

INTERMEDIATE DISSEMINATION REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS OF THE FIRST YEAR OF THE ERASMUS + KA2 PROJECT 'JOURNEYS OF HOPE: EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS TO SOCIAL INCLUSION AND TOLERANCE'

1st Transnational Meeting

From the 23rd to the 29th of October 2016, the 1st International Meeting of the partners working on the project '2016-1-AT01-KA219-016660' took place at Liceo Scientifico Filippo Silvestri in Portici.

Starting from the assumption that the main purpose of education is not only to develop knowledge, skills and competences, but also to help young people become active and responsible citizens and oppose all forms of discrimination, intolerance and racism, five schools have developed a transnational project to exchange good practice to make students aware of the problems of refugees and immigrants, in direct collaboration with Human Rights NGOs, considering them as active agents that can contribute to alternative practices in the environment in which they live, in order to be more easily integrated.

The 5 European schools involved are the 'Öffentliches Stiftsgymnasium der Benediktiner zu St. Paul' in St. Paul im Lavanttal in Austria, the '4th High School of Ilion' in Ilion, Athens, Greece, the 'IES Joaquin Turina' Seville, Spain, the Istanbul Lisesi, Istanbul, Turkey, and the 'Liceo Scientifico Filippo Silvestri' in Portici.

The project is one of the few that were presented in Austria. Only 25 of the 39 projects submitted by the co-ordinating schools were approved. During the official kick-off meeting of the project, participants shared ideas and completed the planning of future activities. The dates of the mobilities to be carried out during the two years of implementation of the project were decided. Five short-term intercultural exchanges were planned to give way to 100 mobilities. For each school, the group of participants is composed of 16 students who, in groups of eight, take part in the organised mobility.

Each exchange has a different focus: 1) Historical development of immigration in Europe, 2) Analysis of the current situation of migrations and refugees, causes and consequences, 3) Cultural diversity in Europe, 4) The fight against prejudices and racism in Europe; 5) Human Rights, European and UN Laws that protect refugees and asylum-seekers.

The teachers of the delegations also decided the dates of the exchanges and of subsequent international meetings and agreed on important decisions regarding the creation of a website, a Facebook account, and the registration of the project in the eTwinning platform. The expected results were defined in details and the various tasks were assigned on the basis of the skills of the teachers of the various schools involved, who in turn help their students.

It was decided to create PowerPoint presentations, videos, short films, brochures, e-booklets, newsletters.

During the meeting, the group visited the surroundings of the school and had the opportunity to discover the beauty of our region and to learn about the culture of our territory. On the last day, a dissemination event was organized that was broadcast by Rai 3 during which the activity program was illustrated and interviews were carried out to Enrichetta Idato, the schoolmaster, and to the coordinating teachers.

1st Short-term student exchange

Then it was time for the sixteen selected students to be directly involved in the project.

With the help of a competent staff of teachers (proff. Angela Branda, Anna D'Amico, Angelina Di Tuoro, Stefania Iele, Patrizia Imparato, Nicoletta Lombardi, Maria Giuseppina,

Mandarino, Daniela Pagano, Vera Paturzo, Anna Rosa Ricco, Bianca Sannino, Lia Simeone, Carmela Tassiello), led by the coordinators Emilia De Paola and Pina Russo, the students were divided into various groups to deal with the complex and wide theme from different points of view. This phase turned out to be extremely stimulating: they learned to collaborate, creating PowerPoints, videos, photo collections, interviews, reports on the issue of the historical development of migration, enriching their knowledge and becoming more sensitive to the topic.

Satisfied with the results and full of enthusiasm, they were eagerly awaiting the arrival of January, the month chosen for the first short-term cultural exchange: from 14 to 20 January, in fact, the Greek school of Ilion, in the north of Athens, hosted sixteen Italian and Spanish students for a week. The Greek partners and their families were so warm and friendly that they felt immediately at ease, even if it was their first experience of this kind. Students were confronted with another educational system.

The activities carried out had been organized with care and expertise: interesting lessons were held by Greek teachers, and, besides, they watched "Welcome", a film about the importance of helping immigrants and the weakest. Stimulating and at the same time relaxing excursions to Athens and Nafplio, the first historical capital of Greece, took place, with visits to the Acropolis and to the highest tower of the city from which to admire the ruins of the Pantheon and Athens below. Students could visit museums and see monuments, alternating cultural moments with leisure activities. In fact, they have learned traditional dances, have been introduced to Greek cuisine and tasted typical dishes, learned anecdotes besides new words and idioms, known a different lifestyle from their own.

They also attended a series of lectures on empathy, and through the musical, literary and photographic works of some artists they discovered a new way of conceiving immigrants and presented to students and teachers in Greece and Spain their work on the topic of the project, demonstrating a full understanding of the immigrants issue. They also delivered the medicines collected for the 'Medicine du Monde' organization, which, among other things, takes care of immigrants.

What, however, the students appreciated most of their week in Greece was the fact that among them there were no walls or barriers, prejudices or differences that could hamper socialization. They were all too eager to know the differences between different cultures and traditions, to teach and learn, to express their opinions to their peers and new friends, thus to enrich their cultural baggage not only during school hours, but also when the Greek partners showed them their meeting places and shared their daily lives.

2nd short-term student exchange

Faced with the global challenge of increasing migratory flows, following the analysis of the historical development of immigration in Europe, considering the lack of large-scale support to the countries in difficulty and the reluctance to find a solution to the critical situation in these countries that will bring extremist groups to exploit the power vacuum, we considered appropriate to carry out, for the second phase of our project, an analysis of the current situation of migratory movements and refugees, of causes and consequences. During the second short-term cultural exchange, from 5 to 11 March 2017, Turkish and Austrian students and teachers visited our high school and were hosted at our students' families. All the countries had produced countless products (PowerPoints, videos, brochures, booklets) and, after visiting Italian language teaching centers for immigrants, we took the foreign partners to the "Less" Immigrants Reception Centre, an Onlus NGO, for moments of dialogue with the project operators and with the guests of the structure, for the purpose of

raising awareness of the problem and involving all students in a collection of clothes for immigrants.

A week of great commitment, in which there were workshops, classroom immersions, project work, films viewing, and an active debate on the issue of immigration in terms of inclusion and tolerance.

There was a presentation of immigration already in Roman times and of the current situation in the various countries.

Data were provided of immigrants in the municipalities of the Vesuvian area, bringing the attention to concrete examples of immigration that becomes a resource for the territory in the municipality of Herculaneum: a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed that will make it possible to employ the immigrants hosted in structures sometimes taken away from the Camorra, in socially useful jobs, such as the cleaning of the Vesuvius National Park, the cleaning of the beaches and other important social activities.

From the scientific point of view, the migration-related diseases and prevention norms were thoroughly investigated.

In addition, a wordbank of migration-related words was created. Words were translated into Italian, Austrian, Turkish and English and were then placed on a suitcase, a symbol of travelling.

Guest students also participated in a school choir session to study and prepare to sing the Hymn to Joy in English, German, Turkish and Italian during the evening of dissemination of the results of the project that concluded the second phase.

During this phase, our partners could visit Naples, the archaeological excavations of Herculaneum and Vesuvius, discovering the natural and cultural treasures of our territory.

Intermediate results of the first year of the project

During the various exchanges, students were therefore not interested in immigrants in a purely theoretical way, but they visited reception centers and gave a practical contribution donating medicines and clothes. The intention was to improve knowledge of the phenomenon and to create a network of international friendships that could last in time.

If the Erasmus + program was therefore designed to create study opportunities, cooperation between the world of education, training and volunteering, synergies between different sectors, professional development of teaching staff, ability to work in groups, improvement of language skills and technology, we can well say that our project has fully achieved the goals set.

It is enough to take a look at the results and products of this first year to get an idea of the great commitment of teachers and students.

In particular they created

- [a Facebook account](#) to launch an awareness campaign and illustrate all partners activities;
- [a YouTube account](#) that contains videos related to the project;
- [an eTwinning page](#) (TwinSpace) that contains all project outcomes;
- **lessons and workshops** on the themes of the project in the Italian and Latin languages, foreign literatures, history, geography, science, ICT, philosophy and music;
- **documentaries, videos;**

- **PowerPoint presentations, portfolios, questionnaires, interviews, brochures;**
- **ebooklets** containing photos taken at work, while travelling, during meetings with foreign partners or refugees and during exhibitions of the multicultural choir;

On the [project website](http://www.journeys-of-hope.eu) (<http://www.journeys-of-hope.eu>) common to the 5 partner countries, you can find all project activities, teaching resources and materials produced, photos, videos and interviews. You can check in person to look through a real window on the world!!

[The Club4U Digital Marketing](http://www.journeys-of-hope.eu/index.php/8-miscellaneous/155-club4u) app, which will provide a dissemination service and will allow to exchange project information via notifications that will be sent directly to smartphones, is also available via Google Play or App Store! (<http://www.journeys-of-hope.eu/index.php/8-miscellaneous/155-club4u>)

Finally, the youths have become more mature, open and responsible: they are aware of their own origins and of the need for humankind to emigrate and look for new places to call 'home'. They have learned how diversity is richness. Modern media have contributed to the elimination of distances, divisions and barriers and have allowed students to talk daily with their friends, who are now part of their daily life. It can be said that this project has somehow changed their lives fighting racism and prejudice and allowing younger generations to achieve the goal of making an old and closed world open and free.

The Italian Project Responsible
Professor Emilia De Paola