TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING IN HUNGARY KECSKEMÉT

22-26. May 2017

NEWSLETTER 3
The second project planning meeting was held in Kecskemét, Hungary. All partner schools sent representatives to the meeting.

**Monday:** First pre-school children welcomed the guests in the gymhall with singing and playing songs and games in English. The headteacher greeted all the coordinators and accompanied members. After that the guest teachers spent all the morning at the school visiting 4 classes, having an insight into the Hungarian pre-school education, taking part in different small activities with the children (puppet show, art craft, painting, English lesson).

We had a discussion about the Hungarian education system, the features of pre-school education, noticing the differences and similarities in the participating countries. An outdoor sport activity was organized on the theme with the children and adults (teachers and parents) of the school, challenging games for teams of children were performed. In the afternoon we had project discussion, the photobook of the previous meeting and the collection of the sport book were presented.

We discussed the 2018 calendar with the photos of the activities. The next meeting in Poland: presentation of the organisation, help for the travel. Each country will prepare a workshop of circus activities, the children will present them. Hungarian teachers will present a video. Polish teachers will send photos of their material of sport (workshop circus). Children who will travel will be able to play the “traditionnal games”. A QR Code Workshop was added to the program.
**Tuesday:** The participating teachers observed two lessons in the primary school on the theme.

Prior the lessons the headteacher welcomed us, talked about the school features, some characteristics about the Hungarian education system and answered the emerging questions. One of the gym lessons was of meta game in the 6. grade, a traditional Hungarian sport game, the other lesson was in the 4. grade, exciting and challenging team sport races. A fine performance on how pupils can add their capacity up in order to get good result.

In the afternoon the guest visited the unique toy museum of the town, where we learnt together the know-how of making the felt.

**Wednesday:** Participant spent the whole morning with project discussion. Each country gave a power point report presented by video projector about the work had been done in their school.

The collective practices of the hiking path and the concerning flyers. All countries presented the work with the children on the healthy food and how to promote low sugar and fat diet for children. We exhange the documents, the Icelandic team will compile all the work. We discussed in details the dissemination process in each country, the information boards, the website of the project, the school websites and the Twin space. All schools have a website, we suggest inserting the link to the website of the project.
The “Acablog” : the website managed by the French team will be implemented by all the partners, the password is given to everyone. The French team will send the access explanations to the administrative site. We recall that all the documents created must have the Erasmus logo and the logo of the project. The Italian team will take the charge of the realization of small video of each meeting. One planned project activity is géocaching game, we spent the afternoon with finding its place in Kecskemét and those teachers who were registered in the game could put their name on the list.

**Thursday:** Teachers visited 4 other classes in the pre-school, spending some time in each, meeting with children, playing and doing different activities together. After the classes they observed a sport-dance lesson performed by 5-6 year olds and a dramaplay performed by 6-7 year olds. Teachers could notice how useful were these activities in building up small children’s community, strengthening their self-confidence, self-awareness and self-esteem.

During the afternoon we discussed about the interim report, on the mobility tool website. The dead line of the report seems to be different from country to country. It caused some hardship that three countries out of the five did not get the access to their mobility tool webpage for the interim report. So we could not work efficiently on it. We decided to exchange the results of the questionnary given in our school.

**Friday:**

We took a whole day cultural trip together in Budapest, visiting historical sites such as the Buda Castle, the Presidential Palace, the Fisherman’s Bastion, the Mathias Church, the Saint Stephen Basilica. We took a walk on the pedestrian area. The guests stayed overnight in Budapest.
Our last meeting of the year was held in Hungary as part of the ERASMUS+ project „Move Together in a Healthy European Way“. Two teachers and the canteen manager of our school were able to understand a new education system and discover a magnificent country. It was also an opportunity for us to meet again all the partners of our project. This work will enable teachers to reinvest these practices in their classrooms. Finally we finalized the various actions to be carried out for the coming months and completed the report. The meals were for us moments of culinary discoveries and times of warm exchanges between the different participants. We would like to thank the educational team that organized and planned this meeting. They also introduced us their country, traditions and cuisine. These were rich moments for us. we will keep in mind the beautiful discovery of Budapest.

The reception in the various schools was very warm. The directors, teachers, children and all the staff of the nursery and primary schools welcomed us with kindness. They shared their practice, they took the time to answer all our questions. We attended performances (puppets, theater, dance, sport) given by children very comfortable, very smiling and very calm. We also attended and participated in class times where we were able to interact with the different teachers. The sports lessons were very interesting and very well conducted.

This system, that favors manipulation as well as oral and body expression is different from ours and surprising us pleasantly. This meeting was also an opportunity to continue working with all partners. We were able to discuss the evolution of the project. The results presented enabled all to discover similar and sometimes different practices in the 5 establishments. This work will enable teachers to reinvest these practices in their classrooms. Finally we finalized the various actions to be carried out for the coming months and completed the report. The meals were for us moments of culinary discoveries and times of warm exchanges between the different participants. We would like to thank the educational team that organized and planned this meeting. They also introduced us their country, traditions and cuisine. These were rich moments for us. we will keep in mind the beautiful discovery of Budapest.
Our week in Hungary started in Budapest where we had a good two days enjoying the beautiful city.

We arrived in Kecskemét on Sunday and had a very nice meal with the group at an Italian restaurant and then a good sleep at the hotel Talizman, a new renovated and a very modern hotel.

Monday morning we visited the preschool and had a good time with the children in the kindergarten. We noticed that the children seemed very happy and free in their play and all of them playing together. After visiting the kindergarten this week we think that Hungarian kindergartens are similar to kindergartens in Iceland in many ways. One of the good things we noticed was that most of the toys that children were playing with were in natural colors and not sorted by gender and boys as much as girls were playing in the role model corner.

We also visited another school and saw older children in action in their sportclasses. It was great to see how the students followed instruction without any hesitation and every member of the class took part in the games. Our experience of Hungary is that the people are relaxed and joyful. They seem to use art a lot in their everyday work in the preschool and we gained many ideas we can use in our schools in Iceland.
The idea of seasonal activities calendar was presented and we think that is a good idea and it will be interesting to see the outcome when it is ready.

This is the first Erasmus+ project that we take part in and it was very helpful for us to work together in the Mobility tool and see the work of the walking trail and healthy diet project with the other participants. We were also pleased to hear that it will be a QR code workshop in Poland and are looking forward to add that to our walking trail.

The trip to the SPA was nice and relaxing and to learn about the Geocaching game was great. We had never heard about it and are excited to try it with our students.

Thank you Hungary
Sunneva, Friða and Margrét
Second transnational meeting in Hungary May 2017.

Our second Transnational Project Meeting in the Erasmus + Program took place between 21st and 27th May, 2017. This time the event was hosted by Hungarian partners, precisely the city of Kecskemét, and the meeting was analytical and educational, so the participants were only teachers.

A significant amount of the time was devoted to analyzing all the materials accumulated so far during the implementation of the project. Partners presented their booklets and Power Point presentations about created walking trials. Each country also showed healthy menus for one day and recipes of students’ favourite dish.

Many important decisions concerning future actions were taken as well. All partners agreed to make the calendar for 2018 containing pictures or photographs of students doing sports in different seasons. In addition coordinators and accompanied teachers specified the details of the next visit that will take place this autumn in Tarnogrod, Poland.
The programme and other information connected with the visit were presented. Much attention has also been paid to the financial aspect of the project - rigid standards and rules.

We have also discussed matters concerning mid-term report and its content. All partners were shown the way of using Mobility Tool and they completed necessary data.

An interesting parts of our stay in Kecskemet were visits to kindergarten and school, combined with observing various classes and groups. We have seen various methods and forms of conducting classes, new didactic situations and interesting educational aids. We compared our school system with Hungarian one and tried to find similarities and the differences.

What has attracted our attention during our visits in all institutions was the quiet and gentle way of communicating during the activities and free plays of any children (much more silent than the breaks of our students). It was also astonishing that all pre-school groups were mixed-age and consisted of children 3 to 7 years old. We had the opportunity to observe how positively it affects the interactions between children.

In addition, thanks to our wonderful hosts we had the opportunity of trying traditional Hungarian cuisine as well as tasty local specialties.

The last day of our stay was devoted to exploring the monuments and culture, and was dedicated to exploring the capital of Hungary - Budapest.

The whole stay in this country was absorbing and very interesting. In addition to the many purely professional experiences, we have also enriched our social and cultural lives with our 'close cousins.' "The visit also affirmed that projects such as the Erasmus + are a hit with pupils, teachers parents and the local community. We are convinced that visits with our partners will significantly influence the developing world views of all project participants."
The week we spent in Hungary was an experience of friendship, sharing and culture for everybody. We lived such intensive and challenging days which taught us to live in a city so different from ours in customs and traditions. Kecskemet, located 90 Km from Budapest, in the great Hungarian plain (pusztta) between the Danube and the Tisza river. Through the urban city center it was possible to admire the four churches devoted to the different religions: Catholic, Protestant and Jewish. We walked around the main square in the city center admiring the most beautiful buildings in liberty style decorated with flower pattern: the town hall, Cifra palace and the Theatre. Several factories processed the local fruit to produce the famous Hungarian grappa, called Palinka.

Leaving the city to reach Budapest, on the regional street, we could see the typical rural houses.

During our staying, we met so different people, but so similar at the same time who welcome us like a family. During our time together, it was certain to broaden our cultural horizons, understanding their educational system.

We examine and analyze each features of the place; it was a time of growth and openness towards something beyond our cultural borders and our daily life.

Anyway, to stay in a different reality, shows talent and vulnerability. Italy, compared with others is a country where the mentality changed, from exclude to include children with special needs. So many European countries continue to prefer special school. Integration of the children with disabilities in the school is our pride, our point of strength in our educational system.

In Hungary it was planned a full schedule that allow us to analyze the organizing aspects and the teaching system too. During our visit in the kindergarten school we highlight that our presence doesn’t influence teachers and children during the daily activities, rather, they shared their practices with all of us. The main philosophy is “the game”. Before seven years old children play and they learn by playing. No selection of the classes for ability levels, in fact they are rather homogeneous. We attend to several workshops: drama, painting, sport, English, the atmosphere was calm, respectful, and productive in the classroom with quite loudness of the teachers which communicate in an informal way, sharing and building knowledge.

Furniture and school materials really struck us. They have beautiful colors and stimulating dimensions, many armchairs on the wall and working corners, so many materials that children touch in freedom: they choose, use, share, replace. In addition, they are so
skilled in managing spaces in the classroom. During the visit in other school levels, the headmistress welcomed us and she showed us the educational priority of her school. We were surprised about the attention towards the sport activities connected with healthy food. The school activities take place in the morning until the afternoon, including lunch time that is possible to have in the canteen where you can find only biological products from local agricultural factories. The children have got common spaces and gymnasium instruments. By the way, we attend to some sporting classes, whereas it was not possible to attend to other classes. We don’t know about their use of technology and if digital methodology in schools had a great acceleration like in our country. We appreciate the organization and methodology of the school, the proficiency and the humility of all the teachers who work there. The exchange of views, the sharing, exchanging good practices with all the foreign partners were again some useful tools for our training and for our personal and professional growth. Waiting for next meeting in Poland, we would like to thank the Hungarian team for making us welcome.

Anna, Concetta, Flavia e Angelina