The first meeting of the project partners took place in Lisbon from 22 - 26 February with the attendance of students and teachers from Lithuania, Croatia, Italy and Portugal. The Programme designed by the Portuguese team was carried out as planned. On Monday 22nd February the visiting partners were greeted and welcomed by the host team and the school board. Soon after, the school director had the opportunity to formally welcome the partners in a brief ceremony held at the auditorium. Then, there were students’ presentations (schools and towns/cities). In the afternoon, two workshops took place: arraiolos needlepoint and codfish cakes. As for the second day, it was devoted to show some of the city historical highlights and learn about the history of the city. The third day started with a teachers’ meeting followed by the students’ presentations about the different crafts and the logo contest. Also, there was another workshop about the second distinctive craft—tile painting—and a visit to the tile museum. On Thursday there was a trip to the village of Arraiolos to visit the Interpretative Centre of Arraiolos rugs where we learnt about this old craft and saw some beautiful old and contemporary rugs. Then, we proceeded to the village of S. Pedro do Corval—known as the capital of Portuguese pottery. Afterwards we reached the historic village of Monsaraz—our last stop before returning to Lisbon. On Friday there was a visit to the National Museum of Ethnology and to Lisbon’s most famous pastry shop, where “pastéis de Belém” are made. Next, we moved on to the tower of Belém on the riverfront. In the evening there was a farewell dinner at school with the attendance of all the students, parents and teachers. Luísa Belo—Portugal.

Partner schools

Rokiškio Juozo Tumo-Vaižganto gimnazija (Coordinator)
Prva Ekonomská škola
Agrupamento de Escolas de Santa Maria dos Olivais - Escola Secundária António Damásio
Istituto Istruzione Superiori Francesco Orioli

1st Project Meeting - Lisbon
DO IT YOURSELF

ARRAIOLOS NEEDLEPOINT AND GASTRONOMY WORKSHOP

On 22nd February 2016, during the ERASMUS+ Portugal week, we had two different workshops to show foreign students one of our traditional handicraft and give them the opportunity to taste our gastronomy. In the afternoon, we went to the DIY room to teach and practice the art of arraiolos embroidery. With the help and supervision of two craftswomen we labored in this task for more than two hours. Even though the task is time consuming and requires patience and skill we soon realized that everybody was rapidly learning the basics and at the end most were actually embroidering better than us. This activity also enabled interesting and pleasurable socializing moments. Two hours of hard work later, we were starving. So we went to the school kitchen where we learnt how to make Pastéis de Bacalhau - codfish cakes - and we tasted Pastéis de nata - the most famous cream pastries in Portugal. When they were cooked, we ate them and kept eating them. They were delicious, we were told!

We hope everybody enjoyed discovering some of our country’s traditions. We are looking forward to discovering the other countries’, too.

Bárbara Núncio Caçada and Sara Santana—Portuguese students
The guided tour to Lisbon’s downtown started at Rossio, one of the most famous squares of Lisbon, where Queen Mary II National Theatre (1846) is located.

Then we proceeded to the ancient São Domingos’ Church, which was built in 1241, during D. Sancho II’s reign.

We saw some of Lisbon’s typical stores such as “The Doll hospital”, “A Ginjinha” and “Garrafeira Nacional” as we walked through the streets of downtown Lisbon and observed the use of tile on the façade of many buildings. We continued our visit through Alfama, where Fado “can be heard in every corner”, and enjoyed the view of the city, the Tagus River and of the 25th April bridge from one of the several viewpoints on the hills. Then we got to “Portas do Sol” Belvedere.

We walked up and down the narrow streets of Alfama and around the castle walls till we got to Lisbon’s Cathedral—one of the most remarkable churches of the city.

We went to “Terreiro do Paço”, “Rua Augusta” and Santa Justa’s Elevator, where we enjoyed a breath-taking view of downtown Lisbon.

The tour finished at “Largo do Carmo” with a brief explanation about the 25th of April revolution that took place in 1974.

Maria Neves and Mariana Barata—Portuguese students
DO IT YOURSELF

LOGO CONTEST

The logo contest took place at school on Wednesday morning, 24th February, as planned. All the logos were displayed in the DIY room so that everybody could see them well before deciding which one to vote for. There were 8 logos competing - two from each partner country.

After deciding about the voting system and contest rules, each one was given a ballot to write the number and country of choice each competing logo bore.

After counting out all the votes from both students and teachers, it turned out that the winner was Domilė Kirstukaitė from Lithuania. The second most voted logo was from Croatia whose author is Borut Razbornik and the third most voted logo was from Italy, belonging to Alessandro Moretti.

A special thanks to all the participants in this contest for their effort and creativity.

Luísa Belo, Portugal
In the afternoon of the 24th of February all the participants of the project visited the Tile Museum located near downtown.

The purpose of this visit was to learn more about the origins of this ancient craft and the history of this important art. It was an opportunity to broaden one’s knowledge about techniques, themes, use of colour, and the process of “azulejo” production. Furthermore, we learned about the evolution of the tile in Portugal since its introduction in our country (15th century) until nowadays.

This visit to the Tile Museum consisted of two different parts. The first one was the visit to the museum itself and the second one the workshop, especially arranged for the purpose of painting tiles. Students and teachers sat around the tables and were explained the basics about how to paint tiles. There were containers with different ink colours and each one of us was given one tile. Every student and teacher had to put their creativity at work so as to create a design and then paint it. This activity required patience, time, skill and dedication.

After being painted the tiles went to the oven for the last cooking process. All the students and teachers were very pleased with this experience. Everybody was able to contact directly with one of the most ancient arts practiced in Portugal and the feedback was excellent.

Gonçalo Mesquita—Portuguese student
On Thursday, 25th of February 2016, the students and teachers from the ERASMUS+ project “Do It Yourself” went on a trip to Alentejo to find out more about some of the Portuguese old crafts.

The day started with the students and teachers leaving the school at 8:15 in the morning for the village of Arraiolos, where they arrived around 10 a.m. During this first stop students and teachers had the chance to walk around the village and see the local craft shops before visiting the Interpretative Centre of Arraiolos’ Rugs. There, the students got the opportunity to see the different types of Arraiolos’ rugs and learn about their history.

Through the course of the tour they saw some antique instruments that were used in the making of the rugs as well as a craftswoman embroidering a rug. After the tour, the students had a picnic lunch all together and explored the village of Arraiolos by themselves. At around 2 p.m. they went back to the bus to go to São Pedro do Corval where they learnt a little more about pottery while visiting some pottery shops as well as a local craftsman making pottery utensils at the wheel. Then they went to Monsaraz, a small but very interesting old village, to visit the castle and its surroundings.

Sofia Lee and Beatriz Assunção—Portuguese students
On Friday we were greeted by the rain. However, the scheduled visits took place regardless of the weather conditions.

We left the school by bus to the museum, which is located near Belém on a hill overlooking the river Tagus. There, we were given a brief explanation about the origins of the museum and its collections. The objects displayed represent different cultures from many countries. We had the opportunity to observe some traditional Portuguese utensils that reflect our popular culture, as well as African, Asian and Amerindian objects.

After the visit to the museum we got on the bus and drove to Belém, next to the Jerónimos Monastery, to visit the most famous pastry shop in the area and taste “pastéis de Belém”.

Then, we proceeded to the riverfront for a closer view of two of the city’s ex-libris: the Belém Tower (1514-1519) and the Monument to the Discoveries (1940).
Results of the project questionnaire for students, teachers and parents in all partner countries at the beginning of the project.

The majority of students were told about the project by their teachers and friends. Almost all the students know the main aims of the project and the participating countries. Those who are in the project groups claim to be active or medium active. Most students have not visited the project’s website yet. The expansion of students’ knowledge about partner countries due to the project activities is not equivalent, since the students who participate in the project activities very actively have more opportunities to get to know more about the participating countries. Approximately a half of the students say that their wish to learn English was influenced by the school’s participation in a multicultural project very much. While almost a third of the students agree that the project activities stimulated their interest in old crafts of European countries and making things by themselves very much.

The majority of teachers know the main aims of the project and the participating countries which are involved in the project. Most of the teachers have not visited the project’s website yet, but they would like to. A half of teachers respondents have not participated in any activities related to the project and their job has not been influenced by them. A third of the teachers agree that they have expanded their knowledge about the project itself and partner countries due to the project activities. All the parents surveyed were told about the project by their son or daughter and the teachers as well. The majority of them know the main aims of the project and the participating countries. A half of the parents have not participated in any of the projects activities yet, but they would like to. They also have not visited the project’s website yet, but they are going to do that. Approximately a half of the parents claim to have expanded their knowledge about the project itself and partner countries due to the project activities very little. Most of the parents agree that the participation in this international project is very important to their son’s or daughter’s school. More than a half of parents respondents say that their son’s/ daughter’s interest in old crafts of European countries and making things by himself/ herself has increased very much.

Teacher Sandra Liugienė, Lithuania
EVALUATION OF THE 1ST LEARNING/TEACHING MEETING

The 1st learning/teaching meeting was held in António Damásio Secondary School in Lisbon, Portugal. On the last day the participants of the project meeting had to evaluate the main aspects of the 1st project meeting: presentations about schools, cities and old crafts, the workshops and sightseeing. The students also were asked to evaluate their stay with the host families and the teachers evaluated the management of time and activities.

The 1st project meeting was a great success and all the participants expressed a lot of positive comments about it. The teachers of the Portuguese project group did their best to arrange and organize everything what was planned in the meeting program and reach the aims of the meeting. All the activities of the meeting were based on getting to know, learning and practicing Portuguese distinctive old crafts, expanding cultural outlook and communicative and language skills. I can firmly say that all the project participants gained a lot of knowledge and skills. The Portuguese teachers and students accompanied the project participants during all the activities, provided any information and help needed.

All the project participants stressed the workshops as very involving, interesting and relaxing. The guidance and assistance of the professional craftswomen and host students were useful. During the sightseeing trips all the project participants had many opportunities to ascertain again and again that the Azulejo tiles and Arraiolos rugs are really very particularly amazing and incredibly popular Portuguese old crafts. All sightseeing trips were meaningful and well thought over. Despite being able to practice making pastéis de nata and pastéis de bacalhau themselves all the participants claimed them to be very delicious dishes. Thanks to the hospitable Portuguese partners for letting us feel the real taste and shape the image of the Portuguese cuisine.

The students’ presentations about their schools, cities and old crafts were met with a huge interest of the participants. Majority of the presenters were well-prepared and their presentations were very informative with nice pictures and good English. However, some speakers should have prepared better.

It was an intensive week, full of activities, communication and emotions. From the very first minute in Lisbon when met by the Portuguese teachers, pupils and their parents at the airport to the last “Good bye” all Lithuanian, Croatian and Italian partners felt welcome. The pupils from partner countries spent unforgettable time in host families who were very friendly, caring and very warm people. The pupils enjoyed the trips the families took them on and other activities they had together. That was the experience of their lifetime.

It was the first project meeting and the Portuguese teachers showed an excellent example of effective teamwork. They were very helpful, attentive and energetic during the whole week; they did everything that was in their power and strengths to make the project meeting as enjoyable and fluent as possible.

Irena Laužadienė, the coordinator of the project
Previous events:

Next events:

2nd Meeting of the Do It Yourself Erasmus+ Project
2—6 May 2016
at
Prva Ekonomská škola
Zagreb—Croatia

Lisbon—February 2016

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