Week in Finland,

Oulu March 19th-24th 2018

Evaluation report

The first meeting of the project with travelling pupils took place in Northern Finland in March 2018. The meeting was hosted by the elementary school of Jääli.

From Germany participated principal Olaf Rauchfuß, special teacher Veronika Kühn, social worker Caroline Baer, class and subject teacher Oliver Motzek and pupils Syndia Rose, Charlin Röckl, Cornelius Thum and Aaron Höppner. From Cyprus participated vice principal Nicolas Papaevripides, teacher Antouanetta Skordi, teacher Andri Christou, assistant of the special needs student Andri Lazarou and pupils David Poulitas, Ioannis Avramidis , Efpraxia Nissi, Chrysovalanto Hadjimatheou and Maria-Vasiliki Ioannou. From Greece participated principal Savvas Bermperidis, teacher Sotirios Vaidis, English teacher Soultana Drampa and pupils Christina Matiou and Efraim Kampouridis. All the teachers and pupils of Jääli took at some point part of the events during the meeting. Class/English teacher Marjo Määttä had the main responsibility of the organization of the meeting. Principle Arto Tikkanen, vice principle Sirpa Tikkala, class teacher Anna Silander and special teachers Kirsi Pekkala and Sanna Alalauri took part of the organizing the week too.

The German pupils stayed in Finnish families, pupils from Greece and Cyprus stayed with their teachers.

During the week teachers discussed project timetable, usage of eTwinning, handbook, evaluation questionaires and results oof the project so far, project reports, Skype meetings and letters, usage of ECAS mobility Tool and the storybook. Teachers also attended seminar on I*nclusion and Active citizenship in Finland*.

All the visiting partners had prepared a presentation of their school. All schools also prepared a presentation of a significant national painter. All these presentations were given during the week.

Also the poster competition was finalized in Finland as all the participants had one vote to give to their favourite poster. This act of democrazy resulted to the victory of a poster from Cyprus.

While teachers held meetings about the project procedures, the pupils attented classes with the Finnish pupils. The visiting pupils paired up with Finnish pupils to practise their English, coding and co operation skills. Pupils practised forming opinions and putting them into graphs by working in pairs and groups during the whole week. The end results of the week´s work were presented to the teachers at the end of the week. Pupils also worked integrated in special classes and attented home economics class as they prepared servings for the Finnish night.

During the week the guests were shown as broad insight into Finnish culture, school and nature as possible. The guests got to for example walk on ice, try skiing and snow shoeing. Several trips were made to show the specialities of Finnish nature in winter. Trip to Northern Finland and a short stop on Sweden´s side of the boarder were made to open up Finland´s northern location and the special features it brings. During the Finnish night the guests got to experience some of the winter sports and Finnish food. The programs for the teachers and for the pupils are described in more detailed way in the original invitations saved in eTwinning.

After the week the following evaluation form/guestions were presented to the visiting participants:

1. The week strenghtened the co-operation between the partners

2. I now have a better understanding of the Finnish school system.

3.I deepened the understanding of the consept of "inclusion".
4. I deepened the understanding of the concept of "Active citizenship".
5. The program of the week benefitted the project and co-operation

6. The objectives for the meeting were met.
7. The atmosphere of the meeting was relaxing and friendly and supported the co-operation.
8. The program was well planned and divided equally between the days.

9. The places visited completed the objectives of the project and helped the understanding of the Finnish culture.

 

Out of 11 adults 8 answered to the questions as shown above. All in all it can be said that the participants were fairly satisfied with the week and the program. The atmosphere of the meeting was raited highly, as well as the visited sights and the planning of the project. The program itself were considered to mainly benefit the project and co-operation, although it seems that some sort of modification of the program might have been in order for it to reach higher scores. There week were seem to strenghten the co operation between the partners. This is the strong positive effect of meeting face-to-face.

There was also empty space in the questionaire for feedback of free words. This included the following feedback:

The week strenghtened the co-operation between the partners (q1)
- It was a blast getting to know the friendly finnish poeple and all the other participants!
- Very friendly and cooperative Finnish hosts.
- personal meetings promote teamwork! This was great in Finnland :)

I now have a better understanding of the Finnish school system(q2)
- To be physically there and observe the everday life is the only way to experience the real schoollife in another country.
- In addition, some ideas and suggestions, what we can take to Germany or try it there.
- Personal contact with colleagues and students was very enriching! Also the active participation in the lessons! I felt like part of the Finnish College!

I deepened the understanding of the consept of "inclusion"(q3)
- In our heads we allready know but it has to be more naturally for all of us, especially the older colleagues.
- very intresting...I think the result of a long way, but worthwhile.
- We have received many suggestions for working inclusive work and are now trying to implement parts of it.

I deepened the understanding of the concept of "Active citizenship" (q4)
- I understand the concept but its still difficult to imagine how to realize it more in schoollife.
- Restriction but also result of my own English skills ;-)
- I understand that much of the content of the project regarding education and training is an active citizen in the Finnish curriculum. I find that very inspiring!

The program of the week benefied the project and co-operation (q5)
- There was enough time to exchange the experiences between each other and to get to know the participants from the other countries when talking.

- Personal encounters always encourage this and are better for understanding
- The program was very balanced and combined seminar content with active parts very well! We were all active citizens in education, each in his own way!

The objectives for the meeting were met. (q6)
- Sometimes its difficult to get all the participants stick to the plan. But most of the time we worked it out and the important things were said.
- The goals were well achieved, only at times was the discussion between partners overlapping ... responsible for the management of this but all partners
- Sometimes the language barrier was very high and misunderstandings arose. But: these are important experiences from which we can learn.

The atmosphere of the meeting was relaxing and friendly and supported the co-operation. (q7)
- The finnish poeple were so hospitable and there was allways a good feeling. Especially the finnish night was very impressing. :)
- very friendly ....
relaxing according to the obligations
- Sure, sure....It could not have been better.

The program was well planned and divided equally between the days (q8)
- good organization, so that more than meets expectations
- It was absolutely super planned and flexible!

The places visited completed the objectives of the project and helped the understanding of the Finnish culture. (q9)
- I hope to understand the culture now correctly and therefore also some reasons and approaches in the project
- You could not have presented your beautiful country better!

Free word: Comments and feedback to the Finnish partner.
- I have Finnish friends now and I try to be Finnish and go new ways every day! You have shown us that everything is somehow possible and if not, no matter, life goes on!
Thank you for this wonderful time together !!!
- Transfering to the school was rather difficult so it could have been arranged by the hosting partner. Also, the lessons about the local painters could have been more organised from the aspect of time or the form of the lesson.

-The Finnish partner overall did an amazing job and thank you for everything!
- It would have been easier and better if transfering to the school was more organised or maybe arranged. Also, the lessons about the local painters could have been more organised, mostly from the aspect of time or the form of the lesson.
- Many thanks to the many supporters, thanks for the flexible and individual support and thanks for the suggestions
- I enjoyed it very much and the time passed much too fast! :)- Everything was well-planned and we had an unforgettable week. It was lovely that we were invited in the teacher's house to have a taste of Finnish culture and everyday routine. The only thing I would like is to have the chance to attend actual teaching in the classroom. Many thanks to the Finnish team.

All in all it can be said that the week served its´original purpose and deepened the co-operation between the partners as well as introduced Finnish education system and ways to promote active citizenship. The pupils got to improve their skills in English, international co-operation ja raising their own voices to be heard. Pupils made new friends and have been in contact since the week. The second meeting was rewarding both to hosts as well as guests. This, along with the first meeting in Serres, Greece, creates a great foundation to continue building the co-operation on.

Määttä, Marjo