233
NO	32	96	1	129
Total	93	265	4	362

What is sexuality influenced by?
everyone's

How do we build our sexuality?

Why do we watch porn films?

Do girls feel like giving pleasure to boys
and knowing how to give them pleasure?

Do boys want to draw their inspiration
with our
and learn from porn films, but also to
take delight in "ogling"?

We are astonished by the answers, we have the feeling that
answers do not correspond to what they really do.

The more we watch porn films, the more influenced our sexuality is.
The degrading image of women in porn films will have an
impact on sexual intercourse...

So what should we do?

We stay aware of the stakes and we try to imagine fantasies
partner rather than with totally fake images...

HYPOTHESIS:

Boys find foreplay less important than girls.

“gentleness, tenderness, caresses and sensual kisses, everything provided that we give pleasure to each other, caresses all over the body, masturbation, cunnilingus, giving pleasure to one’s partner”

YES

Is foreplay important?

	GIRLS	BOYS	%GIRLS	%BOYS
	TOTAL (%)			
Yes	197	137	81,74	91,33
No	32	10	13,28	6,67
Other	12	3	4,98	2
Total	241	150	100	100

Is it true that good sexual intercourse is when orgasm has been systematically reached?

	GIRLS	BOYS	%GIRLS	%BOYS
	TOTAL (%)			
Yes	52	67	21,67	44,67
No	174	74	72,5	49,33
Other	14	9	5,83	6
Total	240	150	100	100

NO

We thought that boys would think more of their kisses
 own pleasure, would not care about their partner when we spoke about foreplay...
 once again a stereotype?
 We were puzzled by the terms they used when we asked them what their favourite were.
 Why did some pupils use coarse words?
 Do they feel unease when they speak about that?
 When we speak about sex why do we feel compelled
 orgasm is no
 to lapse into vulgarity?
 It seems that the words used in porn films get over it.
 We can (and pupils did it) use a lot of terms which have the same meaning but which are not coarse.
 Sexuality can be a serious matter....

“Gentleness, tenderness, caresses and sensual everything provided that we give pleasure to each other, caresses all over the body, masturbation, oral sex, give pleasure to his/her partner”..
 Foreplay is what we receive but also what we give...
 On orgasm and a good sexual intercourse:
 Pleasure is often linked to pleasure “no pleasure”. But pleasure is different from orgasm...
 Maybe when we have short sexual intercourse, we look for orgasm...Pleasure is different regarding the partners and the relations we have.

21 CLOUD NINE...

HYPOTHESIS:

Boys and girls have a different point of view of a successful sexual intercourse.

According to you, what is a successful sexual intercourse? (305 pupils answered this question – 189 girls and 116 boys)

	% girls	%boys	TOTAL
Pleasure between two persons	58	71,38	64,02
Love, couple	14	3,44	10,56
Partners	3	3,44	2,64
The partner's pleasure	4,77	11,18	7,26
Orgasm	2,65	3,44	2,64
Personal pleasure	5,8	2,58	4,62
Self-confidence	3	0	1,98
When it lasts long	0	1,72	1,66
Tenderness, pleasure	4,77	1,1	3,3
I don't know	4,01	1,72	1,32
Total	100	100	100

Pleasure between two persons

Analysis of the results: our hypothesis is more or less true...

58% of the girls think that pleasure between two persons is the most important compared to 71% of the boys.

Boys and girls think that it is important but it is not on the same level (10 points), where did the 10% go? Girls think more of the couple, the future, the setting up of a project) whereas boys think about their partners' pleasure.

We thought that girls were more prude, boys more rude, using coarser words. Actually, they have the same definition but not the same words.

Finally, we notice that globally on the figures, sex does not matter. There is not much difference... The most important is the sexual life they had. Comparing the previous panel, they talk less about orgasm, finally it depends on the way the question is asked.

22 SEXIONARY 1/2

This work was done once our project was over.

The students were required to define the following words without looking up the definition in the dictionary. (Their definitions are in blue and pink)
The definitions in black are taken from the online dictionary (www.collinsdictionary.com).

Attraction – Physical or mental desire for someone whom we are attracted to, sexually speaking or not.

Noun - the act, power, or quality of attracting
a person or thing that attracts or is intended to attract
a force by which one object attracts another, such as the gravitational or electrostatic force
a change in the form of one linguistic element caused by the proximity of another element

Bisexuality – To be sexually attracted to a person of either sex.

synonymous of hermaphroditism
Noun - attraction to people of either sex

Discrimination – Unfair treatment of people on the grounds of their skin colour, origins, sex, sexual taste, physical appearance, disability.

Noun - unfair treatment of a person, racial group, minority, etc; action based on prejudice
subtle appreciation in matters of taste
the ability to see fine distinctions and differences

Equality – To think that everybody has the same rights

Noun - the state of being equal

Emancipation – To free oneself from what maintains us in a state of

Noun - the act of freeing or state of being freed.
Liberation, freedom from inhibition and convention

Woman – A female human being

Noun - an adult female human being

Gender – The state of being male or female which is conditioned by society girls must play with their dolls and boys with their cars.

Noun - a set of two or more grammatical categories into which the nouns of certain languages are divided, sometimes but not necessarily corresponding to the sex of the referent when animate
any of the categories, such as masculine, feminine, neuter, or common, within such a set
the state of being male, female, or neuter
all the members of one sex ⇒ the female gender

Heterosexuality – To feel sexually attracted by a person of the opposite sex

Noun - sexual attraction to or sexual relations with a person or persons of the opposite sex.

Homosexuality - To feel sexually attracted by a person of the same sex

Noun - sexual attraction to or sexual relations with members of the same sex.

Man – A male human being

Noun - an adult male human being, as distinguished from a woman
male; masculine ⇒ a man child
a human being regardless of sex or age, considered as a representative of mankind; a person
human beings collectively; mankind
an adult male human being with qualities associated with the male, such as courage or virility
manly qualities or virtues

23 SEXIONARY 2/2

This work was done when our project was over.

The students were required to define the following words without looking up the definition in the dictionary. (Their definitions are in blue and pink)
The definitions in black are taken from the online dictionary (www.collinsdictionary.com).

Homophobia - Fear or rejection of homosexuals

(Noun) Intense hatred or fear of homosexuals or homosexuality

Norms - Practices or thought imposed on people by social rules

(Noun) (sociology) an established standard of behaviour shared by members of a social group to which each member is expected to conform.

Trends – a way of defining oneself thanks to one's sexuality

(Noun) General tendency or direction

Pleasure – something pleasant, that makes good (pleasure for the eyes, touch, for being together)

(Noun) an agreeable or enjoyable sensation or emotion ⇒ the pleasure of hearing good music
something that gives or affords enjoyment or delight ⇒ his garden was his only pleasure
amusement, recreation, or enjoyment
(euphemistic) sexual gratification or enjoyment ⇒ he took his pleasure of her
a person's preference or choice

Preliminaries : the beginning of the sexual act.

(Noun) an event or action that introduces or prepares for something else.

Sex : visible physical characteristic, the organ which makes the difference between men and women.

(Noun) the sum of the characteristics that distinguish organisms on the basis of their reproductive function
either of the two categories, male or female, into which organisms are placed on this basis
short for sexual intercourse
feelings or behaviour resulting from the urge to gratify the sexual instinct
sexual matters in general

Sexism : discrimination of one sex especially women (For example, women are less paid than men, women are less highly regarded at work or at home)

(Noun) discrimination on the basis of sex, especially the oppression of women by men.

Sexuality : a combination of sexual practices and intercourse, individual shared in pursuit of pleasure.

or

(Noun) the state or quality of being sexual
preoccupation with or involvement in sexual matters
the possession of sexual potency

Stereotypes : ideas, principles, norms, inheritance given by society : rose for girls and blue is for boys

is

(Noun) an idea, trait, convention that has grown stale through fixed usage
(sociology) a set of inaccurate, simplistic generalizations about a group that allows others to categorize them and treat them accordingly

Taboo : a topic that is difficult to tackle in society or by some people

(Noun) any prohibition resulting from social or other conventions
ritual restriction or prohibition, esp of something that is considered holy or unclean

“If I tell my father about it, he’ll be shocked!”

This project has made us feel more comfortable about sexuality. It has enabled us to know better who we are, to free ourselves. Now, it is easier for us to talk about it with people around us. It has enabled us to know each other realised better.

We have strengthened the bonds with the teaching staff. Our teachers and year heads have changed...

When our parents were told that we talked about sexuality at school, they found it surprising but interesting. teenagers’sexuality.

Actually, we talked more about it with our mothers. share our “If I tell my father about it, he’ll be shocked!” others’opinions

Why did we work on this project?
To know better what teenagers’ sexuality really was, to talk about stereotypes about girls and boys.
When we looked at the figures, we that what we thought was different from reality.

Eurosutra is

The truth on teenagers’sexuality.
The difference between our prejudice and reality.

Creating new bonds with the teaching

Making people aware of

Talking more openly about sexuality.
Talking with people who do not

ideas.
It has enabled us to respect and to debate...

“We would have never imagined that it would reach such a scope, we would have never imagined achieving such a project.”