



Erasmus+, Strategic Partnerships/Exchanges of good practices



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Moimenta da Beira

Portugal

Second Short-term Exchange of Students

11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021



On behalf of the Erasmus+ project, KA2, *Strategic Partnerships / Exchanges of Good Practices, Inside out*, the second short-term exchange of students was held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in Moimenta da Beira, Portugal. Several teachers and students from our school as well as from four of our partner schools, namely *Dukdalf* (Leiden in The Netherlands), *Szkola Podstawowa Mari Konopnickiej* (Czeladź in Poland), *Mehmet Akif Ersoy İlkokulu* (Izmir in Turkey) and *Základná škola Andreja Sládkoviča* (Sliač in Slovakia) took part in this meeting. Our partner school *Banagher College Colaiste na Sionna* (Banagher, in Ireland) couldn't take part in it because of COVID-19 restrictions due to the pandemic situation in the country.

On the first day, we visited our school premises: Centro Escolar, EB/2 and EB3/Secundária de Moimenta da Beira. In Centro Escolar, we were nicely welcomed by some children who sang a short song in English and a Portuguese traditional one. Later, in the EB3/Secundária auditorium, all the participating guest teachers and students (25 altogether) were kindly welcomed by our headmaster. Afterwards, some Portuguese students presented a kind of teaching lesson, which allowed the guest teachers as well as the guest students to learn some communication basic words/phrases in Portuguese. This icebreaker activity gave way to an interesting interaction among all. Then, everyone enthusiastically played kahoots presented by both the Portuguese

students and the Slovakian ones about Portugal and Slovakia, respectively. Once some European schools don't have school canteens, we thought it would be an opportunity for all the guest students/teachers to get the experience of having lunch in a school canteen and so we had lunch in ours. In the afternoon, students from all the partner schools presented videos about their schools/towns/countries. After all these presentations, everyone took part in a walking tour in Moimenta da Beira to sightsee it: the Town Hall square, the Nuns' Monastery, etc. In the evening, we had dinner in the N. S.<sup>ra</sup> do Carmo monastery restaurant in Freixo.

On the following day, the guest students attended their hosts' first lessons to get an idea of some aspects of our educational system. Then, in the framework of the "International School Library month", our school library coordinator organized the following activity: the Portuguese students as well as all the guest ones presented traditional tales. In the end, a "tapestry" was created with all the countries' traditional tales. After a coffee break and once the underlined topic of this meeting was "Wellbeing", all the students were divided into multilingual groups to design/draw/paint big handkerchiefs with wellbeing messages about respect, tolerance, courtesy, (...) not only in English but also in all the native languages. In the end, the guest students and teachers chose the ones they wanted to take to their schools. Some are now exhibited in our school main hall. In the evening, teacher Paulo Sanches, together with some students of the "Club of Sciences", getting the most of our school telescope, carried out a sky night watch, which arose a natural enthusiasm due to the opportunity to watch the planets Jupiter, Saturn and the Moon as well as several stars and constellations.

On Thursday, a guided visit in English in the Douro Museum granted everyone the chance to get detailed information about the worldwide renown Douro Wine Region. To it, undoubtedly contributed not only the fact that it was the first Regulated Wine Region in the world but also because, in 1756, it became the third Demarcated region in the world. In 2001, the Douro winemaking region was declared a *World Heritage Site* by UNESCO. Then, after a walking tour in Régua, we were driven to Ribeira de Pena. In *Pena Park*, students as well as some teachers enthusiastically took part in several activities: the fantasticable, the quick flight, the alpine coaster, etc. We had lunch in the Pena Park hotel restaurant and, in the afternoon, the sporting activities went on being carried out. Back at school, there was a musical performance by our school "Club of the Voice". After the delivery of the gifts and individual certificates, the activities of this second short-term exchange of students had come to an end.

At the departure time, the guest students were, on the one hand, very thankful to the Portuguese students and their families that had hosted them very warmly. On the other hand, they were also very grateful for the “wonderful, amazing week” (their words) they had spent together, which led to a really touching goodbye situation: both the Portuguese and the guest students were crying at the departure time. It must be highlighted that all the students had a spotless behaviour throughout the week. Moreover, it goes without saying that the guest teachers also expressed their gratefulness in a very kind way. Along the day, they kept sending feedback messages of their flights/stopovers and, again, expressing their warmest thanks. In the end, we joyfully realized that, once again, the main aims of the Erasmus+ KA2 projects had been attained: “Enriching lives”, “Opening minds”, “Broadening horizons”, “Getting together to achieve more”, “Being respectful. Always”, “Being polite”, ... By the end of this meeting, all the participants had surely become innerly richer.

It must be added that, although the Portuguese students have been in touch with their new friends in the social media, the ones that are going to take part in the meeting in Czeladź, in Poland, are looking forward to meeting them again.

Responsible teacher for the above-mentioned project,

***Aida da Conceição de Oliveira Diamantino Cardoso***