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Project journal

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C4 meeting from Erasmus project:" How to tell our stories !"

The project meeting "How to tell our stories", part of the international Erasmus+ project "Developing Educational techniques starting from regional context", that was held in Mersin, Turkey between 22nd and 27th February, was a story itself. Due to the current situation in the world we could use one word to describe the beginning of our Erasmus journey, that word being uncertainty.

But the uncertainty turned into certainty once we've passed the airport's security, sat on our seats and took off to Istanbul. We arrived in Turkey really early in the morning, a group of 3 teachers and four students, with no internet connection or any other app that people usually use nowadays to get to their destinations. We only had an address and a lot of nice, kind and wonderful Turkish people who helped in in any way they could.

Our Turkish week started with a meeting at Ozel Mersin Ugur Okulari, a private school, where you can meet students from kindergarten all the way to high school. The days continued according to schedule with activities which brought students together and made them want to know more about the countries involved in the project and about their stories. All the presentations and activities that were part of the project managed to bring all of us together, teachers and students, no matter of our nationalities. One of the things that offered all our students a good way of using

their English was the fact in every activity, painting T-shirts, pottery , History class or field trips, students blended and tied friendships. If at the beginning of the week teachers used to remind them to talk to all the students involved after a few days they behave as if they knew each other for years.

Our Turkish week was full of great activities from morning until late in the afternoon. One of the activities that I enjoyed the most was the field trip to Hatay. We visited Hatay Archeology Museum, a museum which left us, all, breathless. We have never seen such beautiful mosaics in our lives. Each one was more spectacular than the other. Another stop in our field trip was to the church of St. Peter, which is a must see not only for Christians, but for everyone, no matter what you believe in. The activity which really caught my eye was the History class taught by the Turkish History teacher. It started as an ordinary History lesson , but it turned into a practical activity that allowed students to put in practice what the teacher had already explained at the beginning of the class. Students were asked to build a fortress out of sugar cubes.

Erasmus+ meetings don't mean only travelling and tasting traditional food. Erasmus meetings mean, in the first place, learning and improving ones knowledge. We learnt to want to be better, we learnt to want to improve ourselves, to try to improve our school system, our school as a building, to make it colorful and lively, to try new ways of teaching, to have fun from time to time with our students during the classes we teach.

Laura Cîmpean, teacher
at **"Avram Iancu"**
Secondary School, Dej,

Students from Bağcılar Mustafa Kemal Secondary School, Istanbul, Turkey

I am Hatice Nur Kaytan, it was really exciting to meet people from different languages and cultures at the meeting in Mersin. Although I was away from my family for the first time, I had no difficulties because this project created a family atmosphere for me. I met many teachers there, one of them was the Polish lady Malgorzata. Ms. Malgorzata was a sincere and caring teacher. Even when the meeting ended, I did not cut off my contact with Ms. Malgorzata. The most exciting moment was the presentation where I introduced Turkish motifs. Apart from this, we made many field trips. Our teachers

were very interested. It was a very good experience for me, I would really like to experience it again.

Hatice Nur KAYTAN,

First of all, I am very happy to participate in this project. I was very excited when I first came to Mersin and I was a little surprised when I saw that the others were bigger than us. But later I got used to it. The school we went to was very nice. The other students and teachers there were very friendly. I loved them all. The trips we made and the places we saw were very beautiful. Thank you to my teachers who chose me for this project.

Meryem Nida ÖZER,

Students from XXVII LO im. Zesłańców Sybiru in Lublin

Weronika Zezula

Between 21st and 27th February I took part in the Erasmus+ project in Turkey. During this trip I got to know Turkish, Romanian and Italian traditional costumes, dances, patterns and music. I had the opportunity to see presentations and leaflets about these topics prepared by newly met students from other schools around the world. Also while being there, I visited mu-

seums and caves. I did not expect the time spent there to be so fascinating. I learned a lot from people from other countries. What's more, the people I met there were kind and helpful, which made this trip go in a very pleasant atmosphere. In my opinion it was an amazing and worthwhile experience, thanks to which I met new people and gained knowledge about other cultures.

Jan Dmochowski

In the second week of winter holidays, I went to Mersin in Turkey for the Erasmus+ project with my friends from school and my favorite teachers. I had looking forward to this trip for a long time, because for me Erasmus+ is synonymous with development, language improvement, meeting people from all over the world and self-knowledge. It is a great opportunity to get to know the culture, the people and customs of this the country and visit beautiful places. Erasmus+ helped me broaden my horizons. For these reasons the program was created. Participants from other countries were very nice and communicative so we had a great time and worked together. The wonderful cities, museums, and routes full of surprises that we visited were very interesting and worth seeing. It was also fun to experience spring in winter. In my opinion, these extraordinary experiences we had taught us a lot, and for sure they will be useful to us for the rest of our lives.

Beata Kruk

Late February I took part in the Erasmus+ trip to Turkey. Thanks to the trip I gained a lot of experience. I got to know the folk culture of Turkey, Romania and Italy. While in Turkey, I visited many interesting places, including museums. I met a lot of great people.

High-school no 15"Adam Mitskevich", Sofia, Bulgaria

For the second time I took part in the International Meeting , Erasmus + programme. It was in Mersin, Turkey. We took part in it online ,because we had a Covid restrictions . We were 22 students from our school. The topic of this Meeting was interesting for me . It was about popular songs ,traditional folk dances and traditional clothes. We began to prepare for it a long time ago. My class prepared a presentation „ Traditional Bulgarian clothes" We liked all our partners presentations and their leaflets about these topics prepared by students from other schools . But the most of all I liked the demonstration led by Robotics team of Mersin . It was very amazing, thank you !

Ivon Gancheva, 6 grade

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EDUCATION MEANS PROGRESS

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For the first time I took part in International Meeting in Mersin, Turkey. My favourite lesson was ,,Robotics" , because I didn't see this kind of lesson like this one. It was very interesting for me : what kind of robots were made by students and their teachers. I didn't like that we took part in this Meeting on-line. But these days we had bad Covid -19 situation. Sometimes Internet connection was bad and we cant see and hear well. All presentations were very good and quite interesting . My dream is to visit other countries and to meet students from this project. The whole Meeting was very interesting and unforgettable. It will be a fantastic memory for me.

Victor Angelov, 6 grade ,

High-school no 15, "Adam Mitskevich", Sofia,

Bulgaria

Impressions after the ERASMUS + 2022 program

by Apan Alexandru, "Avram Iancu" Secondary School

For a week, on February 21 -27, 2022, I had the opportunity to travel to Turkey through the **ERASMUS +** program. This was a unique experience, from which I learned new things. In this project, I participated in the exchange of good practices, the topic of the meeting being **"How we tell our stories" / "How we tell our stories"**.

On the first day, we were all excited, we were stepping into a new world, away from the people and places we knew before, but we had the chance to meet new people and places, seeing what life and the world are like there.

Also on the same day, I gave a presentation in English about the Romanian game song, Doina, carols, and ritual songs, specific to the Transylvanian region. In this, I provided information about songs, accompanied by short exemplary musical sequences. As with any presentation, held in an imposing conference room, of course, there was no lack of emotion. They disappeared easily, giving way to the joy I felt when I saw that I was being listened to with attention and interest by foreign students and teachers.

For a week we visited tourist and historical sites, including the Hatay Archaeological Museum, which houses the largest collection of mosaics in the world, and the Temple of Zeus in Mersin. Turkish students were eager to tell us about each tourist destination.

I can say that **ERASMUS +** is more than a project and the chance to go and see new places is about humanity, friendship, and the desire to know. The program helped me notice that even though we are different, we are all the same.