

Eramus+ week in Albertville, France October 2nd - 5th 2023

From Puolimatka School, Hyvinkää, five students and two teachers participated on Erasmus+ mobilitys week. This is the report of the teachers Meri-Tuulia Isotalo and Noora Vuorenmaa about what we learned during the week in Alberwille.

Monday

The day started in welcomming session. We both teach music so we especially enjoyed the ceremony, where we had opportunity to hear and also try the alphorn, traditional instrument of Savoy area. All the students sang two songs together: Makeba (by Jain) and the European anthem. We had practiced the songs already in Finland and it is always a pleasure when people sing together. Choir singing creates individual well-being and togetherness of the group. The song choices were great: equality is the theme of Makeba and the theme of Beethoven's 9th symphony is part of european cultural heritage.

The hosts had planned very easy, but interesting acitivities and ice-breaking games, which took place in the nearby Olympic Park. It was easy for students to present themselves in English and get to know students from participating countries (France, Portugal, Belgium, Croatia, Finland). Students social skills and self confidence in speaking English improved. In games they also used teamwork and collaborative skills.

The day ended in the Cite de Conflans, which is the medieval part of Alberville. There the students were divided into small groups, which searched sites on map and had to use their problem solving skills in order to resolve riddles. The students had to pay attention to the environment and they got outdoors presentation of French culture.

Monday was an excellent day of ice-breaking activities and the weather was absolutely fine! The students and us teachers had a lot of opportunities to discuss and to get to know eachother.

Tuesday

In our teachers opinion, the programme of Tuesday was one of the most interesting in green entrepreneurship and knowledge. The morning was hard work with the Climate fresk, which was a new concept for us. The Climate fresk is an interactive lecture where pupils (and also the group of us teachers) were given cards to place and by that making a chart of the climate change and the human influence on the environment and nature. Discussion about the cards was learning about the effects of human acitivities on the terrestrial system. The agriculture, tranportation, consctruction and industry are the sources of most influences on environment and later on the week all these four sources were presented us again with alternative solutions leading to better impact on environment. Therefore the Climate Fresk was an excellent start for our green entrepreneurship -week. It was a hard work thinking, discussing and communicating in English, but all groups succeeded. Within our group of teachers we discussed about new species of mosquitos in France and crickets in Croatia, which brings the climate change much more concrete for us. In Alberville we also saw brown trees because of the dryness of the river and the weather was too warm for that late autumn.

In the afternoon we were introduced to the agriculture, when we visited the farm methanation plant. We learned how the manur of farm's animals as well as left-overs form the school canteen and Albertville restaurants were used to create methan. From methan comes electricity, which warms houses. In the farm

we saw domestic animals as well as cows and pigs. One cow gave a birth while we were there and it was very exciting to the students. The calf got name "Erasmus", so there is a living memoir of our visit.

Wednesday

When Tuesday was about greener agricultural solutions, Wednesday's topics were transportation and industry. The morning began with a lecture of a local cabinet entrepreneur, where students had to enhance their listening skills. In the afternoon was peer to peer collaboration, when students made soap and calculated the ingredients and the cost of them. They had to use their ITC skills and communication skills as they find out the cost of a home-made soap.

Thursday

The topics of the field trip day were agriculture, industry and construction. First we visited traditional cheese, Beaufort, dairy. We had a video about farmers and learned about the effects of climate change in the life of farmers. In the dairy, we had a guided tour and learned how the cheese is made. In the afternoon we happened to see the cows moving from one place to another and heard the cowbells ringing in the Alps.

The next stop was a resale shop. In Finland we have a lot of flea markets, but this resale shop was a bit different as they also repaired broken objects which then could be resold. The students had fun together when they circled in smaller groups and discussed what would they want to have.

The day ended in the most beautiful scenery after a short hike in the mountains as we visited the Roselend dam. We listened a lecture of one of the engineers in the dam and he told us of the construction and how we can find alternative ways to produce electricity.

Friday

The last day of our week started with introduction to Kate Raworth's Donut Theory, which (as the Climate Fresk) was new and interesting for us teachers. The theory combines the twelve social and human basic rights and nine planet limitation. The question is how can we meet our needs without consuming too much the environment and nature. Short videos of Amsterdam, Grenoble and Barcelona showed different solutions they had made for more greener living and consuming. The lecture raised awareness and made us imagine more possibilities for green entrepreneurship.

In the afternoon we learned more about green entrepreneurship as we visited a local restaurant and grocery market. They were individual business, but collaborated: the products that wouldn't be sold in the market, were brought to the restaurant, which makes food of them. The restaurant Bio l'Équilibre had a really interesting concept with changing menu, as the chefs invented and decided the day's menu based on the ingredients they were sent from the market or nearby farms. Very creative! The food was delicious, as we teachers had had a meal there earlier. The price of the food is related to the weight of the food you choose to plate, so people would take only the amount of food they're going to eat. The left-overs from this restaurant go to the methanation plant we visited on Tuesday. In overall the week was very well executed and we got an understanding how Albertville is making greener solutions where businesses collaborate for better environment.

In the afternoon we discussed (as the Belgium team and us Finns had hoped for) about the work of student councils in our countries. The French students had prepared an introduction how their school council is

organized and what they do. After that every participating school told something of the custom of their student council.

In the evening was one of the highlights of these Erasmus-weeks: the farewell party. The teens enjoy so much just to dance and sing together and their joy is always so touching to witness. Before the dancing part we had a dinner together in the school (cooked by the principal!) and the farewell ceremonies.

Summary

The Erasmus+ week in Albertville was very well planned, organized and executed. The teachers of College Combe de Savoie gave us a programme, which increased our cultural knowledge of Savoie area and green entrepreneurship. The activities were designed so that the pupils had a lot of changes to collaborate and improve their communication and English skills.

Many times the most valuable and interesting outcomes and moments of Erasmus collaboration can't be seen in the programme. The joy and growth of the pupils who may be the first time abroad or first time abroad without their parents won't be written in the programme, but we teachers have a possibility to see the outcome as pupils gain more confidence as they get to know each other better and are more open to speak in English and collaborate in international groups.

Also us teachers had interesting and mind opening discussions about our school systems, their similarities and differences. In personal level we both learned a lot about climate change and environmental issues and new methods and ideas how to present green entrepreneurship in our school.

Some memorable moments from our week in Albertville:

Seeing, hearing, touching, feeling the cultural features f.ex. the alphorn



Learning more about the environmental issues
f.ex. via Climate Fresh

Getting to know everybody, working and playing together.



The absolutely beautiful scenery!



Proudly representing Finland in our European community!