Questionnaire: Highly Gifted Students and their Teachers

This questionnaire is meant to round up various aspects of "highly gifted students", a task, we have set for ourselves in the application of the Comenius project EON. I’ve tried to deal with the subject on a very practical level that may help us find strategies for the future work in our network schools. Please, fill in the questionnaire below; **the more people participate, the more significant the result will be.** The questions are put in a way **that more than one answer is possible.**

A.: Questions:

1. What do you understand by highly gifted?
   - [ ] Result of an intelligence test (IQ higher than 130)
   - [ ] Extraordinary interest of a student in a subject
   - [ ] Outstanding abilities of a student in a practical subject (sports; music; arts; crafts;...)
   - [ ] Outstanding abilities of a student in social contexts
   - [ ] Other (please state)……………………………………….

2. How are highly gifted students diagnosed in your school?
   - [ ] Parents inform you
   - [ ] Former school informs you
   - [ ] A special institution presents a diagnosis
   - [ ] Own observation
   - [ ] Other (please state)……………………………………….

3. How would you recognise in the classroom that a student might be highly gifted?
   - [ ] The way he/she takes part in the lesson (questions; remarks; ...)
   - [ ] By his/her behaviour
   - [ ] Discrepancy disinterest – special interest
   - [ ] Outstanding performance
   - [ ] Other (please state)……………………………………….

4. How would you feel when you have a highly gifted student in your classroom?
   - [ ] Challenged
   - [ ] Happy
   - [ ] Uneasy
   - [ ] Burdened
   - [ ] Other (please state)……………………………………….

5. What would you do?
   - [ ] Discuss with other class teachers to find a common way of teaching
   - [ ] Talk with the parents
   - [ ] Talk with the student himself
   - [ ] Get support from experts
   - [ ] Nothing
   - [ ] Other (please state)……………………………………….

6. Which are the possibilities in your school system to support highly gifted students?
   - [ ] Special schools
   - [ ] Programs developed for this type of student
   - [ ] Skipping a class
   - [ ] Every teacher has to cope in his/her own way
   - [ ] I don’t know a possibility
   - [ ] Other (please state)……………………………………….
7. Younger highly gifted students often can't behave adequately as they are under challenged and bored. How would you react?
   - Disciplinary measures
   - Think that it could be a highly gifted student
   - Talk to the parents
   - Talk to the student
   - Other (please state) .................................................................

8. How would you see the position of a highly gifted student among “normal” students?
   - He/she is considered a nerd and the rest “let him live”
   - He/she becomes an outsider
   - He/she is envied
   - Some students see him as a model
   - They treat him like everybody else
   - Other (please state) .................................................................

9. High giftedness and special interests often focus on a limited number of subjects (e.g. natural sciences, languages, …). If you were a teacher of a different subject, how would you act/react?
   - Accept the giftedness in other subjects and demand a certain minimum of the curriculum to be fulfilled
   - Not accept that the student is disinterested in your subject
   - “Let him live” as long as he doesn't disturb your lecture
   - Try to make him interested in your subject;
   - Other (please state) .................................................................

B.: Statistic data:

1. The type of education in your school:
   - general
   - gymnasium
   - vocational
   - general and vocational
   - comprehensive
   - Other (please state) .................................................................

2. Number of students:
   - Less than 500
   - 501-1000
   - 1001-1500
   - more than 1500

3. age of youngest students: ............

4. age of oldest students: ..............

5. number of staff (head; deputy head; teachers): .........................

6. additional staff:
   - School psychologist
   - Students’ advisor
   - Special needs specialist
   - Nurse
   - Other (please state) .................................................................

Thank you for your cooperation!