



Erasmus+ **ONCE UPON A TIME...THE SEA**



PROJECT FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION THROUGH THE ERASMUS + PROGRAMME
SCHOOL EDUCATION, INTERSCHOOL EXCHANGE PROJECTS
REFERENCE NUMBER: 2018-1-RO01-KA229-049131_1

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Approved,
Principal,
Simona Dănilă



Report of Learning/ Teaching/ Training activities carried out between 1st - 4th October 2019 in BAIÃO, PORTUGAL

ERASMUS + Project *Once upon a time... The Sea* was proposed to take place within two years, 01.09.2018 – 31.08.2020, in the form of a strategic partnership among 4 schools: one from Romania, which is also the coordinating country, and 3 partner units, respectively from Italy, Portugal and Spain. The main objective aims to involve students in actions contributing to the training of marine environment protection and ecological, civic and responsible behaviour.

The Learning/ teaching /training activities, under the title *ON SEA WAVES*, organized by **AGRUPAMENTO DE ESCOLAS DE VALE DE OVIL** from **BAIÃO, PORTUGAL**, in accordance with the application form, gathered alongside students and teachers from the host school, 6-8 students (C5) and 4-6 teachers (C6) from the partner institutions.

C5 – LTT ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

On **Tuesday, 1st October** guests were welcomed by the members of the project team of the host institution. After particularly warm reception and enjoying several artistic moments of welcome, there was a visit of school spaces, including the auditorium, where a group of students from the Folklore Ensemble, presented a mini-recital, actively attended by the spectators also, invited to a traditional dance.

The school's peripliner ended in one of the multimedia cabinets, where the delegations' presentation took place.

After the surprise of the students from the professional classes, profile, culinary art, which prepared lunch, the official visit to the town hall of BAIÃO took place. In a friendly atmosphere, the participants were informed about the historical, economic and cultural specifics of the area by means of short videos, made with local protagonists.

Mayor, Paulo Pereira, stressed the importance of projects with European funding in the formation of active and accountable citizens, who would advocate for a united Europe. At the same time, representatives of the delegations from the partner schools briefly presented the region of provenance and the work carried out during the first year.

The seminar *ON THE WAVES OF THE SEA*, that took place in the second part of the day, was an opportunity for students from each partner school to

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promote water sports practiced on the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean, while highlighting the names of some athletes who have been noted in this area. The prior preparation for this seminar involved documenting and selecting the relevant information, and presenting all in a form that captured attention and awakens the interest of those present. All students were appreciated for originality and ways of addressing the themes: ppt, videos, photos, an interview.

Wednesday, October 2nd debuted with a debate that took place at the University of Aveiro, Department of Chemistry. Through a dialogue with university professors, based on virtual materials, the students learned about the problems created by the pollution of the marine environment with waste and the research carried out in order to reduce the use of plastic packaging or to replace plastic with other less harmful materials. Also, through demonstrative experiments, the participants gained knowledge concerning the way in which salt can be obtained from sea water. For a better understanding of the technological stages and the therapeutic properties of salt, there was a meeting with a specialist, in a natural setting, respectively a saline.

The afternoon of the day gave all the opportunity to discover AVEIRO – an important economic center for the production of salt and ceramics, through a journey with *Moliceiros*, a traditional boat, on the canals that crossed the city, being recognized as Venice of Portugal. The white tile with blue drawings is an identity mark for this place, covering the facades or interior of buildings in the historic center but also the old fishing houses. One of the main buildings of the city is the old pottery factory, an imposing building, made of red brick. Aveiro is also known for its traditional sweets, *ovos-moles* and *Trouxas de Ovos*, both made of eggs, tasted and greatly appreciated by all students.

Thursday, October 3rd was a day devoted to practical activities. The workshops and proposed competitions allowed students, organized in mixed teams, to prove that they had knowledge of the partner countries and the marine ecosystem, to create objects of organic and non-organic materials offered by the sea, thanks to their creative talent and rich imagination. These activities were aimed at developing students' communication and teamwork skills. All present appreciated the organising manner, friendly working atmosphere, originality and the quality of products made.

The Agenda also included a swimming programme in the municipality pool, where many of the participating students proved to have practiced this sport. They also had the opportunity to discover the picturesque host city, recognized for its natural landscapes of special beauty, as well as for gastronomic products.

It is also a place where one can meet the comfort and tranquility, so necessary for the rest that brings with it inner peace.



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The program of **Friday, October 4th**, included documentary and knowledge activities of the second largest city in Portugal, PORTO – which is said to be the seafarers'... It is famous for its commercial traditions and shipbuilding. The students admired the Ribeira, the most traditional part of the city, where there are narrow, steep streets, which descend by winding to the Douro River, monuments and impressive buildings, with small stores, provided with everything from the local handcraft to very modern things. Listed in the UNESCO heritage, it creates a Mediterranean atmosphere by its specifics.

The attraction of the day was the surfing lesson. Under the guidance of instructors, from a surf school in Porto, students learned the elements and technique of this sport, how to follow the rules of security and climbing on board, the technique of rowing. The theoretical notions were quickly transposed into practice, on the waves of the Atlantic ocean, situation that made the children to declare their joy of practicing surfing, for many of them being the first time.

The programme of the day ended with the celebration of awarding certificates of participation in activities, in the presence of a large number of teachers, parents and pupils from the host school.

The deputy principal of the organising institution congratulated all the participating students and urged them to continue to advocate for a clean environment and respect for European values.

It can be noted that the diversity of learning activities attended by the students contributed to the formation of responsible ecological, social and civic behaviour, students becoming aware of the need to change the attitude of the members of the communities, in particular the decision-makers in terms of rational use of the natural resources of the seas and oceans.

At the same time, participants have improved their English communication skills, in new contexts, making them aware of the opportunities they may have to study or work in another country or just travel to discover new places.

One could note the enthusiasm, the joy with which the students participated in these activities, their willingness to collaborate and communicate in English with school teachers and host families.

Working in mixed teams led to the promotion of human values such as tolerance, freedom of expression, mutual respect, confidence in their capacities and in others, friendship.



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C6 – LTT ACTIVITIES FOR TEACHERS

On **Tuesday, October 1st**, the teachers were greeted by members of the host school's project team and invited to attend to a small welcome show offered by the choir of the institution. Visiting school spaces was a good opportunity to receive explanations regarding the way in which the education process is organised in Portugal, which contributed to shaping an image on the course of classes for children aged 6 to 18 years old. Various active-participatory teaching methods have been presented as well as learning-evaluation methods, ways of effective integration into the lessons of IT tools. The discussions emphasised the exchange of best practices and the establishment of effective working methods, contributing to a better understanding by pupils of the content addressed in the lessons, starting from the particularities of the education system in Italy, Spain, Portugal and Romania.

The auditorium was the place where guests took part in a folklore mini-recital offered by a group of students. Guests declared themselves delighted by the artistic moments presented, applauding at the open stage, dancing along with the protagonists.

The members of the delegations were presented in one of the multimedia cabinets where there was an exchange of impressions, which continued at lunch, prepared after traditional Portuguese recipes by the students of the professional classes of culinary art.

The day schedule continued with the official visit to the City Hall which was an opportunity for everyone present to learn about the specificities of the region and the city, about the way in which local authorities can support education. In a relaxing atmosphere, a dialogue was carried out about the European values promoted in partner schools, about the issues the marine environment and coastal areas are facing.

Wednesday, 2nd October, was dedicated to documentary and training activities that took place at the University of Aveiro, an important economic centre of Portugal. University professors from the university's chemistry department have lectured on marine pollution with plastic waste and their effects on ecosystems' health. Topics were addressed on research carried out to reduce the use of plastic packaging or replace them with less harmful materials. The process of obtaining salt from seawater was also presented and the salt mine near the university campus was visited. The information and explanations provided by specialists in the field contributed to the enrichment of the knowledge horizon of all participants.



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In the afternoon, a traditional gondola-shaped boat ride was organized, on the canals of the Douro River, which was a great opportunity to admire the architecture of the buildings. Thus the participants had the opportunity to learn, from the guide accompanying the group, information on the cultural-historical and local economic specifics.

On **Thursday, 3rd October**, the Seminar on MARITIME TRANSPORTS AND THEIR ROLE IN The ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT of a COUNTRY, gathered teachers from all partner institutions that presented interesting thematic works in electronic form. The materials presented were posted on the project website, constituting a source of information for everyone interested.

The programme of the day included the presentation of the report on the activities included in the project implementation plan for the first year. A debate took place in order to assess the stage of reaching the proposed objectives and the impact of the manufactured products in partner schools and the communities from which they come. Through the collaboration of the teachers, representatives of the partner schools, the method of final evaluation of the project was established, through an artistic perspective, setting the scenario, distribution of parts and anthem.

The activity planned for the afternoon was a relaxing one, with participants becoming travelers through the town of Baião. They have all declared themselves fascinated by the originality and architecture of the building, the beauty of the natural framework, the warmth, generosity and hospitality of the inhabitants.

The Agenda of **Friday, 4th of October** included documentary and knowledge activities of the second largest city in Portugal, PORTO – which is said to be seafarers', a place with strong trade traditions and renowned for the construction of ships. Ribeira, the UNESCO Heritage site, the most traditional part of the city, has narrow, steep streets full of history, which descend by winding down to the Douro River, monuments and prespressive buildings, with small stores where you can find almost everything from local handmade garments to very modern things. The visit to the cruise terminal, inaugurated in July 2015, was an opportunity to get to know this port complex, which integrates new buildings, mooring works and exterior spaces, very attractive to the public. The main building displays the cruise ship terminal, the maritime port facilities, the Scientific and Technological Park of the Sea belonging to the University of Porto and, also, the event halls. All the participants, attracted by the enchanted sound of the ocean waves, enjoyed the beach with its fine sand.

The programme of the day ended with the award of participation certificates in a festive setting, full of separation and departure emotions.

The Deputy director of the host school thanked the participants for their interest and congratulated them for their seriousness, underlining that all



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organised actions contributed to the improvement of communication skills in English, but especially in finding effective methods of working with pupils, establishing collaboration and friendship relationships.

Remembering the most beautiful moments, teachers said it was a remarkable experience, the activities performed being attractive, interesting and in conformity to the objectives of the project.

We believe that the valorisation of the entire experience and knowledge gained through participation in these activities will help improve the teaching process and increase the prestige of each school in the community to which it belongs.

The exchange of ideas and best practices has led to the finding of effective ways of motivating and stimulating students into learning and training them as future European citizens, responsible and receptive to the problems that the marine environment is facing.

Project coordinator,

Emilia Ciocan