

SCHOOL TO SCHOOL-STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

2016-1-AT01-KA219-016660

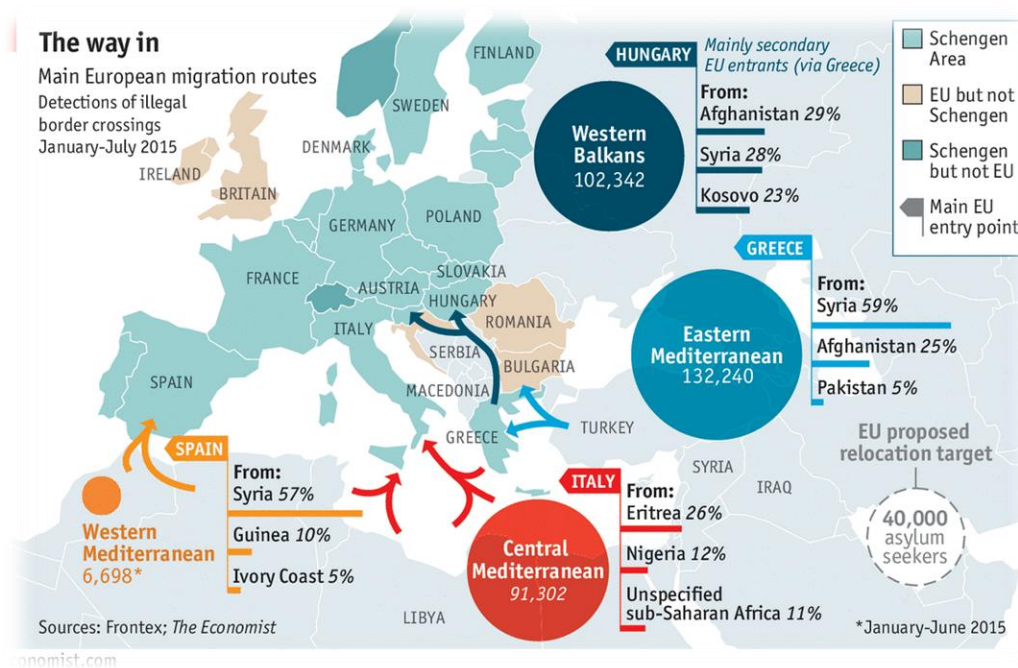
"JOURNEYS OF HOPE"

EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

TO SOCIAL INCLUSION AND TOLERANCE

Guidebook from students for students

A compendium on how students can personally take practical action to stand up when migrants, refugees or human rights are endangered



Available at: <https://www.economist.com>, accessed on 01/07/2018



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More information on the project is available on the following Internet links:

Project website: <http://www.journeys-of-hope.eu/>

eTwinning: <https://twinspace.etwinning.net/19926/home>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ErasmusJourneysofHope/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4vIp-rzAXIKdSywy4kzjYg>

Club4U Digital Marketing: <http://www.journeys-of-hope.eu/index.php/dissemination/8-miscellaneous/162-journeys-of-hope-joins-club4you-digital-marketing>

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Our school



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Available at: www.youtube.com, accessed on 01/07/2018



Available at: <https://youtu.be/vCCQw3aqiHU>, accessed on 01/07/2018

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Available at: <https://youtu.be/tuIFA78FxYw>, accessed on 01/07/2018

CHAPTER 1.

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introduction

"Journeys of Hope" is the Erasmus+ project (2016-1-AT01-KA219-016660) that was held between 2016-2018.

Our participants from the Öffentliches Stiftsgymnasium der Benediktiner in St. Paul were Loretta Bayer, Anna Rebernig, Julia Cas and Erika Tchakam from 10th grade, Letitia Tomasch, Christopher Schober, Sophie Stückler and Lena Quendler from 11th grade and Alexander Jandl, Chiara Lengyl, Lea Gadner, Anna Hasselsteiner, Anna-Maria Grassler, Dominik Jäger, Laura Reichmann and Michael Sapetschnig from 12th grade.

Along with our partner schools from Spain, Italy, Greece and Turkey we set our focus on human rights, specifically on prejudice, racism, tolerance for immigrants, refugees and so on. That being our main focus during this journey we made sure to experience and get into contact with as many people working in that field as possible.

We talked to lawyers, visited different organisations like the refugee camp in Lamm, the refugee class in Klagenfurt or the Syrian refugee school in Turkey, which really showed us in what conditions those people are living in. We also talked to some refugees in person and heard about their stories. They were all very heart-touching and made us appreciate life more.



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Another focus was cultural diversity and how to exchange these. The exchanges helped getting to know the different cultures and embracing new traditions and new ways of doing things. We got to see new cities, experience different stuff and most importantly: We met new people. Not did we only get to meet a new person we also did create friendships that will surely last a long time.

CHAPTER 2.

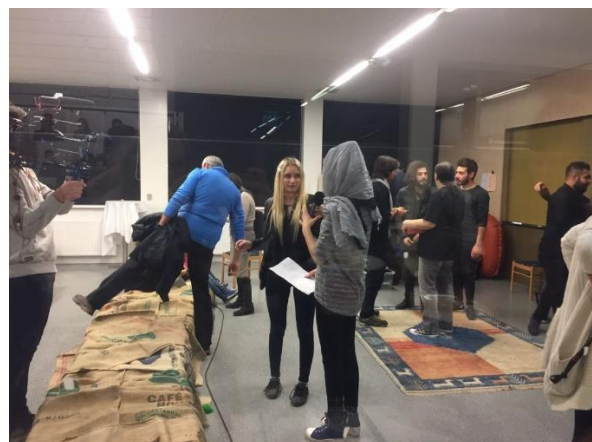
ACTIVITIES WITH MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

2.1. An overview of some activities done by the Austria group

For us, conquering prejudices and connecting people is very important. The best way to do so is through intercultural and interactive activities and in Austria there are many possibilities to get to know new people and to learn about new cultures and traditions. We had the honour to visit a play performed by refugees from crisis areas who are now staying in Austria to build up a new life, far away from war, hunger and danger. We were also very lucky to get the chance to talk to them and learned a lot about their lives and how determined they are to learn German and to integrate themselves into our society.



Available at: <https://youtu.be/4eXDH3Qvg1c>, accessed on 01/07/2018



Available at: <http://www.journeys-of-hope.eu>, accessed on 01/07/2018

After the great refugee crisis in 2015 and 2016 many refugee homes were founded in Austria. Old buildings got renewed and new houses were built, and people still try their best to give shelter to everybody. So, because of this we also got to visit one of these refugee homes together with our teachers. For most of our students this was the first opportunity to visit one of these homes and get a deep insight of the daily lives of asylum seekers and refugees.



Available at: <https://youtu.be/2mojspIaMp8>, accessed on 01/07/2018

In November 2017 we got visited by two exchange groups from Italy and Greece that stayed with us for one week. Although there were of course cultural differences all the students got on really well with each other and we also had a very interesting week full of activities. On Monday afternoon we went to Klagenfurt, our capital city, to follow the invitation of a teacher of a local school who also accompanies refugee classes. She introduced us to her students. Most of them were from Afghanistan or Syria and have now been here learning German for more than two years. They spoke the language fluently and together with them we painted pictures related to the project and bound big rings out of spruce twigs. These rings then were decorated with candles, slices of dried orange and cinnamon and are an Austrian Christmas tradition.



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All of these activities really had a big impact on every student of the project. Not only did we get to know new people and cultures we also saw the other side of the world, the one that is poor and endangered. But it also showed us that there is always a helping hand, always a light to catch and that there are always people that can change something, they just need to want it.

2.2 Visit of the refugee camp in Lamm

Currently more than 50 refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Somalia and Russia - 30 of them are children – live in the “Almdorf Grassler” located in Lamm at the Saualpe. The refugee camp is run by Herbert Quendler and the voluntary members of an association called “Verein Miteinander”.

I visited this camp last year with Ms. Rosemarie Pollanz and our cameraman Robert Grundnig. It was a great experience.



Available at: <https://youtu.be/auC3yIShbVg>, accessed on 01/07/2018

First, I talked to some of the voluntary members and they told me, that nearly all of the children went to school or to the kindergarten and that they could speak German already quite well. So, I started to talk with some of the children and I was really surprised about their fluency in German.

Then I saw two boys with red hair and freckles and I was sure that these boys were the sons of one of the voluntary members. When they started to talk in their mother tongue I realized, that these two were refugees. Both of them attend the primary school in St.Andrä nearby the camp.

I also spoke to some of the other refugees and they were all so friendly and invited us to stay and to have a meal with them. We got chicken a la Syrian type with couscous and flatbread. It was such a delicious lunch.

At the end of the visit I noticed that a lot of people have stereotypes about refugees. Some are even afraid of them. But don't we all want to live peacefully and happily with some friends around us?

This day showed me that these people who went through so many awful hard times appreciate even the little things in life.

2.3 Visit of the school for Syrian refugee children in Istanbul

Although most refugees seek for help in border regions, the refugee crisis still affects Istanbul a lot and so it is extremely important to provide integration classes for the children.



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In most cases the refugees are not allowed to work in a foreign country and they usually do not get enough money to finance a proper life for themselves and their children. That is the reason why it is an absolute necessity to provide refugee schools like the one we visited on our trip.

Everyone is welcome in this school, no one gets rejected or asked about their beliefs or political attitudes.



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When I got in touch with the kids I first felt extremely sorry for them, because they had gone through a lot of pain, because at war no one cared about the fact that they only are still vulnerable and innocent children. They have never done anything bad in their lives, but they were still involved in the cruelty of the war. I already knew some Arabic words and phrases, like "Kayf halic", which means "How are you?", or "Marhaba", which means "Hello" in Turkish as well as in Arabic. So, it was easy for me to start the conversation with some of the kids. My pronunciation was not always correct, but they were trying their best to understand what I said to them and we had lots of fun.

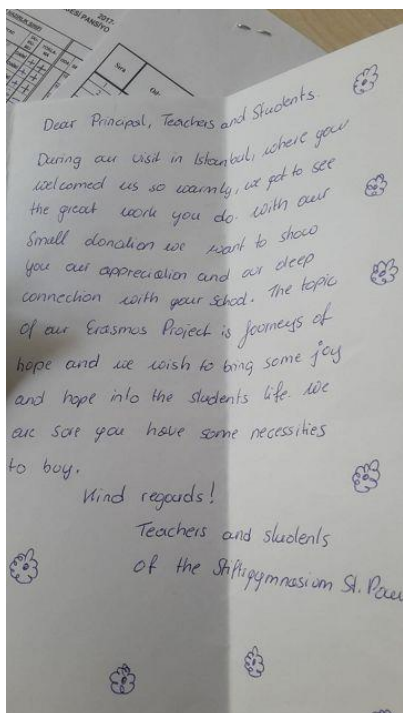
But the most noteworthy thing for me personally is, that the kids have lost so much in the past, not only belongings, maybe even their parents or family members. Some had deep scars on their skin. I think no one of us ever wants to go through such a lot of pain as they did. But still the kids look forward to learning new languages with lots of effort and stay positive. We would do well to draw some inspiration from those tough kids.



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2.4. Donation for the Syrian refugee school in Istanbul

After the exchange the Austrian partners donated 500 Euros for the Syrian refugee students in Fatih GEM to be spent on some of their necessities and to bring some joy and hope into their little worlds.



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In order to fulfil this heartfelt wish, the Turkish team did their best to contact the headmistress of the school and after getting together they agreed on buying some clothes for 35 students who were really in need. They bought gift cards which cost 50 TL each from a local clothes shop LCW. Besides, with the rest of the money they bought some more gift cards of the supermarket "A 101" so that very poor ones could get some food supplies.



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After buying the clothes on May 28 they were invited to our school, where they integrated with the Turkish students and did some sports, dance and art activities. Cloth bags with the Erasmus logo of our project "Journeys of Hope" were given as a present. They left the school with good memories.



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The amount of the donation might have been moderate, but the effects of it was really huge as it touched their hearts and they felt they were not alone in this world and this was all clear in their eyes that it had brought some happiness and joy into their journeys of life and hope.

CHAPTER 3.

HOW TO WORK IN CLASSROOM

3.1 Migrants and refugees at Stiftsgymnasium St. Paul

Right now, four refugees are attending our school and we have to say that they are all well integrated. Three of them do still belong to the lower grades and the other one goes into our class. For what we know it is easier for the younger students to learn languages (in that case especially German) and to follow the lessons in general.

The refugee attending our class is a 17- year-old girl from Syria. Because of her age it is very difficult for her to develop the right German skills. Additionally to that it is also hard for her to make new friends because she already has her best ones in Syria and she often tells us that she misses them so much which is totally understandable when you think about the fact that she has known them since kindergarten. Her plans for the future are to graduate from high school and afterwards she wants to attend a university.

ALANOUD ALJOMAA



She originally came from Alraqa, Syria and has been in Carinthia since then. The reason why she left her home country was of course the war in Syria. From Saudi Arabia to Dubai she travelled by plane, from there she flew to Vienna and finally she got to Carinthia by car. The whole journey took about one year, however, she was not that scared because her family was by her side. Her family includes her parents, herself and three siblings. She is happy to be in Austria and does not wish to return to Syria. She said the education in Austria was much better and she is dreaming of becoming a doctor

Strategic partnership for the
exchange of good practices
2016-1-AT01-KA219-016660




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Erasmus+

**WITH COURAGE
LET US ALL COMBINE!**



**2. Short-term exchange in
Portici (Naples)
05.-11.03.2017**

Austrian working group



Stiftsgymnasium St. Paul
Bildung mit Mehrwert

Journeys of hope: Educational pathways to social inclusion and tolerance

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We in fact made mainly good experiences, but of course sometimes it is not that easy for us to build up a good conversation with them. We also give our best to support them as well as possible but sometimes it is hard for them to explain what they exactly do not understand and so we do not know how to help. This is of course just how we think about that.

The ones who stay in contact with the refugees nearly as much as the regular students themselves are the teachers and so we asked Rudolf Freisitzer, a German teacher from our school, some questions to find out about his experiences and opinion concerning refugees at our school.

Do you think that the refugees at our school are well integrated and well treated by other students?

I think they are indeed integrated in their class community and well supported by their classmates concerning test preparations, learning German,.... As far as I know our refugee students also have contact to their classmates outside school. In my opinion one reason why there were not any problems is that they adapted Austrian manners really fast. I am sure that they are very satisfied with our school and with their lives in our country in general.

Do you prefer mixed classes or separated ones for refugees?

In my opinion both are required because in lessons together with regular students they get to know new people and can make friends easily. To these people they have to talk in German. And having someone to communicate in the German language is a big benefit in order to learn the language faster. I also think that every refugee student should get their own curriculum adapted to their personal interests. They also need a kind of companion who can help them to learn for exams, answer their questions and can explain them everything they do not understand.

What do you think about the German lessons with refugees?

As a German teacher I can say that separate German lessons are much more effective than regular German lessons together with Austrian students. Learning the German grammar and how to speak and write German properly is much easier in separated lessons because the teacher can respond especially to their questions and needs. In regular lessons they are often overchallenged. It is important that they learn our language as soon as possible because they have to be able to speak and understand German otherwise they will not be able to make their high school graduation and cannot attend a university. Moreover, finding a working place here in Austria will also be a big problem.

Tips and tricks how to treat refugees in the right way.

1. Always be friendly.
2. Be respectful and try to understand their situations.
3. You should treat them like you would want to be treated if you were forced to leave your country because of specific reasons (like war etc.)
4. Be helpful! (like explaining things for and to them)
5. Try to make their lives better and not to remind them constantly about all the things they had to go through.

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4vIp-rzAXIKdSywy4kzjYg>, accessed on 01/07/2018

<https://twinspace.etwinning.net/19926/home>

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<http://www.journeys-of-hope.eu>



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