

Challenges for rural schools

The project of Erasmus+



Welcome to our first newsletter

Here you will find some information about the project, partner schools our villages, and some activities we've done so far.

What is the project about?

[Read the summary](#)

Activities

PRESENTATIONS

We started the project preparing presentations about our schools and villages. You can find them on our twinspace.

[SOME PHOTOS](#)

ETWINNING

We created eTwinning project.

LOGO COMPETITION

To have a common logo for the project we organised a competition for the logo. It was a good opportunity to present the project ideas to the students.

[SOME PHOTOS](#)

VIDEOCONFERENCE

It was really nice to see each other during our videoconference. Meeting between students is a perfect motivator.

[SOME PHOTOS](#)

News

Meeting in Poland

From 9th to 14th May we are meeting in Iłowo-Osada. The main topic is concentrated on our cultural, historical and natural heritage. There are lots of activities and workshops. You can read about it [here](#).

PARTNER SCHOOLS

[ISTITUTO COMPRENSIVO](#)

Villaputzu, Italy

[IES DON JUAN MANUEL](#)

Cifuentes, Spain

[ZESPÓŁ SZKÓŁ NR1 IM.
MIKOŁAJA KOPERNIKA](#)

Iłowo-Osada, Poland

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Our team is composed by three partner countries: Italy- Poland and Spain. The partnership includes two organizations already experienced (from Italy and Poland) and one newcomer. After exchanging our views we found out that our respective needs are similar.

All our schools are located in small villages, with a strong sense of community and they have developed close links with local associations to enhance the traditions, cultural, historical and natural heritage. We believe that the education system, especially in rural areas such ours, must consider all opportunities to promote the local resources and to project its action outward. Likewise, the school has to be innovative in order to meet the needs of the students, who are deeply different from the past.

Lastly the isolation of our local areas can be overcome thanks to the new technology. After a comparison between our schools organization we all agree that we need to promote the use of New Technologies for many reasons: make schools more attractive for pupils, make students aware on the safe use of internet, find out new ways to enhance pupils basic skills.

We involve in our Project three classes from each school with a total of 260 pupils and 32 school staff (teachers, head teachers); 72 pupils from 10/12 years old will take part in short exchange of group of pupils.

Our objectives for pupils are:

- to become more autonomous in the new and innovative learning environments;
- use space in the classroom and in the school to work, play and investigate;
- make students aware on the safe use of internet; develop key competences;

- enhancing basic skills: linguistic skills (in mother tongue and in foreign language); mathematical skills;
- pupils be able to use technologies in concrete communicative contexts, to search data and information;
- to interact and cooperate with peers to create and to document project outcomes.
- pupils orient themselves in the space and in the time, observe, describe and give meaning to environments, events, historical facts;
- pupils use knowledge and tools for understanding himself and the others, to recognize the different identities, cultural and religious traditions, in a perspective of dialogue and mutual respect.

Activities planned are:

- Dialogue, reports, descriptions, creative writing, drama, video. Collaborative space for small groups.
- Literature circles, drama circle, in order to create spaces to enhance interaction between student to student, teacher to student, teacher to teacher.
- Explore cultural, historical and archeological heritage of their own country and the partner countries.

To engage the students with the support of New Technologies and encourage their imagination and creativity to create a story book, make a video and other promotional materials.

Results and impact expected are:

- introduce changes in the classrooms setting;
- create new and more flexible spaces in the school;
- create more links between natural/ historical learning environments and schools' environment.

ISTITUTO COMPRENSIVO Villaputzu, Italy

My country

Villaputzu is an Italian town of about 5000 inhabitants located in the south-east of Sardinia, a large Island in the Mediterranean.

The village of Villaputzu is located at the foot of the Sarrabus hills.

The urban center and the adjacent area are to be considered of noteworthy cultural, archaeological, faunistic and landscape interest.

Inside the village you can admire the churches of S.Giorgio, S.Brigida, S. Vittoria and S.Caterina.

A few kilometers from the town there are the beaches of Porto Corallo, Quirra, Murtas and Porto Tramatzu.



Villaputzu



Porto Corallo



THE TOWER

My School

The school is a comprehensive institute which includes three level of education (pre-primary, primary and low secondary school) the students are from 3 to 14 years old. School buildings are located in two different villages (Villaputzu and San Vito).

In Villaputzu Primary school there are 8 classes and 135 students. The school is big, with two floors, there is a gym and a courtyard to play during the break.

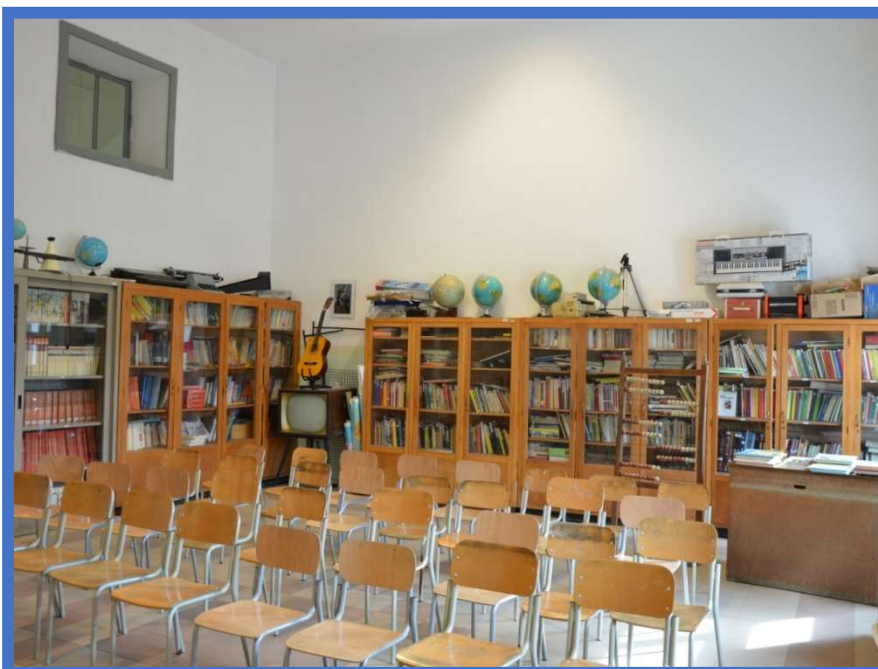


Villaputzu primary school

In San Vito Primary School there are eight classrooms in two floors. We have lessons from Monday to Saturday. We start at 8:30 a.m. and finish at 13:30 p.m. At 10:30 we have a break time for twenty minutes.



THE ENTRY



THE LIBRARY

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OUR SCHOOL

IES “Don Juan Manuel”

In our small town there is a rural school. There are 24 teachers and 122 students, aged between 12 and 17 years. It is a local school where students travel by bus from 15 small villages since Cifuentes is the biggest one of the area. Students attend the four grades of Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO) and the two optional levels of Bachillerato.



In the different buildings there are classrooms and other places as a science lab, a music classroom, a gym and the playground. We like coming here because we learn and spend time with our classmates and friends.

The number of students is low, so teachers and families have a close relationship as we all already know each other. In addition, we also have a frequent contact with environment as the students feel it as being part of their lives; many of the families work in agriculture or are surrounded by animals or plants.

GENERAL INFORMATION OF CIFUENTES



Cifuentes is a small town in the region of La Alcarria, in the province of Guadalajara. This province is in the center of Spain. The name of Cifuentes first appeared on the 13th century and its origin is a compound word: *Cien* (one hundred) and *Fuentes* (fountains) because of the high number of springs that flow into

the river of the same name, *Cifuentes*.

The town has a population of 2000 inhabitants. It is a historical village with a lot of old buildings. It has a primary school, a highschool and other services as a health center and a police station. Most families work in agriculture and the nuclear power plant in Trillo, which is a small village 13 kilometres away. Rural tourism is also becoming more and more popular in the area.

Unfortunately, Cifuentes has been suffering from severe depopulation for years. Consequently the number of students here is decreasing every year as many families move to Guadalajara or Madrid to work or in anticipation their children can study there.

Festivities

In Cifuentes we have two typical **festivities**, where people eat, drink, dance and have fun. One is the fair, which is celebrated during the second week of September. The 12th of September is the “Procesión de los Borrachos”, when people drink and have fun while they are wearing funny costumes. The other festivity is celebrated on the 28th of



October to remember the old cattle market. During this weekend, people sell handmade products and food, celebrate concerts, play street theatres and so on.

MAIN PLACES OF INTEREST

The pond

The **pond** was created with the purpose of growing cereal. It is the beginning of the River Cifuentes and flows through several areas of Gárgoles de Arriba and Gárgoles de Abajo. It forms a big waterfall in Trillo and from there it flows into the River Tajo.



Castle

The **castle** is a fortress located on the top of the town. This monument was built in the 11th century and rebuilt in April, 1324 on the basis of a muslim fortification by the **infante Don Juan Manuel**. This noble man devoted his life to war and also to literacy. His most popular book, *El Conde Lucanor*, was probably written in this castle. Our school takes the name of this aristocrat.

The castle is the telling symbol of the village. It has a four-cornered base with a surface area of 625 square metres. There are five towers and an entry point where we can find the coat of arms of the Manuel family: in this shield we can see two rampant lions with swords. Unfortunately it is quite damaged.



In our school we also have the picture of another important aristocrat of our town, **the princess of Eboli**. The real name of this woman was Ana de Mendoza de la Cenda y de Silva y Álvarez de Toledo. She was born in Cifuentes in 1540 and died in Pastrana, a nearby village, in 1592. She was considered a very talented and powerful woman in Spain in the 16th century, the time under the reign of Felipe the Second. She was and is very famous for having an eye patch on her right eye. Her life has been adapted many times by many films and TV series. You will see it later, in the school.

Hermitage of the Remedio



This is the **hermitage of the Remedio**. It was built during the 15th century by the Counts of Cifuentes. In its origin, the place hold hospital rooms and a church to attend poor people. It has a ribbed vault and pointed archs. Next to it there is an open roman theatre. In summer we use it as a cinema and spend time with friends.

Santo Domingo's Convent and Church



In the middle of the village we find one of the most important monuments, **Santo Domingo's Convent**. It was built during the first half of the 17th century and Dominicans nuns and monks later lived here. After the Spanish Civil War, in 1940, it was used as a prison. Nowadays it is a cultural centre where different exhibitions are shown.

Regarding the **church**, it has a Latin cross base and a half barrel-vaulted roof. There is also an enormous bell tower, which is an example of Mannerist architecture.

San Salvador Church



This building is one of the best examples of Romanesque art of the province and it is also the main church of our village. It was built in the 8th century. The portico is made of many archivolt and has six columns in each side. It is decorated with different parts of Jesus Christ's life.

Cerrillo de la Orca

In the hill of the Orca, in Spanish, el **cerrillo de la Orca**, we celebrate a bullfight in the field. We do it during the fair of Cifuentes. The bulls run everywhere and are chased by people and horses.

Los Gallos

It was built during the 17th century and is the best example of a private noble house of the time. It was known as “Casa de los Gallos” (House of Cocks) until middle 20th century because of the two cocks that can be seen in the front of the building. Nowadays it is a very popular restaurant.



Plaza Mayor

Out of the church there is a kind of lookout, from which we can see the **triangle-shaped square**, which has a Castilian style with some columns. In the past, in the north there was a Renaissance Palace that belonged to the Counts of Cifuentes.

But in the early 18th century it was demolished by order of King Felipe the fifth because the Counts had given support to his enemy during the War of Spanish Succession. After the demolition, the place was covered by salt in order to expel all the remaining hostility. Nowadays it is the heart of the town and many concerts and festivities are celebrated here.



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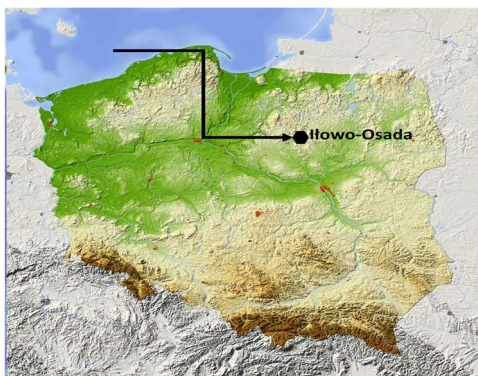
Iłowo-Osada, Poland

Our village

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WHERE WE ARE

Our school is located in the region called „The Kingdom of one thousand Lakes”. It's about 120 km from Warsaw – the capital of Poland.



The region is a rural area so there are a lot of fields and forests around. It had always been the rural and railway village.

HISTORY

From 1260, this land belonged territorially to the Teutonic Order. However, the neighbourhood of the border with Mazovia resulted in a strong influence of Polish population. In 1403, the owner of Iłowo was the Polish knight Piotr Bażyński. According to the legend, Lithuanian deserters from Grunwald were to escape the main road of Iłowo (now Jagiellońska Street).

With the secularization of the Teutonic Order in 1525, Iłowo became part of the Protestant Prussia. The Iłowski Family who ruled the estate in the 17th century came from Iłowo. After the First World War, by the decision of the Treaty of Versailles of 1919, Iłowo together with the whole Działdowszczyzna was without a plebiscite included in the Polish state. During the Second World War in 1941-1945, there was a Nazi transitional camp in Iłowo. After the war, Iłowo became part of the Warsaw, Ciechanów and now Olsztyn voivodships.

INTERESTING PLACES

Our church

The parish church was put into use in 1927. It is a brick building on a stone foundation, plastered, three-nave in neo-Baroque style with the square tower.



The old locomotive

The locomotive is a kind of a museum. It was built in 1945. It has been standing here for more than twenty years. It's Ty45- one of 428 locomotive made for Polish State Railways. Some years ago you could visit the locomotive inside but now it's not possible anymore.



The old water tower

It was built in 1910 by the railway company.

The water tower was built for the needs of the railway, water supply for the station, the engine house and the railway estate. The appearance is slightly different from other towers of this type in the Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship. It has a much larger number of windows, which made it necessary to strengthen the building with scraps visible in the middle of the tower.

The forest

Our forest is beautiful and large. It's 180 km² big. There are a lot of beautiful places, plants and animals. You can find here pines, oaks, birches, spruces, beeches, a lot of flowers, blueberries, raspberries, wild strawberries, mushrooms and many others. It is possible to



see
here



moose, deer, roe deer, wild boars, hares, foxes, raccoon dogs, wolves, badgers, minks, cowards. There are some educational paths.

OUR SCHOOL

It was built in 1906. There is a kindergarten with a preschool and a primary school - classes from 1st to 8th. The 2019 is the last year when we have last class of lower secondary school. There are 444 students and 50 teachers. Three of them are integration classes for physically and mentally challenged students. The students are between 3 and 16 years old.

The oldest part of the school building



Preschool, Primary School and gym buildings.



Our patron is **Nicolas Copernicus** (1473 – 1543) – Polish astronomer who formulated a model of the universe that placed the Sun its center.

The school year lasts from the first of September to the last Friday of June. Our students pass their final exams in April.

Our students learn: Polish, English, German, Math, History, Nature Studies, Art, Music, PE, Information and Technology Studies, Crafts, Chemistry, Physics Geography, Religious

Education, Family Education. Lessons start at 8 o'clock and finish at different times according to the time table. Beyond everyday teaching and formal knowledge we try to:

- cultivate Polish culture and tradition while respect for different cultures,
- teach patriotism as well as European awareness,
- develop key competences,
- develop everyday creativity,
- encourage to explore the world around,
- engage in sport activities,
- andhave fun.

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The Schedule of the visit in Poland

Day	Hours	Activity	Place	
8 V Wed	19.10	Arrival of Spanish Group	Warsaw	
9 V Thursday	8.55	Welcoming at school	Iłowo	
	9.00 - 9.40	Visiting school		
	9.50 -11.30	Drama and dance workshop		
	12.00	Lunch		
	14.30-16.30	Bowling	Działdowo	
	18.00	Arrival of Italian Group	Warsaw Modlin Airport	
10 V Friday	8.15-8.45	Welcoming at school	Iłowo	
	8.55- 9.40	Culture and Cookery - room 02		Workshops in groups
	9.50-10.35	Nature Studies - room 08		
	10. 45- 11.30	Science - room 101		
	11.55-12.35	History and Art - room 105		
	13.00	Lunch		
	14.00-14.55	Visiting Museum of Teutonic Order	Działdowo	
	15.00-15.55	The Knights' Show		
	16.00-17.00	Visiting the Castle in Działdowo		
11 V Saturday	9.00	Trip to Opinogóra	From Iłowo	
	10.00	Activities in the park	Opinogóra	
	11.00	Visiting museum		Creative workshop
	12.00	Creative workshop	Visiting museum	
	13.00	Lunch		
	14.30	Visiting the Medieval Castle	Ciechanów	
12 V Sunday	9.30	- Palace of King Jan III in Wilanów - visiting the Old Town in Warsaw - lunch - activities in a trampoline park Stacja Grawitacja	Warsaw	
13 V Monday	9.00-11.00	Sport activities	Iłowo	
	11.30	Visiting the castle in Nidzica	Nidzica	
	13.00	Lunch in the Pottery Village	Kamionka	
	14.00	Pottery workshop		Treasure hunting game
	15.00	Treasure hunting game		Pottery workshop
	19.00	Farewell party	Iłowo	
14 V Tuesday	8.00	Departure of Italian Group	Warsaw	
	9.00	Meeting at school	Iłowo	
	9.00-11.00	Outdoor game in the forest		
	11.00	Forest activities in Dwukoły	Dwukoły	
	12.00-14.00	Bonfire and games		
15 V Wed	6.30	Departure of Spanish Group	Warsaw	

Photo Gallery

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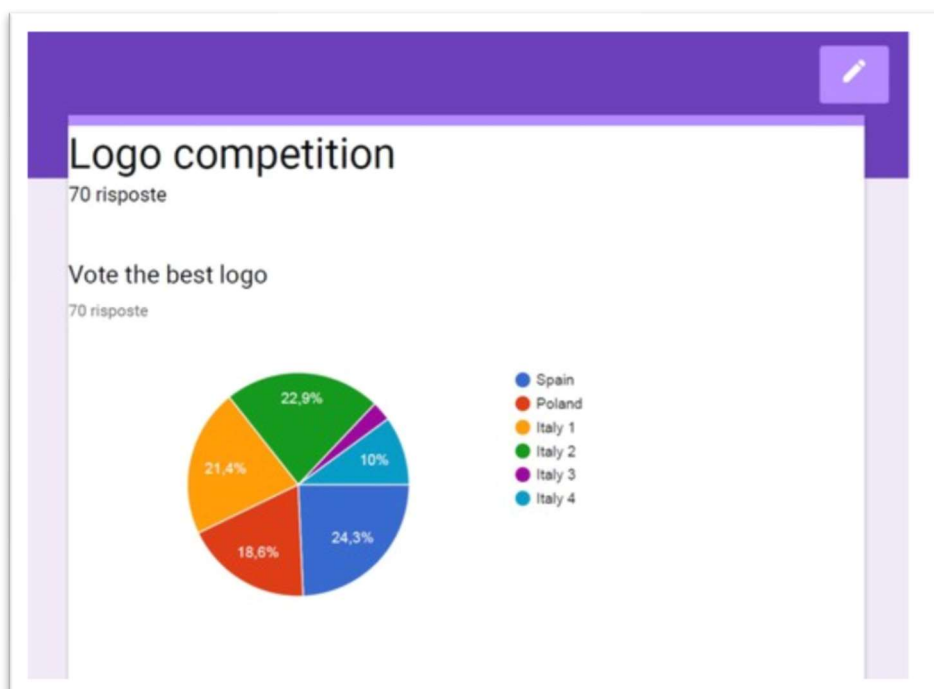
PRESENTATIONS



LOGO COMPETITIONS



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VIDEOCONFERENCE



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