

School to School Strategic Partnership n° 2014-1-FR01-KA201-002536_1

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SECOND TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING

Bucarest, ROMANIA Monday 9th to Friday 12th June 2015



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MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI CERCETĂRII TINERETULUI ȘI SPORTULUI

PROGRAMME OF THE MEETING

ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS ON SUNDAY 7 TH JUNE 2015										
Monday 8th June	09:30 to 10;00 - Reception of partners in the hosting institution 10:00 to 10;15 - Brief presentation of the hosting school by the Headmistress 10:15 to 11;30 - Meeting with the school staff 11:30 to 12;00 - Visit of the hosting school 11:30 to 12;10 - involved in the project	12:30	14:00 to 15:30 Project meeting – Year one 20:00 - Implementation of the project: extra hour workshop: organization, pupils involved, content - BOMODO: use, management, difficulties, improvements 15:30 to 16:00 Coffee / Internet break 16:00 to 17:30 - Lessons produced within the project: dissemination, feedbacks - national partner schools' Feedbacks							
Tuesday 9th June	09:00 to 10:00 Classes to local pupils by visitors 10:00 to 10:30 - Exchange of practice, interviews and feedbacks from pupils 10:30 to 11:00 Coffee / Internet break 11:00 to 12:00 Classes to local pupils by visitors 12:00 to 12:30 - Exchange of practice, interviews and feedbacks from pupils	12:30	14:00 to 15:30 Project meeting – Year one - Evaluation of the language Camp in FYR of Macedonia: dates, age of pupils, program, evaluation tools, feedbacks, improvements, 15:30 to 16:00 Coffee / Internet break - Communication: means and frequency: mail, Yahoo, Skype, Facebook, Twinspace 20:00							
Wednesday 10th June	09:30 to 10:00 - Receiving guests 10:00 to 10:30 - opening speech; presenting guests 10:30 to 11:30 - presentation of works 11:30 to 12:00 Coffee / Internet break 12:30 to 13:30 - presentation of works 13:30 to 14:00 - conclusions, handing out diplomas	14:30	16:00 to 19:30 Cultural visit in Bucharest							
Thursday 11th June	O9:00 to 10:30 Project meeting – Year two - Language Camp in Czech Republic : dates, organization, report - Second year questionnaire: content, submission, synthesis 10:30 to 11:00 Coffee / Internet break 11:00 to 12:30 - TPM in Turkey : dates, organisation, report - Dissemination: Posters, leaflets, Website, Facebook, Twinspace	12:30	14:00 to 15:30 Project meeting – Year two 20:00 - Digital presentations about each other's country: aim, content, undertaking, planning for year two - Erasmus Day: dates, organization, activities - Logo contest: dates, organization, logo prize for the winner							
Friday 12th June	09:00 to 10:00 Classes to local pupils by visitors 10:00 to 10:30 - Exchange of practice, interviews and feedbacks from pupils 10:30 to 11:00 Coffee / Internet break 11:00 to 12:00 Classes to local pupils by visitors 12:00 to 12:30 - Exchange of practice, interviews and feedbacks from pupils	12:30	14h00 to 15h30 Project meeting - Year two 20:00 - Budget: organization, management and control - Mobility Tool, Dissemination, Project website-organization 0 - Farewell drink 1. av G. Pompidou 92390 Vitenouve-la-Garenne 15:45 Certificate of Attendance 1. dv Ge Sec Fax 01 4065 82 181							
	EGE G. POMPIDOU DEPARTURE OF PARTICIPANT	S ON SA	TURDAY 13TH JUNE 2015							

VISIT OF THE ROMANIAN SCHOOL

The second transnational meeting of the project took place in Romania, in "St. Mary" Special Middle School for Hearing Impaired. The principal warmly welcomed the visitors and introduced the teaching staff, in addition she made three presentations: the first about Romania, its culture, monuments, important cities and geography, the second about the general educational system in Romanian schools and special schools, and the third one was a historical presentation of "St. Mary" from its foundation. Afterwards, the visitors visited the school and had the opportunity to meet the host students, even those who had attended the language camp at FYROM. The Romanian pupils performed some modern and traditional dances, and invited all the visitors to learn them.



At the moment this school is involved in two European projects: "Innovative Technologies for Language Active Class", "Gifted (for) you" to support children with high potential and to access training for gifted children with disabilities, and a project supported by Orange foundation "Sign –Word –Image: Communication without barriers for Hearing-Impaired Students".

On 10th June "St. Mary" received an award in the national competition **"European School"** where only schools which are involved in European projects can participate.

PRESENTATION OF "ST. MARY" SPECIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR HEARING IMPAIRED

"We feel and think far more than we can speak"



The school was founded in 1919. Since 1976, the school

has been housed in a new, modern building, rehabilitated within the B.E.I. Program

(European Investment Bank) in the year 2011. Their educational unit admits hearing-impaired children (boys and girls) with various degrees of hearing loss, from Bucarest and



other countries, in biannual boarding school system, to be schooled from preparatory grade to grades 8th to 10th.

Its main objectives are:

- Developing the students' communication skills by various means: oral and written language, sign language, finger spelling, as well as lip reading.
- Therapy and rehabilitation for social and professional integration.
- Personalized education and therapy programs.
- Cooperation with students' families.



The school has twenty classrooms, one chemistry and physics lab, one maths study room, one biology study room, one geography study room, one computer

study lab, one advanced e-Learning lab, one religion study room, one art workshop, one workshop for clay modelling (ceramics), one gym hall, one sports ground , one sheltered workshop .



They also have **specific therapy facilities**: ten soundproof rooms equipped with computers, for special compensation therapies, one speech therapy room, one kinetotherapy room, **educational activity facilities** :one mini library, one drama hall, two rooms for recreational activity, games/clubs, **practical activity facilities**: one job-training workshop, one workshop for the braiding of textile and vegetal yarns, one woodwork workshop, one fully equipped kitchen and one mini printing room, **medical care facilities**: one surgery, one infirmary and one quarantine/isolation room.



The graduates from the school can choose from: educational centers, special high schools and vocational high schools ("Nicolae Tonitza"). They usually get over 90% graduation rate at the national evaluation examinations and win diplomas and medals at inter-school contests and

exhibitions, at municipal, national and international level.



The teaching staff consists of 36 teachers, and the school caters for 114 pupils.



All the students are medically diagnosed with hearing impairment:

- Accentuated: hearing loss between 60 and 70 dB
- Severe: hearing loss between 80 and 90 dB.
- Profound: hearing loss of over 100 dB.

All of them have parents. They are boarders, half-boarders and day pupils.

Children come to school in the first grade when aged 7 to 9, having/not having gone to a special education kindergarten and attend the courses of this school for 8 years, following the adapted version of the mainstream syllabus.

Each class of pupils is heterogeneous, with children of different ages, different hearing losses and often with double or triple deficiencies.

The teaching-learning schedule, as well as the recovery-compensatory timetable is from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.:

- From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Teaching-learning activities with the whole classes of pupils.
- From 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.: Lunch.
- From 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.: Individual recovery-compensatory activities in sound proof rooms and complex and integrated therapy activities with the whole classes of pupils.

The most specific objectives are:

- Stimulating permanently any form of communication (verbal/non verbal)
- Developing the skill of acquiring the phono-articulatory model by means of lip reading in various communication media.

In their curriculum there are two school options:

Decorative art

- Grades 1-4: The World of Colours
- Grades 5-8: Arts and Crafts.

Computer study

- Grades 1-4: Computer Secrets.
- Grades 5-8: The World inside Computers.

Apart from the specialized teachers, there are: 10 auxiliary teaching staff, 1 secretary, 1 social worker, 6 educational instructors, 2 administration staff, 1 maintenance worker, 5 janitors and 2 guards.

GENERAL AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN ROMANIA





PROJECT MEETINGS

National coordinators met at different moments in saint Mary School to evaluate the first year of the project and to prepare the second one:

- During these meetings the project coordinator mentioned all the problems that teachers and pupils had to face during the language camp in FYROM (see the report about the camp in FYROM on the project website.) and the importance of avoiding the same mistakes again during the next language camps in Czech Republic and Spain. He insisted on the importance of working as a team, and reminded that all the scheduled activities in the partnership should be undertaken as agreed on during the preparatory visit in Crete in March 2014.
- All national coordinators agreed on the idea that in spite of difficulties, all the pupils enjoyed the language camp and will always keep good memories of it, as their feedbacks after the language camp mention. (see the video feedbacks on the project website.)

- The project coordinator also reminded national coordinators that all communication related to the project must be done through the Yahoo page of the project, the use of E-twinning portal, as planned before for the second year, being inappropriate for exchanging all the documents.
- Following the discussions related to pupils' oral competencies assessments; the project coordinator will submit an ADAPTED ORAL COMMUNICATION PORTFOLIO (AOCP) to the partners end of August 2015. It will be examined by all and changes will be made if necessary, then the final version will be used by all partners to assess pupils involved in the partnership individually as early as October 2015.
- 1- The project coordinator also asked national coordinators to send him three lesson plans by end of June 2015 at the latest and to fill in, for the same date, the Google Forms online concerning the pupils' feedbacks about the camp and the pupils' oral competencies during the camp. The project coordinator will forward all these documents to the Greek partner so that the latter can publish them on the project website beginning of July. Links to all activities and produced documents must be uploaded by the project coordinator on the Erasmus Mobility Tool end of July 2015 so that certificates of participation could be sent to all partners by this same tool.

• Decisions taken regarding the second year organisation

1. Video conferences between pupils: During this second year, each partner will make 3 e-presentations (one very two months) followed by three video conferences. Each e-presentation should be sent to the concerned partner ahead so that the latter could prepare the video conference that will take place according to the following grid.

	VIDEO CONFERENCES BETWEEN PUPILS INVOLVED IN THE PARTNERSHIP FOR 2015-2016									
	CZ. REP	FRANCE	FYROM	GREECE	LITHUANIA	ROMANIA	SPAIN	TURKEY		
CZ. REP		EP-VC 1				EP-VC 2		EP-VC 3		
FRANCE	EP-VC 1						EP-VC 2	EP-VC 3		
FYROM				EP-VC 1	EP-VC 2	EP-VC 3				
GREECE			EP-VC 1			EP-VC 2	EP-VC 3			
LITHUANIA			EP-VC 1				EP-VC 2	EP-VC 3		
ROMANIA	EP-VC 1		EP-VC 2	EP-VC 3						
SPAIN		EP-VC 1		EP-VC 2	EP-VC 3					
TURKEY	EP-VC 1	EP-VC 2			EP-VC 3					

* EP stand for e-presentation * VC stands for video conference

- 2. **Communication between coordinators:** From September, video conferences between national coordinators will take place via Skype every first Tuesday of the month at 21:00, so as to follow up the undertaking of the common activities in each partner school.
- 3. Selection of teachers attending the camp: The project coordinator emphasised the importance of having two teachers who speak English when attending the next project meetings and the language camps.
- 4. Preparation of pupils attending the camp: It is remembered that the extra teaching hour should be used to improve the pupils' oral communication skills, to help them acquire new competencies in ICT and to prepare them for the language camp.
- 5. Language camp in Czech Republic: Lessons must be prepared before the camp and sent to the coordinator by end of March 2016 at the latest so that they can be included in the programme of the camp that will be printed by the Czech team so that they can be available upon the arrival of the partners. By end of March 2016, partners should also send the coordinator a list of the pupils who will attend the camp, with their names, age, ID pictures and allergies and all necessary information that could be of any interest for the organisation of the camp. The project coordinator will prepare a detailed programme of the camp on a daily basis and send it to all partners by end of April 2016. It will include all activities and lessons' plans that will be given to the pupils during the camp, including English lessons, theatre for self-confidence, drama for social skills, music, sign language, French, Spanish and German lessons.
- 6. Exchange of good practice: Every day there will be one hour for teachers to exchange lessons so that they can learn from each other (they should bring at least five extra lessons to interchange).
- 7. **Travelling booklet:** One hour will be scheduled daily so that national teams can work with their pupils on the booklets.
- 8. Evaluation of pupils during the camp: One hour will also be scheduled late afternoon so that pupils can be evaluated on some specific oral, cultural and social competencies (these competencies will be sent to all national groups in September so that teachers can prepare pupils ahead of the language camp): pupils will be divided into multinational groups of ten kids from the beginning on the same basis as last year in FYROM, a colour will be attributed to each group and the two teachers in charge of the group will evaluate five pupils each on a daily basis (they will evaluate 2 to 3 communication and social

competencies per day). A grid of assessment for each group will be supplied by the coordinator on the first day of the camp.

Half an hour before dinner, while pupils communicate with their friends and families over social networks, national coordinators will meet and evaluate the day activities, necessary changes and improvements will be made when necessary. Then, they fill in the results of the evaluation online using Google forms.

- 9. A new travelling booklet will also be made within a collaborative work by the Czech and the project coordinator. It will be assembled and published by the Romanian team. The expenses will be covered by all partners.
- 10. **Pupils' feedbacks about the language camp:** During the last day of the camp, pupils will fill be invited to give their feedbacks about the camp by filling in a Google Form online. Their opinions will be taken into consideration to go on improving the activities offered and the organisation of the next camp.
- 11. General oral communication competencies' assessment: It is reminded that assessment is considered as an essential tool for improving the quality of our teaching and for evaluating our pupils' improvements. So, it is more than necessary to assess all pupils involved in the partnership as early as October 2015 according to the *I-TALC ADAPTED ORAL COMMUNICATION PORTFOLIO* specially elaborated for the partnership, then again in May-June 2016 and finally in April-May 2017. This way a follow up of the pupils' oral communication skills will be assured.
- 12. Erasmus song: every partner country should complete the song, by adding two or three lines which highlight the values of the partnership such as tolerance, friendship, respect, interculturality etc... The song will be recorded again during the second language camp in Czech Republic, so it is necessary that pupils who will attend rehearse the song in its current version ahead of the camp.
- 13. Logo contest: from September to December 2015 pupils involved will work on the logo at school, they will imagine and draw by hand different logos for the project. In January every partner country will vote for the two best logos in their own school. By 15th February 2016, these two logos will be sent to the project coordinator. In March 2016 an Erasmus Logo Contest will take place on a European scale so that all pupils involved in the partner countries can vote for the best logo. In April 2016 the winner will be chosen but the results will be kept secret until all partners meet during the language camp in May 2016. There, a ceremony will be organized and the winner will be given a prize that

will be handmade by the Romanian pupils. The winner will become the official logo of the partnership and will appear on all project documents.

- 14. Lessons to share freely with Erasmus teachers around Europe: Next year every partner school will have to upload at least five other lessons per teacher involved (that makes 10 lessons for each country), including their plans on the project website. These lessons should be different from the ones that will be given during the language camp. It is highly advised to supply a lesson per teacher every month so that other schools can test those lessons with their classes during the school year and leave us their feedbacks.
- 15. The pupils should be supplied with tablets, at least fifteen, to work at school.
- 16. **Project website:** It is necessary to keep on working on the layout and the organisation of the project website to avoid blocking it with too much information.
- 17. Dates of the second language camp: it will take place in Czech Republic from Monday 9th to Friday 20th May 2016. So, national groups should arrive in the camp on Sunday 8th May and leave on Saturday 21st May 2016.
- 18. Third Transnational Project Meeting: It will take place in Turkey from Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June 2016. So, coordinators and teachers should arrive in Istanbul on Sunday 29th May and leave on Saturday 4th June.

The agenda of the meeting: evaluation of the second year activities, planning of the third year activities, the closing ceremony, exhibition and dissemination of the partnership activities and outcomes in France will be sent to all partners by the project coordinator beginning of May 2016.

CLASSES IN SAINT MARY SCHOOL

During this project meeting in Romania, visitors attended some local classes and learn about the way hearing



impaired pupils national teams the opportunity daily pedagogical



are taught. The

split up in different groups and had to watch Romanian teachers in their practise. They even share a very

interesting dance class, where the students follow different rhythms and



steps thanks to ICT, they also sang a song which was written on the whiteboard. Then the visitors themselves

gave lessons created with digital materials to the host students. In

every class there were at least two teachers from two



different countries, so that they could observe each other while they were teaching, it was an exchange of good practises. The students, helped by a sign language teacher, participated actively in the class, answering the teachers' questions and giving them their feedbacks.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO DISSEMINATE THE PROJECT

"Role and importance of Erasmus Programs in the development of Romanian schools"



After the presentation of the conference, carried out by Florica Stoica, principal of "Saint Mary", the following speakers participated:

- Liana Maria Dutu-Mitran, General Inspector of the Ministry of Education and Research. She talked about the good academic results of Scientific "Saint Mary" students at annual exams and the great ability of its principal to be involved in so many different projects.
- Mr students



Cojocaru Alexandru from the City Hall congratulated and teachers for their good work and for their

participation in European programs, education for him is a priority in Bucarest and it is his goal to support educational projects.

Simona Penescu – Communication Coordinator for Orange Foundation, supports the integration of people with hearing or visual problems through different projects. At the moment they are financing one at "Saint Mary": "Gifted (for) you" to support children with high potential and to access training for gifted children with disabilities



Lahachmi Mechkouk - Project Coordinator of I-TALC "Innovative Technologies for Active Language Class" College George Pompidou, France. First, he



thanked Mrs Florica Stoica for organizing this conference to disseminate the project and all the partners who had collaborated with their papers. Then, he explained the situation and the needs in the participating institutions and outlined the main objectives of the partnership: to help our learners to develop oral communication skills mainly in English but not only, to acquire intercultural skills, to

build their European citizenship and to offer the teachers involved the opportunity to learn how to incorporate innovative digital and ICT teaching tools in their daily pedagogical practice to make their classes more engaging and challenging for their

pupils. Finally, he insisted on continuing to compare our teaching methods and to exchange good practice amongst European teachers.

 Norberta Airosius- Educational Technology Expert and IT Teacher Supervisor in Nida secondary school, Lithuania. Through a map, he showed an overall view of how to use technologies and presented some digital teaching methods: digital storytelling, mind mapping and building scenarios. He



also presented Edmodo, a virtual platform to coordinate every action of teachers and students.

Loredana Vanghelie- Psychology and Speech therapist at "Saint Mary". She talked about the impact of this project on students and

teachers. In relation to students, this project is helping them to develop their digital skills thanks to the different presentations they have made so far, they are improving their oral communication skills in English, they are learning other

European cultures, building up their European citizenship, and they are developing their social and emotional competences. In relation to teachers, the project is helping them to improve their English, learn about new teaching methods and exchange good teaching practices.



- Ms Simona Mitrea presented an online platform created to improve communication among deaf students from Romania.
- Professor Florea Barbu from the University of Bucarest. He talked about his personal



experiences as a hearing impaired student and the difficulties he had to overcome to adapt himself to this situation.

"Saint Mary" school has printed a book with papers from different experts on teaching and teachers from national and international schools. It was given to

ICT workshop: The educational technology expert Norbertas Airosius, from Lithuanian, solved all our doubts about Edmodo virtual community and showed us new programs and resources to be used for our lessons.

CULTURAL PROGRAMME

The Romanian partner offered us an interesting full day-excursion to discover Romanian history, its customs and traditions.

We visited the National Museum "Cotroceni", the presidential palace and the Old Center of Bucharest: Prince Vlad Tepes, Monastery and Court, and Lipscani Street. In addition we went into the Romanian Parliament-People's Palace, it is the world's largest



civilian building with an administrative function and the second largest building in the world after the Pentagon in the United States.

We toured the "Carpathian Jewels" and could contemplate beautiful landscapes







and places such as Sinaia,

the impressive Peles Castle, which is surrounded by

extremely pretty landscapes with gardens built on terraces, all at the edge of dense forests. The castle itself is very impressive through the riches it has accumulated: old and new canvases, old furniture, weapons, everything placed with good taste. We took many pictures, and the atmosphere was extremely pleasant. **Predeal**, which is the town on the highest elevation in Romania at 1033m altitude. The picturesque village of **Brasov** which is situated in the central part of Romania. It is considered the second most important town in the country. Located 160 km from Bucharest, it is surrounded by the Carpathians, being in the middle of the country at the crossroads of the Eastern Carpathian and the Southern Carpathians. Across the mountains to the South and East there are Wallachia and Moldavia, to the West the Banat region and to the North the rolling hills of Northern Transylvania. The

astonishing **Bran Castle**, commonly known as "Dracula's Castle: The fortress is situated on the border between Transylvania and Wallachia. There is, however, no evidence that Stoker knew anything about this castle, which has only tangential associations with Vlad III from Wallachia, the



putative inspiration. The castle is now a museum open to tourists, displaying art and furniture collected by Queen Marie. Tourists can see the interior individually or by a guided tour. At the bottom of the hill is a small open-air museum park exhibiting

traditional Romanian peasant structures (cottages, barns, etc.) from across the country.

On the last day of our meeting, our hosts organized a farewell dinner in our hotel. Many Romanian teachers together with the education and religion inspectors



attended the party. We enjoyed typical Romanian cuisine (sarmale and mámáliga, mici, plácintá with mere, plácintá with advleac), tasted local wines and danced together national and international dances.

DIFFICULTIES WE HAD TO FACE DURING THE LESSONS

The aim of our project is to improve pupils' oral communications skills, so all the lessons prepared by the visitors were focused on this matter. After meeting the pupils, we realised that most of them could not pronounce phonemes properly and it was very difficult for them to read our lips, but thanks to the kind help of the Romanian teachers, who translated our lessons into sign language, we could manage.

CONCLUSION

During this second Transnational Project Meeting in Romania, all the participants were involved actively in all the activities proposed by the coordinator and the host team. It was an enriching and unforgettable experience for all the visitors to teach hearing impaired pupils, who were eager to learn new things, making the lessons very active with their participation. They were very polite, so much interested and lovely pupils that it was a delight to teach them. We all felt very lucky for that.



This report has been written within a collaborative work between the Spanish team and the project coordinator.

Llano Mena, Matilde, Spanish coordinator Hidalgo Martínez,Inmaculada, Spanish teacher Escuela San José San Fernando (Cádiz), Spain Lahachmi MECHKOUK project coordinator Collège Georges Pompidou Villeneuve-la-Garenne France