

# ERASMUS +



## NATURE AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION

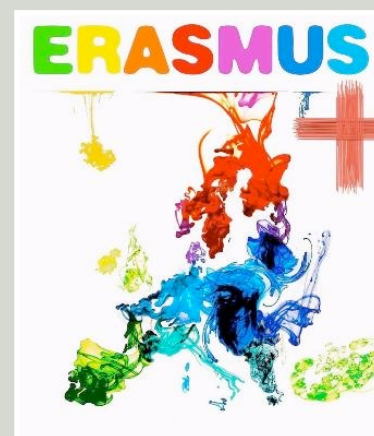
**The aim of the project is focused on ecological awareness: educating our students about their own and other partners' local nature and ecosystems and the problems they're facing, as well as practicing sustainable environment practices, through several outdoors activities.**

Participation and active project is divided into 3 main stages:

right for our students.

Therefore, they should have the means and the opportunities to take part in the actions, aiming to broaden their knowledge towards understanding good and sustainable practices across countries, broaden their knowledge about the reality, problems and possible solutions and also increasing their sense of preservation. The

- I GO: exploring, recording and documenting nature first hand at local level;
- I SEE: researching, identifying and explaining what they have learned (E-book, posters, videos, PPT's and Guides);
- I DEFEND: sharing knowledge and results with other students and community.



### **PARTNERS**

- Latvia** - J Neikena Diklu pamatskola - Dikli, Valmiera
- Turkey** - Cetin Sen Bilim ve Sanat Merkezi - Melikgazi
- Finland** - Hatsalan Klassillinen Kuolu - Kuopio
- Poland** - Szkola Podstawowa 157 im Adama Mickiewicza - Warsaw
- Portugal** - EB1 de Nogueira, AE de Alberto Sampaio - Braga

# LATVIA



On 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 the coordinators and members of all partner teams in the Erasmus+ project *Nature and Outdoor Education* hold the first project activity *Short-term joint staff training events* in Dikli, Latvia with the purpose:

### To model different nature lessons

There were three different nature lesson modelling samples presented and active participation asked. First lesson modelling presented indoor research of plants using microscopes and worksheets for grade 7. Second modelled lesson presented outdoor activity for grade 1 where sample of CIL (Content Integrated Learning) approach was presented, the use of nature and nature elements for math learning accordingly to methodology from project application SOLE. Third lesson was sample for project as learning method and also SOLE mechanism used for nature lessons where trees were explored in an attractive manner.

### To discuss project management and project activities

During „Short-term joint staff training events” three project management sessions were hold with the purpose to clarify several tasks and activities to promote great development of the project such as:

- Project logo creation procedure with the criteria and work order for each team. It was decided to create logo in shape of flower where each petal represents the national symbol of each country drawn by children from other country. Responsibility for logo design procedure is actively undertaken by Polish team.

- Also was decided to create blog for project kindly undertaken by Portuguese team and creation of project page on social media such as Facebook

undertaken by Latvian as coordinating team and registration and project creation on eTwinning platform accordingly to application friendly undertaken by Latvian and Turkish teams.

- Dates, topic, order, tasks and activities for the next mobility undertaken by Finish team. The mobility with topic „Fish and Footprint” will be organized by Finish team in their school from 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. All the tasks and also approximate agenda for this mobility were accepted by coordinators and members of teams.

### To introduce project coordinators and team members with general education system in Latvia and cultural and traditional background as well

Several activities such as guided tours in Dikli, Valmiera and Riga, and Latvian tradition and culture evening with folk group were organized to provide and raise deeper understanding of Latvia and it’s educational system, culture and traditional background.

During the *Short –term joint staff training events* participants showed real and deep interest, willing and responsibility for this project promotion and realization in their schools. Team represented the positive and friendly atmosphere as great prove for successful and active collaboration during project.

Evija Kokorite - Project Coordinator



## Latvia

Jura Neikena Diklu pamatskola is one of the oldest schools in this area and is a small, country style school realising general education. It has a lot of pure green nature around it, what we use for outdoor activities for free time activities and during lessons also. Since autumn 2016 school united with kindergarten and from now Jura Neikena Diklu pamatskola is much bigger structure with 160 pupils aged from 2 till 17 . School is located in the North East of Latvia, 20 km away from regional and industrial senter - Valmiera. The nearby area of Dikli was used as living place for workers from the Soviet Union, working in Valmiera. Right now Jura Neikena Diklu pamatskola is a partner in EU Erasmus+ project „Get moving!Take part in the future.” - what is about general problems and possible problems solutions for EU pupils in new days. There are also active projects in an E-twinning platform, what gives a lot of new ideas for pupils and for teachers. And realised Norplus Junior project „First timers” for kindergarten structures, to improve teachers skills and practise for young learners in our organization.

As for our country style school surrounded by green nature this new project would give possibility to share ideas about outdoor education and use of nature in science lessons and also school hopes to teach pupils to respect nature and the environment, to save it and to be proud of it. The Key person is an English teacher with experience in projects coordination from previous work place in vocational school and this experience is very useful for putting our school into a international standpoint.

The arrival to Latvia was a big surprise for us. Being from a south European country, we were very pleased seeing everything covered with snow!!!

We arrived late at night and the coordinator was waiting for us at the airport. There was still a 100km journey to the hotel in Valmiera.

The next morning, we met the remaining partners and embarked towards Dikli. Arrived at school, we had two students as guides. They showed us the school facilities and some of the activities that were going on. After a coffee break, we attended a science class, a theme related to our project. Outside, we joined a maths class and, in pair work with a student, we had to collect elements from nature and construct and present polygons. After a lunch break, we gathered in order to establish concrete dates and guidelines for the forthcoming mobilities. We also define criteria for the logo contest, as well as the creation of a project blog and the registration on the E-Twining platform.

Although it was not written in the application, it was decided to carry out a newsletter about each mobility, available on the blog and E-Twining. After all the hard work, we took a pedestrian route around the school and visited the church,

the lake and the open-air auditorium, guided by the history teacher. At night, we had a cultural dinner, animated by a folk group and embraced Latvian traditions.

On the next day, we had an outside class and we learnt about trees and endemic plants that surround the school. We had to complete a series of tasks related to the previous activity. After lunch, we got to know a little bit of Valmiera and we got together for the farewell dinner.

On the last day of the mobility, we took a tour on Riga, with the history teacher as a guide. After, we headed to the airport. It was time to go back home!

Even though it was for a short period of time, we realize that we have a strong project, focused on lead students to understand that education is not just about the classroom and that nature can teach us many subjects.

The working group has shown to be very hardworking, full of ideas and willing to provide students with new and enriching experiences, potentials of a brighter future.

We are looking eager to the next mobility!



The Primary School of Nogueira (EB1 de Nogueira ) was built in 1981 and inaugurated on the next year.

In our school there is a very diverse student population, serving mainly the central and southern part of the city. However, in recent years, it has stressed the trend towards greater diversification, integrating school students from all city parishes. From a sociological point of view, this school includes students from upper middle and high-class families, but also a significant portion of students from families of medium-low and low social level, people with very low levels of education. Although the Primary School of Nogueira has never participated in such a Project, has as its main goal, to promote intercultural competences and to enrich teachers, students and other staff with educational and cultural experiences that rise the schools' educational level.

Regarding the theme of the Project – *Nature and Outdoor Education* - the school has been developing some activities that meet the theme, such as:

- experimental sciences classes;
- outdoors activities (such as reforest burned areas around the city);
- study visits to/from Pedagogical farms (animals; plants; food);
- exhibitions, etc.

## PORTUGAL



# FINLAND



We were very welcomed to Dikli/Valmiera by our coordinator Evija. Transportations, hotel, timetable and activities were extremely well organized. We got a feeling of safe and secure start for the project. It was nice that all partners joined the meeting with pure enthusiasm. We got to see and feel Latvian hospitality during our whole visit. Pupils and teachers had organized nice folkdance party with some dancing.

During hard working we sorted out timetable for most of the visits. We will have the first Meeting with pupils in Kuopio at the end of March. Braga in Portugal will be the next meeting at the end of May. Warsaw in Poland we had to move to autumn because of Finland and Latvia don't have schoolwork going on June.

On December schools makes introduction to the webpage of the project. Teachers will write down the reflections of the planning meeting to Sonia Working at schools starts on January with Logo competitions. All the cities decide one animal and one plant of their own region to be basement of the logo. This way there will be five animals and plants in the project logo. Idea of giving one animal and plant of the regions to other countries to design makes pupils to get interested of the other partner in the project.

Each country will send their version of logo to Monika by the end of January.

Project continue on February on all schools with investigating fishes and footprints. All schools will make Power Point presentations from five fish and five footprint of an animal to the first meeting in Kuopio.

Theme for Kuopio meeting is "Fish & Footprint".

We are looking forward to see the results of our planning at the first meeting. We feel that this will turn out to be excellent project with lots of new learning.



Hatsala classical school is a lower secondary school in Kuopio, Finland. It is located close to the city

center but there is a lot of nature around this school also. There is Puijo conservation area what is the first nature conservation area in Finland.

School has approx. 720 pupils aged 13-16 in grades 7-9. Class sizes are between 20-24 pupils. There are approximately 80 teachers and 5 school assistants. Most of the pupils live in local area. However, pupils who attend one of the school's specialized streams may come from anywhere in the Kuopio area. In addition to the many ordinary classes, there are also four specialized streams at Hatsala: bilingual teaching, art, Latin and PE streams. There is musical festivals and concerts in the school, when whole school come together. We have many international activities with various European schools and a school from Shanghai also.

The slogan of our school is "We go together forward".



When I found out that I would participate in Erasmus + project I was really looking forward to it as I knew this would be a great possibility for my students to explore the culture and the ecological issues via project way. I believe that form of absorbing knowledge is the best and the most efficient form of learning.

Our project started with the staff meeting in Dikli in Latvia where is situated the school of our main coordinator. The school is amazing. What I liked was the number of students in classes. Five or six pupils. That s great!! It helps to integrate different subjects and the children have very good rapport with teachers. Evija who is in charge of the whole project was the host. She is an English teacher. She was our guide all the way in Latvia. She introduced us (we are the teachers from Turkey, Finland, Portugal and Poland), her school and how the educational system works here. What we were doing throughout these 3 days was designing the project`s tasks: project LOGO and we made up the topic of presentation for our students to get prepared for the next mobility in Finland. Also we discussed the tools we will use to communicate with each other while working on the project and how we will publish project s results.

Evija showed us how the pupils from her school explore nature via outdoor activities. It was really awesome observing how they did that. Depending on the age, younger children were collecting leaves, sticks.... etc to create the math symbols. They

learned different skills by using nature objects as for instance: science, social skills, English as well because they described shapes or symbols in English. The older ones formed the route with different types of trees and designed at the same time quizzes or memory games which helped a lot to consolidate the knowledge about those trees. By myself I learned a lot about nature.

Evija organized for us a meeting with the local families who prepared the traditional meals / I would never forget the taste of cake KLINGERIS and learned us how to dance in Latvian style. It was an unforgettable experience to get involved into that culture and be somehow in the middle of that.

The date of Latvian mobility was planned in November so there was already cold and some snow. It made Dikli`s landscapes picturesque. The surrounding reminded me a bit of that one from the fairy tales.

To sum up, I assume that we started an interesting piece of work on the nature topic which is closed to all of us and we`ll try to elaborate it in a creative way together.



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# POLAND



**Our school was established in 1999. It was named Robert Schuman school.**

**The school is situated in Warsaw in a quiet district of Warsaw which is called Mokotów. We have bilingual units: English and Spanish ones.**

**We have 450 students and 50 teachers. The school has experience with cooperating via etwinning and Erasmus projects. However, we have never experienced in project concerned with environmental issues and we would like to develop innovative approaches in that field.**



We came to Latvia 1 day early because of the cheap ticket prices. This gave us a big chance to recognize Latvian people and culture better. We got together with Latvian people and we had more chance to talk to them. Generally, they are very indulgent and hospitable. Next day, we met Evija, the contact person of the coordinator school. Evija took us to a dance competition which her team attended. It was an awesome experience for us. After that, we moved to Valmeira from Riga by taking our other partner Poland from airport with our coordinator. And we stayed in Valmeira.

26. 11.2018 Monday

We went to Dikli, where the school is, with other partners of our project and coordinator. We discovered the school and we met other teachers. We attended Maths and Science lessons. In the afternoon, we formed the other mobility dates which will be done in our project. We decided to organize a logo competition by using e-twinning



platform for our project. At night, we saw the traditional dances of Dikli and tasted traditional Dikli foods.

27.11.2018 Tuesday

In the school garden, we identified the plants in there with a creative drama. After talking the other details about our project, we got to know Valmeira and vicinity of it in the afternoon.

28.11.2018 Wednesday

We left Valmeira with other partners. We returned Riga. In Riga, we had an old town tour with other partners and history teacher. After that we left for returning our countries.

In the meeting, we saw that our partners were hardworking, willing, and interested about our projects main theme. We are looking forward to another mobility.

Our school is educating the special and talented children. Our students are aged between 8-17. We educate our students by discovering their talents and improving them. In our school, every lesson has a different class and these classes designed specially for the achievements. We have special parts for the art and music classes. In our school, students can find a facility to improve themselves at science and art. In our school, our students have a facility of expressing themselves better in international arena with Russian, Chinese, France and English lessons. Our students attended many national and international competition of science and art. Our school, made many students from different cities touch nature and science with a nature education project which is supported by national fund.

