**HELPING THE OTHERS, HELPING MYSELF**

**PROJECT FOR LOW LEVEL GROUPS IN A LANGUAGE CLASS**

**IN THE FRAME OF AN ERASMUS+ PROJECT: “BEYOND LIMITS”**

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**AIM:** The aim of the Project is to try to obtain better results for the low level students taking advantage of the strong points of the rest of components of the group.

**LENGTH –** The Project will last all the school-year and will take place during the language lessons.

**METHODOLOGY –** The group will work in teams of four students, with clear detailed instructions to achieve the best possible results in each of the activities and tasks proposed in this Project.

Mixed-ability groups of four students will be formed by the teacher on the bases of the students’ previous knowledge. Each member of the group will be in charge of a role according to their best ability: organiser, leader, negotiator, initiative, memorising, responsibility, hard worker etc… trying to balance the group.

They will read three books, one each term. In each class, after assigned the obligatory pages to be read for the next class, the teacher will write 4/6 reading comprehension questions to be answered for homework.

Once they have corrected the questions, the teacher will explain some grammar points and the students will be given some language tasks to be done in groups. That way all the members of the group will be able to help each other and improve their language skills. The teacher goes round the groups and answer questions that may arise.

The fact that the students don’t have to do homework will avoid the frustration that low level students usually have to face. The low expectancy that these students have when they face their homework alone withdraws their ability to answer, obtaining worse results than they should have. So a little explanation from either the teacher or a student will help them to understand and improve.

**ASSESSMENT**

In each class the teacher will write down all the remarks for each student and for the group: in red, the negative ones (like not working, misbehaviour…) and in blue the positive ones (like helping the others, good explanations…).

At the end of the term, the teacher will add up all the positives and also the marks they may have in the exams and tests.

The group that obtains the most positives will be given an individual diploma with an excellent mark and a group prize, like an excursion, a breakfast at the school cafeteria…

**FINAL REMARKS**

The best part of the project is that whatever students do, the group always win. We try to avoid as much as possible the feeling of frustration that is often generated in low level students with fewer academic capacities and foster other abilities that are often less recognised at school.

The idea of “failing” is eliminated and all they have dons, like working with effort, listening to the others, explaining to someone…is worth and given a positive assessment.

The students will realize that working together and making an effort they improve faster and more than working alone. Working in groups increases the quality of the relationship between students and makes them work towards a common objective.