



Erasmus+

ONCE UPON A TIME...THE SEA

PROJECT FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION THROUGH THE ERASMUS + PROGRAM

SCHOOL EDUCATION, INTER-SCHOOL EXCHANGE PROJECTS

REFERENCE NUMBER: 2018-1-RO01-KA229-049131



No. 121/04.06.2021

**Report of VIRTUAL learning / teaching / training activities
held between 24-27th May 2021**

The virtual learning / teaching / training activities (C7 & C8) were organized under the generic **SEA LIFE PRESERVATION** by the partner school **IC FRANCESCO RISO** from **ISOLA DELLE FEMMINE (PALERMO) - ITALY**, bringing together online students and teachers from all over partner institutions from Romania, Spain and Portugal.

C7 - STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Monday, May 24th - the opening ceremony took place, broadcast live on the Facebook page of the project, the participants being pleasantly impressed by the message of the principal of the organizing school (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-D_Er7ICRM), watching some artistic moments whose protagonists were the students, the virtual tour of the school and the locality. We managed to get acquainted with information about the school and the historical, economic and cultural specifics of the area.

The proposed activities took place in a friendly atmosphere, which facilitated good communication between students. In addition to short presentations about themselves, they described in a few words the school and the region of origin, thus having the opportunity to enrich their horizons of knowledge.

Through the workshop entitled *My Beautiful Sea*, the practical skills of the students were tested, who, using different materials and work techniques, created works that highlighted the diversity and beauty of the marine environment. All students were appreciated for their originality and approach to the proposed topic.

The first day ended with solving a *Kahoot* quiz about the history and culture of the Italian people. The participants had the opportunity to test or enrich their knowledge in this field.

Tuesday, May 25th, began with a virtual meeting with the Mayor and representatives of the City Hall, who addressed words of appreciation regarding the activities carried out and wishes for further success. The importance of carrying out European-funded projects in schools was emphasized and an

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invitation was extended to all participants to visit *Isola delle Femmine*, a place full of legend and beauty, when the international context allows.

The program continued with the *Sea life preservation* activity in which students learned to use the application <https://www.pixton.com/> to create illustrated stories or comics, even if they do not have the ability to draw.

The agenda for **Wednesday, May 26th**, included live activities to introduce the importance of fishing and fish in the diet, as well as a navigation lesson. The students of the organizing school interviewed, live, the fishermen from their locality and had a dialogue with specialists in the field of nutrition and navigation at sea. Due to the facilities offered by digital technology, the participants from the partner schools were directly connected with the interviewees, having the opportunity to find out the answers to the questions asked. It was an interesting dialogue, not only as a form of achievement, but especially through the quality and usefulness of the information accumulated by students.

The program continued with the screening of the documentary *Fire at the Sea*, which provided an image of the sea from another perspective, namely that of the refugee crisis on the island of Lampedusa, located between the African continent and Sicily. They had crossed the sea by boat to seek protection from war and persecution. The children were impressed by the risks to refugees on their way to a better world and by their efforts to find a job, shelter or health care and education.

The last activity in the program gave students the opportunity to learn to use the application <https://nearpod.com/>, which will allow them to actively and interactively participate in lessons, through effective collaboration with classmates and teachers. At the same time, the platform facilitates access to audio information presented by the teacher, recording students' responses and upgrading them so that they can then be evaluated.

Thursday, May 27th, began with a team work activity in which students searched and selected information about coastal areas and marine ecosystems, which they included in a catalog, using <https://bookcreator.com>.

This was followed by the presentation by the representatives of the partner schools of some materials in electronic format with reference to the hidden beauty of the SEA. Thus, students learned about various objects dating back to the time of the Greek and Roman civilizations, discovered by archaeologists in the depths of the sea.

The program of the day continued with an invitation for students to use their imagination and creativity to create a thematic poster, using the application https://www.canva.com/ro_ro/. It is a free online tool that can be used in the browser without downloading anything from the internet. It offers free templates that can help highlight the content of the poster depending on the topic, while storing over a million photos and texts.



The culminating moment was the viewing of the show "*Traveling with Ulysses*", the protagonists being students from the four schools, many of them being participants in activities. This skit, the result of a team work, was intended to be a review of the relevant activities carried out during the almost three years of implementation, approached through an artistic prism.
(<https://youtu.be/MgoN1vpGpuM>)

The program of the day ended with the evaluation of activities. The coordinators from the partner institutions congratulated all the participating students and urged them to put into practice everything they learned by getting involved in this project, continuously advocating for a clean environment and respect for European values.

We conclude that all LTT participants appreciated the originality, the organization and the relaxing working atmosphere. They had the opportunity to discover even only virtually the picturesque area of origin of the partner school, recognized in Italy for the natural landscapes of a special beauty.

We emphasize the enthusiasm, the joy with which the students participated in these activities, their desire to collaborate and communicate in English. Working in mixed teams has led to the promotion of human values such as tolerance, freedom of expression, mutual respect, trust in one's own abilities and those of others, friendship.

C8 - ACTIVITIES FOR TEACHERS

On Monday, May 24th, the participating teachers were invited to attend the official opening of the activities, made live on the Facebook page of the project and a small show, offered by the students of the organizing institution.

The virtual tour of some school spaces was a good opportunity to receive explanations related to the way the educational process is organized in Italy, which contributed to the formation of an image on the running of the courses in the partner school.

The workshop on *Integrating laboratory teaching into curricula* was a good opportunity to learn new information on teaching and assessment strategies, which can be used especially online, and to exchange good practices with reference to the topic addressed.

The practical part of the workshop consisted in the realization of an interdisciplinary lesson plan for teaching specific contents of the project through teamwork, using *Jamboard*. At the same time, the coordinator of the organizing school presented some learning activities with students in order to form practical skills, but also to understand scientific notions, such as chemistry, by integrating the experiment in the lesson or teaching games (roulette). The program of the first day ended after the participants filled in a *google form* questionnaire, regarding the size of school inclusion in the institutions of origin.



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Tuesday, May 25th, began with a virtual meeting of the Mayor and local community representatives, who had a dialogue with representatives of partner institutions about European values promoted in school and the problems facing the marine environment and coastal areas.

At the same time, the dialogue emphasized the importance of Erasmus + projects for the personal and professional development of all those involved in their development. By watching videos made by the students of the host school or by specialists, the teachers found out information about the historical and socio-cultural specifics of the area.

The agenda of the day included a training session on SEA LIFE PRESERVATION given by Professor Antonio Calò, member of the Department of Marine Sciences of the University of Palermo. The PowerPoint presentation was carefully crafted, with lots of interesting and useful information. Issues related to the importance of the seas and oceans, the impact of human activities on marine ecosystems, sustainable fishing and the protection of marine areas were addressed. The ensuing dialogue highlighted actions taking place at the level of the partner schools' countries of origin in order to protect and conserve the marine environment. Relevant aspects of specific activities carried out within the project were also highlighted, in order to make citizens aware of the dangers facing marine biodiversity and to form a positive attitude towards the environment.

Watching the Italian documentary FUOCOAMARE (Fire at the Sea) directed by Gianfranco Rosi in 2016, created a clear picture of the issue of migrants and refugees from Africa to Europe. The film won the Golden Bear at the 66th Berlin International Film Festival and was nominated for an Oscar for Best Documentary Feature.

In the end, the idea was emphasized that since ancient times, the sea has been a refuge for those who were persecuted in the areas where they lived, giving them hope for a decent life.

At the Golden Bear Award, director Rosi said his intention, when making the film, was to raise awareness of the plight of migrants, saying: "It is not acceptable for people to die crossing the sea to escape tragedy."

On Wednesday, May 26th, in the first part of the day, the participants witnessed the interview of some fishermen or specialists in the field of fishing and nutrition. Topics on sustainable fishing and the importance of fish in the diet were addressed. The information and explanations provided contributed to the enrichment of the knowledge horizon of all participants.

The program of the day included a training session in the digital field suggestively entitled *Skyling me softly ...* with the digital resources, given by Alessandro Agnetta, IT specialist. Topics on the use of digital media and innovative strategies in the online teaching-learning process were addressed. In addition to the theoretical support presented in a very attractive and interactive



way, the session also had a practical side which consisted in practicing GSUITE applications (*Edpuzzle, Jamboard, Google Docs, Google Forms*), offering a new perspective on the online teaching – learning process, which must be rethought so as to lead to interaction, movement, information exchange, play.

The unanimously accepted conclusion was that e-learning is and will be a continuing challenge for innovation in education through discovery, creativity and effective communication, and will help strengthen self-employment skills, promote a culture of trust and well-being.

The workshop on the use of the telephone and social networks in the teaching-learning process was given by Aurelio Gilberti, psychologist, representative of the Ministry of Health. The advantages and disadvantages of using the devices were highlighted, emphasizing the risks to which people of different ages are subjected, as a result of their abusive use. The participating teachers expressed their own opinions on the subject, underlining the obligation to impose rules for the rational use of digital media, both at school and at home, to prevent children's dependence on the use of technology.

The last day of the program of activities began with the presentation, by the representatives of the partner schools, of some materials in electronic format about the hidden beauty of the SEA. Thus, the participants learned about various objects dating from the time of the Greek and Roman civilizations, discovered by archaeologists in the depths of the sea.

The program continued with the viewing of the show *Traveling with Ulysses*, the result of a team work consisting of students and teachers from all partner schools. Thus, the most relevant aspects of the project implementation were highlighted through theater, music and dance.

At the end, the participants in the activities expressed words of appreciation in writing (using *Jamboard*) or verbally to the show and the project in general. The strengths and impact on students, teachers and the school were highlighted. Recalling the most beautiful moments, the teachers stated that this project was a remarkable experience due to the diversity of activities carried out which proved to be attractive, instructive and interesting. A large number of participants was attracted, a good relationship was achieved at the level of partner schools, but also of the partnership with other institutions that have a complementary activity to the project theme. As a result of working together during LTT activities, participants improved their digital and communication skills in English, gained more confidence in their abilities, had the opportunity to learn about other education systems and achieve a real exchange of good practices.

The project coordinator of the organizing school, Anna Maria Durante, thanked them for their interest and congratulated them for the seriousness they showed, emphasizing that all the organized actions contributed especially to finding effective ways to work online with students, in establishing collaborative and friendly relationships.



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In conclusion, Emilia Ciocan, the coordinator at partnership level, stressed that valuing the entire experience and knowledge gained by participating in the project, will help improve the teaching process and increase the prestige of each school in the community to which it belongs.

The coordinators of the partner institutions in Spain - Nuria Ramon, and in Portugal - Pedro Miranda, thanked the Italian school for organizing the LTT activities and mentioned that the constant exchange of ideas and good practices made during the implementation of the project will lead to finding effective ways to motivating and stimulating students to learn and train as future European citizens, responsible and receptive to the problems facing the marine environment.

Project coordinator,

Emilia Ciocan