**ERASMUS+, KA229- School Exchange Partnerships**

**Project title:„The Power of Understanding”**

**Reference number: 2019-1-RO01-KA229-063057**

1. **09. 2019/31.08.2021**

**Minutes for the 1stShort-term exchange of groups of pupils**

**27th to 31stJanuary 2020**

**ŞcoalaGimnazială “VasilePârvan” Bârlad, Romania**

Between 27th to 31st January 2020 held the 1stShort-term exchange of groups of pupils of the ERASMUS+ Project “ The Power of Understanding” with reference number2019-1-RO01-KA229-063057 at ŞcoalaGimnazială “VasilePârvan” Bârlad, Romania. The title of the transnational activity was “The magic of the word”, the basic theme of activity being “The importance of the fairy tales in the countries' culture”.

There were present at the transnational learning activity 29 participants from these 5 partner schools (4 students +2 teachers from Croatia, 4 students+ 2 teachers from Cyprus, 4 students + 2 teachers from Lithuania, 4 students +2 teachers from Spain, 3 students + 2 teachers from Portugal) and 8 teachers + 60 students from the school “VasileParvan” Barlad.

**The objectives of our first transnational learning activity were:**

O1.To improve the understanding of the literary texts of at least 30 students during 5 days

O2.To improve English language communication of at least 30 students during 5 days

O3.To develop, for at least 30 students, cooperation and collaboration skills, tolerance and initiative, increasing self-esteem and motivation for learning, as well as friendship between pupils from partner schools, during 5 days.

O4.To improve the communication between the teachers from partner schools

O5.To enrich the participant teachers’ experience with new methods of teaching mother- tongue language and English language.

The organized activities were in accordance with a working agenda proposed and approached by all partners in December 2019. During the meeting 8 workshops were carried out accordance with the objectives proposed. The students and teachers were involved both in classroom lessons (English, history and geography, biology) and in extracurricular activities of the 5 clubs.

**Activities:**

1. Welcoming meeting at the Cinema CITYPLEX hall in Barlad where the manager of school and the coordinator of the project gave speeches expressing our feelings that how happy we were to welcome all partners in our city and school.
2. 1st workshop “**Let’s know each other!”.** The students from these 6 partner schools presented their country, city and schools. Participants: 29 participants from partner schools, 60 students and 8 teachers from our school. (O2, O3, O4).
3. 2nd workshop “**Let’s play together**!”(in school) **.** All students from partner schools+ 5 students from our school + 5 teachers from partner schools+ 3 teachers from our school were involved in an activity with didactical games for interconnection, collaboration, communication in English language, increasing self- esteem, overcoming language and cultural barriers, developing tolerance, initiative and friendship between participants. The activity was lead of those 5 Romanian students. (O2, O3, O4, O5). The coordinator teachers had presented, discussed and learned each other methods of teaching used in the clubs from their schools. (O4, O5).
4. 3rd workshop “The importance of the fairy tales in the countries' culture”.The participants, students and teachers, presented the prepared materials. While the students from Lithuania presented the types of the Lithuanian fairy tales and the importance in country culture, the students from Romania presented a role play “The brave Prâslea (youngest son), and the golden apples” , the students from Spain presented “The legend of the mole and the cathedral” through an innovative method, Chinese Shadow Puppets. The students from Croatia presented “The little fairy” in the form of comics, and did a presentation of the great Croatian fairy tales writer Ivana BrlićMažuranić and one of her famous “Tales from long ago”. The students from Portugal talked about the popular tale “Baby Jesus of the Cartolinha” and the students from Cyprus about “The legend of Digenis Akritas” both of them being helped of drawing and images. Also the students from Romania presented our folk costumes and traditional dances. Participants: all partners, all students and teachers from Romanian team, parents of our students. The activity was host by the theatre “Victor Ion Popa” Barlad. (O1, O2, O5).
5. 4th workshop “Selection of the project logo. Presentation of the students’blog”. An international contest for selecting the project logo was organized. The 6 logos from those 6 partner schools were in competition. The logo proposed by the students from Romania was the winner. Evaluators have been all partners, students and teachers+ 4 students and 2 teachers from our school. (O1, O2). The students’blog is still in working so it will be presented as soon as possible.
6. 5th workshop. The students attended 2 lessons. One was an English lesson and other was a lesson about EU. They learned together with the Romanian students these subjects.(O1, O2, O3) The teachers learned together to work on eTwinning platform.(O4)
7. 6th workshop. “The place where the tales of my childhood were born” – Bojdeucalui Ion Creangă.The students and their teachers had a study visit where they learned about the wonderful storyteller of Romanian childhood. Also they had to learn about our ethnography and history at the Palace of Culture, Iaşi. (O1, O2, O3, O4)
8. 7th workshop. The students learned together to make “Friendship bracelets” and the teachers attended a biology lesson and discussed about new methods which can be used in clubs ‘activities. (O2, O3, O5)
9. 8th workshop. Folk traditions. Each group of students presented their folk customs and costumes and learned together folk dances from each country under the motto "we are different but still the same". (O4)
10. 9th workshop. Calligram as an expression of understanding and creativity. The teachers and students learned a new method which can be using in learning in which the words are interwoven with the drawing. Each of them composed a calligram on theme “Seasons” and presented it front of group. The activity was made in collaboration with “VasileParvan” museum.(O1, O2, O5)

**Evaluation:**

* Interviews taken of the students from “The little journalist” club (10 interviews);
* Online survey for teachers and students (10 teachers and 19 students);
* Direct observation of the participants in the activities;
* Analyses of the resulting products (presentations, work sheets, friendship tree, friendship bracelets, so on).

**Results:**

-about 40 students are better reading and understanding literary/nonliterary texts

-about 40 students improved their English language communication skills

-about 40 students and their teachers from different countries developed their communication and collaboration skills, tolerance, initiative and friendship

-teachers have enriched their teaching experience with new methods of teaching

-the brochure of the club "The magic of the word" which is in work and will be presented during the transnational activity from Croatia (March 2020) and downloaded in eTwinning space.

All participant students and teachers were back in their schools with new experiences about national folk tales of the partner schools which are used in clubs work but also in the lessons on different subjects: mother tongue, English language, history, geography, intercultural education, extracurricular activities. The brochure of transnational activity will be a good tool for the teaching on different subjects or in extracurricular activities.

**How did the participation in this activity benefit the involved participants?**

The participants, students and teachers were directly involved in all activities carried out during the transnational learning activity.

1. Students:

- learned new content of European culture through the national folk tales, in a new context at international level

-improved their abilities of communication in English language

-developed friendships with children from other countries, tolerance and respect for others

-increased their self- esteem and their motivation for learning

-familiarizedtheirself with other cultures, traditions and lifestyles.

2.Teachers

-improved their experience in European cooperation, ERASMUS+ and eTwinning projects

-improved their teaching and learning skills at different subjects with new methods which to increase the understanding text at their students

-improved their abilities of communication in English language

-improvedtheirself knowledge with other cultures, traditions, habits.

31. 01. 2020 Project coordinator,

 Teacher, Mariana Munteanu- Dulgheru