



ERASMUS+ KA2 PROJECT, *STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS/EXCHANGES OF GOOD PRACTICES,* *INSIDE OUT*

In the framework of the Erasmus+ project, KA2, *Strategic Partnerships / Exchanges of Good Practices, Inside out*, a joint-staff meeting was held from 14th to 18th October 2019 in Leiden, in Holland. Several teachers from Portugal, The Netherlands, Ireland, Poland, Slovakia and Turkey took part in it.

On the first day, after a school tour in Dukdalf, the Dutch school, there was an opening ceremony. Then, all the other schools, namely Banagher College Colaiste na Sionna, in Banagher, Ireland, Szkola Podstawowa im. Marii Konopnickiej, in Czeladz, Poland, Mehmet Akif Ersoy Llkokulu, in Izmir, Turkey and Základná škola A. Sládkovica, in Sliac, Slovakia presented powerpoints about their schools so that everyone could get to know them.

On the following day, apart from a meeting to set up the upcoming activities and dates of mobilities, all the school classes took up several kinds of lessons in English by all the participating teachers.

Some of us travelled to Amsterdam where we spent a very peaceful and pleasant day: we strolled along several of its bustling streets, marvelled at the huge variety of Dutch cheeses displayed in an attractive way on shop windows (of course we tasted some of them!), ... We also liked the huge bicycle parks and, last but not at all least, we loved the typical high, colourful and narrow riverfront houses alongside its canals. Amsterdam is quite often fairly called *The Venice of the North* because its 250 seventeenth-century canals cover more than 100 kms. In 2010, the whole area was declared a *World Heritage* site by UNESCO. We took a cruise along many of these canals. How interesting it was! How fascinating the iconic *Dancing Houses* are, built on the so called *soft lands*! They were built in the 17th century for wealthy bankers and merchants. Many of them were also used as warehouses in the golden economic prosperity of Amsterdam. Some of these houses are now museums. In the 1960s and 1970s, there was a huge increase of yet another kind of housing: houseboats. They are a legacy of Amsterdam's trading and seafaring activities. Today, the 2,500 houseboats, moored

along canal banks, have become an attractive accommodation for tourists. However, they were formerly a residential option due to the city housing shortage.

Although this was the third time we visited Amsterdam, undoubtedly there is always something new to discover in this city. In a nutshell, Amsterdam is an outstandingly nice and peculiar city and, because of that, worth a visit or many visits...

We also had the opportunity to get to know the city where the above-mentioned meeting took place, Leiden, as well as Eindhoven.

This Erasmus+ experience was, as usual, a very enriching one, not only in cultural terms, but also in human terms because of the kindness of the colleagues from all the countries.