Experience with Erasmus 2020+ Europe project

My experience with the Erasmus+ project “European Strategy 2020”

I am very happy that I was able to participate in this project. It was the first time that my colleagues and I had taken part in a project like this. For me personally Spain has been a country, which I always wanted to know more about. When I found out that, the coordinators for the project were from Spain I was excited. It gave me a lot of motivation.

The project began in 2016 in September with the theme “Future Europe” which is an important theme. We had to gather information about tasks that need to be fulfilled in 10 years. You had to research four main topics – Youth unemployment, Ecology, Migration, integration, and Poverty. In the span of 2 years we had to do three tasks – make a poster about these strategies, we had to play a game called Gymkhana, make podcasts and write and perform a theatre play. It was challenging, especially for me, because English was not my strong point, but everything was in English/ the main aspect for my students was to make them interested in the topic. I teach politics in my school so the topics were very clear for me and we could discuss it right from the start. Then we had to take the topic more seriously and connect it with the work. After the coordinator, meeting in Urbina everything was clear. The project coordinators from Spain had planned everything down to the detail. They explained the task for every team. The first part started – and with we started to make posters. We had to research the Youth unemployment theme. Both - in class and after class - we read documents, visited the National Employment Agency, had meeting with specialists, made video reviews and the rest was tasked for our IT teacher. It was a great experience for the students and me alike. While doing all this I needed to learn English, I did so in extra courses. The first time when both the students and coordinators met was in Zagreb, where we were sincerely admitted. We had a unified goal – participation in a game with a team. The team had students from different countries. It was a good practice for the students both in English and general communication. We were delighted about the completed tasks and the new friends from different countries we had made along the way. Next task was podcast making. I had never made a podcast; I had to learn how to do it before I thought it to my students. I taught them how to make interviews, write reports, and how to make recordings. In the end, we managed to do it.

Next task was to make a theatre play called “The right Decision” and to play it for the school. Now there was a problem – we had to translate it to show it to people here in Latvia. Again, work for my students. Then of course, we learned the parts in English. After all that fallowed the trip to Spain where we again meet our friends from other countries. The play turned out great.

In May, we had the final meeting here in Riga. We had a long preparation time. We had to show what we had done all this time – how we researched the material, our ability to lead and work with groups about the subject. The two years that we have taken part in this project have be wonderful. I have met so many hardworking, organized and amazing people along the way. My colleagues from Italy, Croatia and Finland and our coordinators and main organizer from Spain have been a great work group to work with. Our students developed new skills and of course made new friends.

My recommendation for future work is to get the whole team together for the final meeting. Right now, I am working with many new people, which were not a part of the team at the start. For the final meeting both – the first and the newer represents could take part.

In the end, this experience has been a wonderful, creative and hard-working environment and I would love to participate in future projects and events. I want to thank every single one of you who I had the pleasure to work with.

Latvia, Rudite Liepina