

Diary of the MESAS meeting in Marburg, Germany 27th November to 1st December 2017

27th November 2017

Representatives from the participating schools from Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Spain arrived in the course of the day and checked-in in their hotel.

The MESAS team was picked up by the German coordinators at the hotel and everybody met in the Gasthaus „Zur Sonne“ for a Welcome dinner.



28th November 2017

At 8.00 o'clock the MESAS team was picked up at the hotel and was brought to the school where the principal of the Sophie-von-Brabant- Schule gave them a reception with a welcome speech and a music performance by the brass orchestra of the school.

Later on we visited the European corner and we had a tour around the school's facilities in small groups.



After a coffee break we had the chance to visit regular classes as well as language classes for migrants.

A discussion about good practice seen during the lessons followed the class visits.

After lunch we had a presentation on the topic „Working with traumatized students“.



29th November 2017

At the start of this day we had the opportunity to listen to a Syrian refugee who spoke about his flight „The long way to Europe“. We had the possibility to ask questions and to talk to his son who is a student at the Sophie-von-Brabant-Schule.



After a short break the coordinators gave a short presentation on the administration with the Mobility tool.



The preparation of our next meeting in Ireland was the next topic before the lunch break.

After the lunch break the social worker of the Sophie-von-Brabant-Schule talked about the means of support he can offer to ease integration into society and school.



Then we walked to the Marburg town hall where we had a reception with the town councillor who gave an address to ourselves with the topic EU and migration policy within the town of Marburg. She stressed the fact that Marburg has a very liberal approach and supports the integration of migrants.



In the evening our school hosted a buffet dinner for our partners and our colleagues with mulled wine and fire bond. Every partner country danced and sang something traditional of their country.



30th November 2017

We visited in small groups the vocational schools who cooperate with Sophie-von-Brabant-Schule, as there are Adolf-Reichwein-Schule (Metal, wood, IT and CAD coational training), Käthe-Kollwitz-Schule (tourism, catering, cooking, butchers ) and Kaufmännische Schulen Marburg (Business administration).



The students of the SvB visit these three vocational schools for one day per week from the 8th grade to the 10th grade.

When we returned we had the chance to discuss and evaluate what we had seen.

Last but not least we got an insight view on the vocational concept of SvB by Mrs. Wasser, coordinator of vocational training at the SvB, as well as representatives of cooperating schools and NGOs.



The afternoon and the evening was reserved for a tourist and shopping visit to Frankfurt. We visited the Main Tower from which we had an excellent view on Frankfurt and the tower of the European Central Bank. Some of our partners shook fists against Mario Draghi, who he believed he had seen behind the blinds of a window in this impressive skyscraper at the eastern part of Frankfurt, close to the banks of the river Main. We saw the Frankfurt skyline from the Eiserner Steg, went back to the city centre and walked to the Paulskirche, one of the monuments of German democracy and host to John F. Kennedy when he delivered a speech in Frankfurt in 1963.

At the end we had the chance to go shopping at one of Germany's largest shopping streets and visit the „Christmas Market“ at the Römer. Some tried Glühwein and Bratwurst etc.

We spent the evening in one of Frankfurt's famous „Äppelwoi Wirtschaft“. Here we tried Hessian specialities like „Handkäs mit Musik“, „Äppelwoi“ and „Rippche mit Kraut“ and „Schweinshaxe“ as well as „Schnitzel mit Grüner Soße und Bratkartoffel“.

Later most partners took the train back to Marburg others stayed in Frankfurt to catch an early morning flight. On the train back to Marburg you could see many very merry people, who were engaged in conversations about the visit in Germany and confessions of sometimes very delicate nature.

It was the climax of intercultural exchange.

I think this final visit to Frankfurt was an extremely important ice-breaking-event. We could feel its impact, especially when our Irish partners left the project. The remaining partners took that severe blow, reorganised and made the project a success.

The German coordinator team wants to express their deepest gratitude towards all partners.

