

SMALL TOWNS IN EUROPE: SHARING INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

Project no. 2015-1-AT01-KA219-005070

<https://twinspace.etwinning.net/12040>

www.smallcities.eu



Erasmus+

"This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."

Small towns in Europe-sharing innovative practices

This European project aims to build a more sustainable future for young generations of students, mostly located in small towns, and share innovative practices among the 9 partner schools so as to help improve the quality of education, lifestyles and future working opportunities for our students.

From previous partnership cooperation, we have found out that entrepreneurship in schools is little encouraged in the traditional curricula, still too closely based on theoretical learning but with few and fragmentary chances of supporting the acquired knowledge with a proper training outside the classroom. There is a need to consolidate a strong and permanent link between school and the world of work. These two worlds have to start speaking a common language and transfer competences that can be easily read through.

In terms of teaching, entrepreneurship and exchanges of innovative best practices are needed for staff involved in education to improve their professional competences and enhance the quality of their teaching in a new designed innovative school system, rich of educational opportunities leading to students' success.

Full equity among students needs to be achieved. There are disadvantaged students in the school coming from immigrant families or low income families that are not used to competing to rich higher social positions. With this project, all students will be equally seen as social capital and issues such as equity, social cohesion, active citizenship, democratic values, as well as integration of migrants and new inhabitants will be targeted. Our small towns context will facilitate this process.

The objectives of this project will be:

1. To promote entrepreneurship education among our pupils, reinforcing links between education, youth and the world of work.
2. To promote the professional development of the staff by acquiring project management skills through project work, sharing best teaching practices and getting to know different school systems.
3. To produce a more efficient education and training system that enables quality learning for all and may grow students' confidence on their success with the result of reducing dropouts.
4. To strengthen students' digital competence and language skills and to increase students' interest and motivation for foreign language learning and ICT as tools to have better access to academic and job positions.
5. To foster equity and inclusion in education and promote cooperation and interaction through an attentive study of small European towns and so to strengthen intercultural dialogue among the participating schools and their communities.

Being carried out transnationally in 9 different countries, the project will provide wide and exhaustive information and planning on future studies and careers outside the metropolitan regions and establish links between schools and the work sector. Students will be able to observe educational and working systems in north, central and south Europe. As a result, they will be able to achieve a better understanding of new industrial, business innovation, social entrepreneurship, educational opportunities as well as classroom culture in their own and other countries.



AUSTRIA



The grammar school in Schärding has always been one of the most distinguished schools in Upper Austria. A few years ago it was rebuilt and took on a new shape with a totally different style. In almost all classes there are LCD projectors and there is Network access. The timetable and out-of-school-activities are listed on displays, which are located on the walls of every floor.

But good facilities are not the only feature that can be offered. The school has two buffets and in summer students can use the atrium, which is a place where pupils can chill out and eat their lunch. Almost every teacher is committed and knows what he or she is talking about. If you want you can even learn Russian or ancient-Greek like in Homer's.

Also the relationship between the pupils is quite good. The annual "Tutor-project", for example, should help the beginners to get alone. Older pupils play games with the children and walk through the school, showing them the building. Furthermore, Football, Volleyball and Basketball matches boost the team spirit and are very popular around Christmas time and July.

But sport isn't the only opportunity which is offered for pupils. There is Chess, a School-band, a Chemistry-club, dramatics and much more; so there is something for everyone.



SCHÄRDING

Federal Country: Upper Austria

Political District: Schärding (SD)

Area: 4.08 km²

Sea Level 313 m

Inhabitants: 4.971 (Jan. 1st 2010) Homepage:

www.schaerding.at

Schärding is a town in northern Upper Austria, capital of the district of the same name, and a major port on the Inn River in the past. It has a population of 4,971. Historically it was owned by the Wittelsbach family, which reflects on the town's architecture.



In 1966, 50 houses in the ancient Altstadt were declared to be historic monuments, in order to maintain the old, beautiful heart of the town. Since that, these efforts have since been rewarded with the admiration and appreciation of many tourists from all over the world.

For more information:

Peter Beham

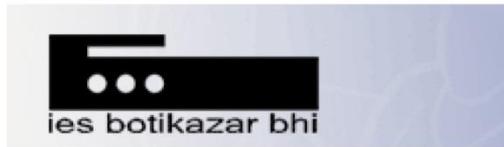
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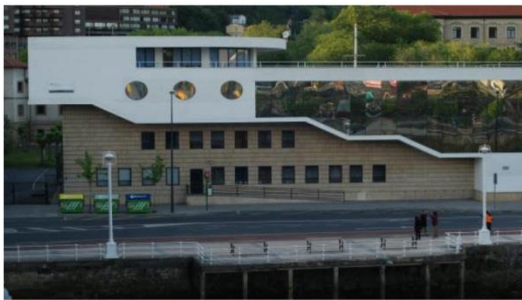


BASQUE COUNTRY (Spain)



IES BOTIKAZAR-BILBAO

We are a public secondary school with approximately 650 students and 64 teachers. The strategy of Botikazar BHI is aimed at supporting the implementation of the internationalization of student and staff exchange and the introduction of the European dimension in our curriculum. We are a multilingual school; our school not only uses the two official languages on the region, namely Spanish and Basque, but English is taught very successfully as Content and Language Integrated Learning.



The diverse student population includes students in bachelor and vocational training programmes. The aim is to provide students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to complete high school, to begin work on a post-secondary degree or to enter the world of work. IES Botikazar offers its students an excellent educational program in a unique organizational format.

CITY OF BILBAO

Bilbao is located in the Iberian Peninsula, in its eastern Atlantic watershed -latitude: 43° 15' 42" N, longitude: 2° 55' 43" W-, 19 metres above sea level, and it covers an area of 41.6 square kilometres. Its impressive transportation infrastructure connects it to the rest of Europe by air, land and sea. Bilbao is the core of a metropolitan area with more than one million inhabitants. Since its foundation, more than 700 years ago, it has been the fundamental factor and the main socio-economic axis around which the Vizcaya region has set its modernisation process in motion.



Languages: As in all the Basque Country Autonomous Region, in Bilbao there are two official languages: Euskera and Spanish. Both languages are spoken in public services and offices, and appear together on the city signals.

As the most economically and industrially active city of Spain, Bilbao counterbalances stress with the natural enthusiasm and friendly spirit of the local population. The Zubizuri bridge, the Euskalduna Palace or the Guggenheim Bilbao Museum are some of the wonderful tourist attractions that shape the particular architectural style of Bilbao.



Would you like to know about shopping, leisure attractions, things to do or good restaurants? Just take a Bilbao map and discover all the charm of the Biscay capital. With its galleries, theatres and monuments Bilbao is the perfect destination for modern history and art lovers. Take a break during your Bilbao tour and relax in one of its parks, taste the delicious Basque food and finish your day enjoying the vibrant nightlife.

Warm continental climate makes of Bilbao's weather a perfect ally for outdoor sports and the clean beaches down in the bay are always lively during the summer holidays.

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DENMARK



HILLERØD
KOMMUNE



Frederiksborg Gymnasium & HF is an upper secondary school situated in Hillerød, a historic yet dynamic and modern town of 40.000 inhabitants. The school has beautiful surroundings – it sits on a hill overlooking Teglgårdssøen, a lake in the old royal forest district approximately 40 km north of Copenhagen.

Frederiksborg Gymnasium & HF was founded at Frederiksborg Castle in 1630 by the renaissance king Christian IV. Today it is a modern upper secondary school, one of the largest in the country, with more than 1300 energetic students and an outstanding faculty of over 135 teachers. At present 80 per cent of the students are enrolled in a three-year education STX and 20 per cent of the students are enrolled in a two-year education HF. After they graduate the students are qualified for university admission and other institutes of further and higher education. Our students are between the ages of 16 and 20 and make up 60 percent of their age group in the community. The teachers all have a master's degree from a Danish or foreign university and are qualified to teach at least two subjects each.

Presently the school has 49 classes with 28 students in each, and the large number of students and classes allow the school to offer a great variety of subjects and an abundance of extra-curricular activities.

The school year commences in the first week of August and closes by the end of June with both written and oral exams. Each lesson lasts 95 minutes. The students take approximately 17 lessons a week for 35 weeks.

Frederiksborg Gymnasium & HF is a democratically run institution, which places great emphasis on student and teacher participation. Teachers and students alike have committees in which matters of importance to the school are discussed and agreed upon. The committees advise

the school are discussed and agreed upon. The committees advise and put forward proposals to the headmaster and the board in their management of the school.

The school is an institution of bustling activity. There is a range of creative subjects such as physical education, music, drama, media studies, visual arts, and design that ensure a high and energetic level of creative activity. There are various after-school activities which include volleyball, bands and choirs, painting and drawing, photography, etc. We also have debating societies, cultural events, café evenings and, of course, school parties.

In all subjects a high standard of teaching motivates and inspires students in their studies. Projects and experiments with new learning and teaching styles form an integral part of the school's academic life.

Finally, an international orientation is part of the school's objective. We place great emphasis on the fact that all students have the opportunity to meet foreign cultures in order to develop an international awareness. This is achieved through student exchanges, field trips, and visits by guest teachers and students. All students travel abroad, mostly in Europe, at least once in the course of their education.



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GERMANY

ALZEY



ELISABETH
LANGGÄSSER
GYMNASIUM



The name of the school:

Elisabeth-Langgässer-Gymnasium, short: ELG
Elisabeth Langgässer was an important writer. She was born in 1899 in Alzey. During the Second World War she had a lot of problems with the Nazis because of her Jewish ancestry.

www.elg-alzey.de here you can get some more information about her.

Alzey and its surroundings

In 2015 we were certified as a European School Rhineland-Palatinate. This underlines our European orientation, which is also documented in numerous exchange programs and the last Comenius participation 2012-2014 with the title "Small Towns in Europe – Identity, Challenges and Opportunities".

We have a lot of teachers with experience in different exchange programs, some of them spent some years as a teacher at schools in different countries.

-The school is involved in various international exchange projects.



1. Central marketplace called "Rossmarkt"



2. The castle of Alzey



Music projects (you can see it in the picture: our brass ensemble).

Alzey is a small town with about 18.000 inhabitants. It is 40 km away from Mainz (capital of the federal state Rhineland-Palatinate, Rheinland-Pfalz). Maybe you know about Mainz because of Johannes Gutenberg, the "Man of the Millennium". Mainz is very proud of his famous invention of the printing press. If you want to go to Frankfurt/Main it takes about one hour from Alzey.

The region of Alzey is called Rhine-Hesse (German: Rheinhessen; 2016, the 200th anniversary of Rheinhessen is celebrated). It is the biggest wine-producing area in Germany. Wine and everything to do with it is therefore characteristic of our region. Once a year a "wine queen" (Weinkönigin) is elected to represent the region on a national and international level.

Students: aged from 10 to 20 years,
current number: 1400

Teachers: approx. 110

Mission statement: preparation of our students for the world of work;

academic focus: natural sciences and mathematics;

-Foreign languages and bilingual education has a high priority: different subjects like Geography, History and Social Sciences are taught bilingually.

-We have different programs for students (assessment center, Information days with representatives from different companies, practical trainings in companies) which help them to find the way into the world of work or to university. We, for instance, cooperate with the University of Mainz.

Our school has its own European Profile with a lot of activities which are connected to Europe (Erasmus+, Certi Lingua etc.)

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ITALY

PIAZZOLA SUL BRENTA

ROLANDO DA PIAZZOLA



I.I.S. Rolando da Piazzola is a state secondary high school located in Piazzola sul Brenta, a small town of about 10,000 inhabitants in the province of Padova, in the north-east of Italy. There are about 700 students aged 14-18 attending years from 1 to 5 of the upper secondary school. The students' curriculum changes according to their study areas which are mainly three: we have students of the technical area, whose majors are economy and foreign languages. When they graduate they can enrol in university or find a job in administrative roles; there are students attending the Liceum whose main areas of studying are science and maths. It is the academic course of the school and most of the students go to University after graduation. Finally, we have the vocational department with students specialising in social services. That means that when they end their 5-year course if they do not want to continue studying they will look for jobs as social workers helping the elderly and the young. School timetable is from Monday to Saturday from 8.00 am to 2 pm. On average, students have 28 – 32 classes per week. Each class is 50 / 60 minutes long and there is a 15-minute break at about 11.00 am. We don't have a canteen or a bar in the school and students bring their snacks from home or buy them from the vending machines. Apart from class routine, students can take advantage of a variety of activities offered to them: in the afternoon the school is open for robotics workshops, drama, language courses and sports training (five a side, volleyball, basketball, handball, hockey, rugby, track and field). Furthermore, students who need study support can ask their teachers for afternoon helpdesk. There is a music group and other leisure activities are available every year. From year 3 on, students can have a working experience at the local firms. Some of these experiences are organised during the school year, otherwise students do their working training during the summer. We have opened working posts abroad as well, and students who take that opportunity are given a euypass.

We organise courses for language certifications and students can apply for exchange or study holiday abroad.

The students who come to our school mostly live in town or in the surrounding villages. A network of public transport serves the area mostly during school hours.



Piazzola sul Brenta, where the school premises are located, is a nice small town at about 20 km from Padova, its main city. It lies on the river Brenta, once sailed by boats that came from Venice. The town is famous for its Venetian mansion, villa Contarini, originally built by a wealthy family from Venice to farm the surrounding land and then transformed into a house for entertaining, celebrative functions and convivial events. The rooms still maintain their original appeal with frescoes representing scenes of life at the times of the Venetian Republic and furniture belonging to the latest noble families. Outside there is a magnificent park where visitors can walk and enjoy the colours of the countryside.

Not far from the villa there is a tall chimney of the old textile mill. It was the symbol of the flourishing industrial setting of the beginning of the 20th century. At that time more than a thousand workers were employed in the jute textile mill. Nowadays, the centre has been transformed into an exhibition area.

Piazzola has a world famous antiques market that is held on the last Sunday of the month.

The town is close to Padova with the second oldest University in Italy and not too far from picturesque Venice and the Dolomites, the most famous mountains in our region characterised by their original colour. The area is worth a visit, you can't miss it!

For more information:

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THE NETHERLANDS



RSG Broklede is a regional secondary school for pupils from Breukelen and surroundings. The village has around 14000 inhabitants and is situated on the river Vecht, between Amsterdam (35 km) and Utrecht (20 km). The school was founded in 1970 and started as a state school, but has been governed by the town council since 1990. The school occupies a modern building, together with the local library, the school of music and a day-care centre. The school has more than 1400 pupils, and though many are from Breukelen we are a regional school (RSG means regionale scholengemeenschap) drawing pupils from many neighbouring towns and villages. The school is run by a headmaster and a deputy, who supervise coordinators, team leaders, about 125 teachers and 25 non-teaching staff members.

Levels

The school has always had a sound academic tradition, preparing students for university (in the VWO section) or higher vocational training (in the HAVO section). In the first three years pupils follow a core curriculum, that used to be characterized by a philosophy of mixed ability teaching. Since 1994, when the government reorganized the first stage of secondary education, the pupils have been grouped according to ability in three streams or levels: HAVO, HAVO/VWO, VWO. It remains possible for pupils to switch streams. After the first three years the pupils enter the higher level where HAVO and VWO students choose from four profiles: Culture and Society, Economy and Society, Nature and Technology, and Nature and Health.

Bilingual education

In 2003 the school started a bilingual stream (TVWO). In this bilingual stream bright VWO pupils have more than half of their classes in English and follow a more demanding programme. In the 5th and 6th form of TVWO the pupils will be enrolled in the IB Diploma

Programme for English A2, which will enable them to get an IB certificate for English A2.

In the region the school is known for its high level of education, its attention for individual pupils, its counselling, and its outstanding results in the creative departments. Apart from these activities there are many fields in which pupils can be active: drama, sports, poetry, music; they all have their place in the school's extra-curricular activities.



THE TOWN OF BREUKELEN

Breukelen is a municipality and town in the Netherlands, in the province of Utrecht. It is situated to the north west of Utrecht, along the river Vecht and close to the lakes of the Loosdrechtse Plassen, an area of natural and touristic interest. It is in an area called the "Vechtstreek". During the 17th century many wealthy Amsterdam merchant families built their mansions along the river near Breukelen. There is a large Van der Valk (Hotel Breukelen) hotel, the façade of which is in the Chinese style. Universiteit Nyenrode is located in Breukelen. The borough of Brooklyn in New York City is named after Breukelen (see History of Brooklyn).



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Between high mountains and deep fjords you will find Høyanger Upper Secondary School. A three-hour drive from Bergen along the Sognefjord will take you to the municipality of Høyanger. The town Høyanger is the administrative centre and has around 2000 inhabitants. Høyanger can offer excellent opportunities for winter sports, fishing, hunting and outdoor life.



Høyanger rose out of industry (aluminium production) around 1900 and became a melting pot for people from all over the country. Today industry is still very important in Høyanger. Though the variety is greater than a hundred years ago. Agriculture, fish farming, serving the petroleum industry offshore and more, are all well-established industries in our small town.



Høyanger Upper Secondary school has about 30 teachers and 160 students aged 16 – 19 in the following branches of study: *General Academic studies, Electrical Trades, Hairdressing, Engineering and mechanical trades.*

The cooperation between our academic and vocational lines are close and good, both between teachers and between students.

We are also working closely with our neighbouring primary school. An innovative “partnership” focusing on both educational content and the administrative aspects of education.

The school buildings are also used by learners of Norwegian as a second language; both youth and adults. This group counts roughly the same number as our upper-secondary students.



The school is situated in the centre of Høyanger and is modern and well-equipped with a good library, a digital language lab and four computer rooms as well as a multi-media room. Nearby we have a sports hall and a new indoor as well as outdoor swimming pool.



“Travelling abroad will get you closer to home” – the cooperation and sharing across borders will both educate us and strengthen our own skills and abilities. Working together with other schools from European small towns will give us a wider perspective on the world and even our own home town.

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POLAND

ELBLAG

III Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. Jana Pawła II w Elblągu

III Liceum is a secondary school providing a general type of education for students aged 16-19. The average number of students is 460, they work in three levels (years) and in several profiles: natural sciences (main subjects: biology and chemistry), mathematics and physics profile, economic profile (mathematics and geography), humanistic profile (Polish, history, civics). The school provides education for students from Elbląg and the surrounding area, mostly rural. It employs about 35 teachers. The school has its patron – John Paul II – whose life and achievements have become a wonderful example



to follow for all the students and teachers.

Our school is quite experienced in bilateral cooperation with our old partner - Gymnassieskolan Knut Hahn from Ronneby / Sweden. "Small towns in Europe..." is the Comenius project, thanks to which for the first time we will be working in such a big team. It gives us a chance to gain a lot of experience and encourage our students and teachers to show their abilities and potential.



Our students often visit various European countries and cities, putting a lot of effort into learning and understanding the cultural, historical and social diversities of different nations.

Locally, they get involved into various activities, such as a golf or drama club. They also initiate or participate in charity events reacting to current needs.

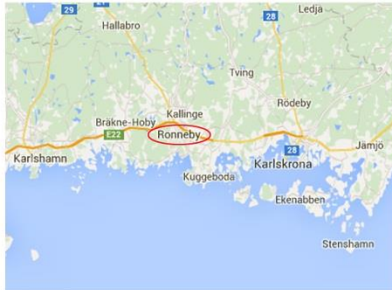


Elbląg was founded in 1237 by the Teutonic Knights, at the edge of Elbląg's Heights, Vistula Lagoon and Żuławy depression, about thirty kilometres south of the Gulf of Gdańsk and 60 kilometres from that city.



Poland is a quickly developing country, well known for its hospitality, beautiful nature and brave people. Elbląg has a long and fascinating history - a former Viking's settlement Truso, Teutonic castle and town, Polish royal city, the place where Comenius lived and worked, a great industrial centre almost totally destroyed during the siege in 1945, known for the unique retroversion of its oldest part. Sandy beaches, hilly forests, lowlands and marshes, a golf course, many historic monuments, excellent cuisine and friendly people make Elbląg an ideal holiday destination.

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SWEDEN

Ronneby is a small friendly town in a county named Blekinge, in the southeast of Sweden, by the coast.

Due to its beautiful green landscape and lots of flowers, it is called “The garden of Sweden”. The town has around 12 000 inhabitants and is situated 7 km from the Baltic Sea. Ronneby is the oldest town in Blekinge and was Danish until 1658. The old part of Ronneby, “Bergslagen” is worth a visit. Through the city runs “Ronnebyån” a river that leads to the sea. In the centre of the town is a square, surrounded by shops, cafés and restaurants.

”Ronneby Brunnspark” is a big park on the outskirts of Ronneby with large green areas, many walks and beautiful flowerbeds. It was famous for its spring of mineral water in the 19th century and people came from the whole of Sweden to its spa to be cured by the healthy water. You can still taste the water from a pump at an old spring. In the park there are many beautiful old houses left from this period.

Ronneby also has a big hotel, situated by the park, called “Ronneby Brunn”.

**GYMNASIESKOLAN KNUT HAHN IN RONNEBY**

Gymnasieskolan Knut Hahn in Ronneby is an Upper Secondary School for the ages of 16-19. It has around 800 students and 110 staff (of whom 80 are teachers). The school offers a wide range of programmes, both theoretical and vocational and also adult education. It was originally built in the end of the sixties but was rebuilt in 2004 and is now one of the most modern schools in Sweden. It has many spacious and light areas, with a lot of room for the students to meet and to work between lessons, and all the new technology needed. There is also a big library, a restaurant serving a hot meal for lunch and a cafeteria.

The focus of the school is internationalism, cooperation with local enterprises and teaching of entrepreneurship. It also offers a wide choice of languages and artistic subjects as well as individual choices of subjects. The school is situated within walking distance from the city centre and has a sportshall and indoor swimmingpool just beside it. There is a friendly and open atmosphere at the school and both students and staff like to be a part of it.

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COUNTRY	MEETING DATE	TOPIC	TASKS
POLAND	1-5 dec. 2015	Local tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination • Products
GERMANY	19-23 JAN.2016	The Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students cooperation • Final product (output)
DENMARK	5-9 APRIL 2016	Ghetto: social inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students cooperation • Implementation control
NORWAY	27-1 SEPT. 2016	Why do I go to school?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product presentations • Evaluation
GERMANY	10-11 NOV	COORDINATORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning • Report
BASQUE COUNTRY	JAN. 2017	Active citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Etwinning • Final product (output)
ITALY	APRIL 2017	Volunteership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product presentations • Evaluation
SWEDEN	OCT. 2017	Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination • Teachers cooperation
THE NETHERLANDS	JANUARY 2018	Working in Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers cooperation • Implementation control
AUSTRIA	APRIL 2018	Attractive business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Website

