

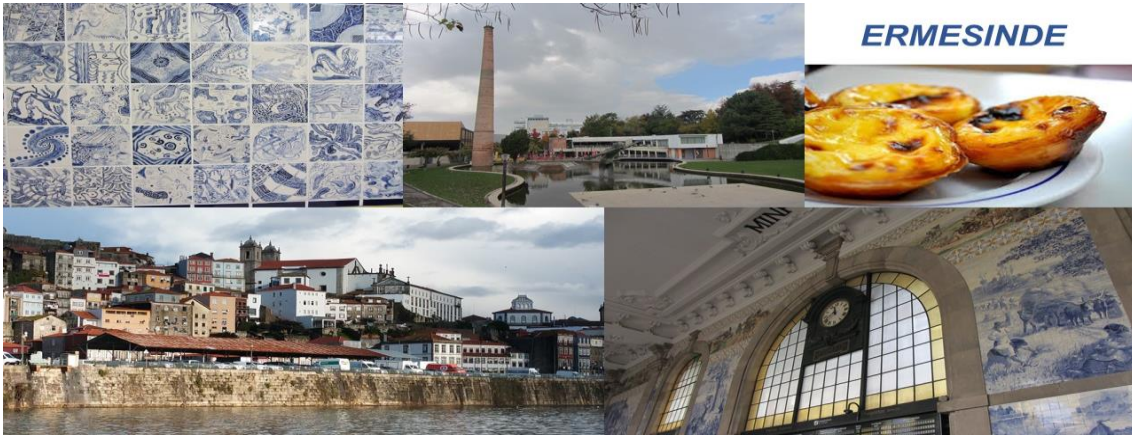
TOGETHER WE CAN

19th-23rd November

PORTUGAL



TOGETHER WE CAN



ERMESINDE

18th Sunday -19th Monday NOVEMBER

Sunday, 18 and Monday, 19 were really full of nerves and emotion, because it was the time to meet their mates and the host families. The Portuguese teachers *María Vasconcelos* and *Conceição Sousa* and the families were really kind to pick the Spanish delegation on Sunday evening.

The other delegations arrived on Monday, 19 from Poland, Italy and Cyprus at the **Secondary School of Ermesinde**, the meeting point for teachers, students and host families. At our arrival, we were offered different materials related to the project: a timeline of the activities, credentials and some gifts such as a backpack with the school logo, a pencil, a notebook... After finishing the school lessons, all the students went home to have dinner with their host families.

The teachers had a welcome dinner at 8 pm, organized by our Portuguese hosts. The event was really pleasant, and we could taste typical dishes of the **Portuguese gastronomy** and also share cultural information about our countries and future tasks.

20th Tuesday NOVEMBER

Tuesday, 20 was a rainy day, but this fact did not ruin the **spectacular opening ceremony** that took place in the 'Escola Secundaria' of Ermesinde. The hall was decorated with the flags of the participating countries, and a choir of students received us singing a song which included fragments in the **official language of our countries**. It was a moving experience and we expressed our gratitude with a huge applause. Later, music was played again in that rainy day, bringing energy and enthusiasm to the audience with a colourful and perfectly-coordinated percussion band.



After that, we entered the meeting room, very nervous and thrilled. The official opening ceremony was borne by Mrs Maria Vasconcelos, coordinator of our consortium, who began by thanking the participant countries for all the work done and opened the way for the activities in which the students of our project Ka 229 **TOGETHER WE CAN** were involved.

Later, after having lunch, we were ready for an afternoon full of interesting activities.

First of all, we attended a reception at the Town Hall, where the town representatives welcomed us to **Ermesinde** and a teacher introduced the Portuguese students, who were going to give us a presentation about the geographical and cultural features of Valongo region. They did an **excellent job** and we would like to congratulate them in this publication because of their great presentation and skills in the English language.



We could also know about landmarks of the region, traditional confectionery and games, full of **history for this area of Portugal.**



21st Wednesday NOVEMBER

Wednesday, 21 was a cloudy day with a high probability of rain, thus, **EB D. Antonio Ferreira Gomes-Ermesinde** decided to place their traditional St Martin's Fair inside the school premises, although they usually celebrate it outdoors if the weather allows for it, for **the great enjoyment of the whole educational community.**

Our students' presentations took place in the school library. They had to talk about the *cultural traditions* and their countries and towns: songs, dances, music, national gastronomy and craftwork...



SPEAKING IN ENGLISH



The Portuguese teachers were kind enough to prepare a breakfast for us to continue with the following tasks. We also made the most of the break to wish a happy birthday to Mrs Conceição Sousa and we also sang 'Happy Birthday' in all the languages of the participating countries and, of course, in English.



After the break, the teachers held a meeting to choose **the project logo**, while the students were taking part in a **creative task** consisting in the construction of the structure of a famous landmark, using gummies and spaghetti. The students were all mixed up in different teams, fostering team work and the respect for individual contributions, as inherent values of our project.



The logo election was made after an explanation of their meaning by the teachers; the coordinators gave their votes and finally, being Portugal and Poland the finalist ones, **the Polish logo was elected**, and it will represent us throughout this project.



Saint Martin's Fair began after lunch. Our students were really nervous because they had to perform in front of so many people, including students, teachers and families! The school was beautifully decorated, and we could confirm the kindness and warmth of Ermesinde people. Portuguese students and teachers performed two traditional dances and songs, called **'Malhão'** and **'Laurindinha'**; Italian students wore traditional costumes and danced **'Tarantella'**. Later, the Spanish students and her teacher danced **'Sevillanas'** and the Cypriot students sang a traditional song, **'Vaitsivitsello'**. Finally, the Polish representatives danced the **'Krakowiak'** and sang a song called **'Przbyli ulani pod okienko'**.





When all the performances were finished, it was time to enjoy the **wonderful atmosphere** created in the school, tasting roast chestnuts, delicious cod puffs, cream tarts and many other traditional Portuguese delicacies, manufactures both by students and families. We could notice **the involvement of all the members of the educational community**, and the satisfaction in them. We all enjoyed this event and were extremely happy with the final result, so students went home with the host families having done a good job.



22nd Thursday NOVEMBER

We were saving the best for last, and our **visit to Porto** on Thursday, 22 was the final touch to a wonderful experience. Our Portuguese hosts had prepared a day-trip to this charming city, beginning with a historic and cultural introduction given by the Portuguese English teacher, Olga. She talked about landmarks and beaches, bridges and squares in a clear and didactic way that we would like to highlight. Next, we stopped near the Cathedral and could walk around the historic centre of Porto, which has been in the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1996. We also visited São Bento Railway Station, beautifully decorated with the typical blue antique tiles. We continued strolling to the *Avenida dos Aliados*, where we had lunch.



Porto



Later, we went on the bus to cross the river to the opposite bank. There, we did a **boat cruise** through the Douro River. We really enjoyed this trip, and it the whole day was an unforgettable cultural tour for both students and teachers.





To finish the day and our meeting, **our host country offered us a farewell dinner**. We tasted typical Portuguese dishes and our students enjoyed it very much. During the dinner, we were all given our **mobility certificates and diplomas**; it was a moving moment because it marked the end of our first mobility, but also set the basis for the next ones





23rd Friday NOVEMBER

Friday, 23 was the farewell day. Students were exhausted but satisfied with their experience. Most of them brought back gifts from their host families, but the biggest gift of all were the memories and a new perception of different cultures and traditions. We teachers were also tired but especially happy with the job made by our students.

We would like to finish this newsletter congratulating the Portuguese students, teachers and families because of their warmth, kindness, care and excellent organization. We are looking forward to meeting again soon; in the meantime, we will continue working on the Internet!

