



„Let's Discover Europe Together Finding Harmony in Differences –
EUROPE'S FRIENDS”,
nr. **2017-1-RO01-KA219-037409**,
action **KA2** – Strategic Partnership

The first partnership meeting of the project entitled *„Let's Discover Europe Together Finding Harmony in Differences - EUROPE'S FRIENDS”,* with the no. **2017-1-RO01-KA219-037409_1**, action **KA2** – a Strategic Partnership between schools, took place in Barcelos, Portugal, from 15th to 19th of January 2018, being organized by the project partner institution **Agrupamento de Escolas de Barcelos, Portugal.**

- **The major objective of the project** is to develop the students' competence by combining formal with non-formal education.
- **The specific objectives** proposed are:
 - to develop communication skills in the English language, sign language and IT, both in teachers and students
 - to develop the social, civic, intercultural skills necessary for opening towards long-life learning, for shaping a personality capable to adapt itself to the requirements of the labor market.
- **Duration:**
September 2017 - August 2019
- **Target group:**
 - 28 hearing-impaired students from the schools in Romania and Poland, middle school level, aged 12 to 16
 - 42 students without special educational needs from the schools in Portugal, Turkey and Greece, middle school level, aged 12 to 16
 - 52 teaching staff from the 5 partner schools
 - Parents
 - Local community



➤ **Partners:**

Our project partners are:

- **GYMNASIO ANOIXIS, Anoixi, Greece**
- **SPECJALNY OSRODEK SZKOLNO-WYCHOWAWCZY No. 2, Przemysl, Poland**
- **AGRUPAMENTO DE ESCOLAS DE BARCELOS, Barcelos, Portugal**
- **BAKIRKÖY CUMHURIYET ORTAOKULU, Istanbul, Turkey**

➤ **Our project** aims to attain the common strategic goals of the partner schools

- An educational system compatible with the EU norms, reconsidering the way in which the activity is approached by the teaching staff
- Reducing school dropout
- Ensuring equal opportunities for students in accessing education

➤ **The horizontal priorities** underlying this project, according to Erasmus Project, are:

- Improvement of the students' basic and transversal competences
- Development of the students' social, civic, cultural skills
- Formal and non-formal education as a basis for longlife learning
- Combating discrimination and segregation
- Social inclusion

➤ **The expected results during the project are:**

During the project the following products will be created:

- the project's site
- 10 interactive lessons about the history, geography, culture and traditions of the EU countries
- 5 guidebooks about the history, geography, culture and traditions of the EU countries written in the languages of the partner countries, in English and translated in sign language
- 2 films presenting the camps in which the students have taken part and the activities performed together with their teachers



A number of 8 persons – partners from Romania, Greece, Poland and Turkey have participated in the meeting, along with the management and implementation team from the school in Portugal - Escola Secundária de Barcelos.

The activities planned for this meeting were:

- Presentation of the countries and the characteristics of each institution engaged in the project:
- Presentation of the educational system of each country participating in the project, focusing on both mainstream and special education;
- Presentation and discussion of the application form of the project “*Europe’s Friends*” and planning of the activities;
- Presentation of the procedures to be established for project implementation;
- Presentation of the project’s implementation plan;
- Presentation of the plan for the dissemination and valorisation of the project’s results;
- Reorganisation of the Gantt diagram;
- Establishing the tasks and responsibilities of each partner engaged in the project as well as the deadline for accomplishing the activities;
- Establishing the management and implementation teams at the level of each partner;
- Presentation of the project’s Yahoo and Whats app groups;
- Detailed presentation of the budget; discussions with coordinators from each partner institution and the financial worker in charge with the project in Barcelos, Portugal;
- Establishing the design and contents of the project’s website and the team which will work at its development (Serkan Erdogan and Ali Ulvi Atasoy, together with the coordinators from each partner institution: Florica Stoica – „Sf Maria” School Romania, Dorota Mazur – Poland, Grammatiki Palamouti – Greece and Fernando Carvalho - Portugal);
- Creation of the web page of the project;
- Establishing the program of activities necessary for the theoretical, cultural and linguistic training of the 35 students, in the course of the project;
- Establishing the logo of the project;
- Organising the IT training course (Turkey); devising the course support;
- Establishing and describing in detail the activities for the two camps in Poland and Greece;
- Establishing the ways to monitor and evaluate the project activities;
- Visiting the **Agrupamento de Escolas de Barcelos, Portugal;**
- Cultural visits.



1. Monday, 15th of January, 2018

The first day of the participants' gathering in the first transnational meeting of the project „Europe's Friends” started with the reception festivity of the coordinators and members of the project's management and implementation teams from Romania, Greece, Poland and Turkey. **Mr. Jorge Saleiro, Principal of the host institution Escola Secundária de Barcelos**, addressed a welcome to the guests, after which **Mr. Fernando Carvalho, Coordinator of the school project**, presented the objectives of this first project meeting.

At the first session, **the Project coordinator – Mrs. Florica Stoica, Principal of „St. Mary” Special Vocational School for Hearing Impaired in Romania**, presented the coordinating institution, the project activities, as well as the management and implementation team and their tasks.

The partner organisations were presented as follows:

- Mrs. Agnieszka Wiatrowska, member of the management team, presented the Polish partner institution “**Specjalny Ośrodek Szkolno-Wychowawczy nr 2, Poland** and the members engaged in the project.

- **GYMNASIO ANOIXIS, Anoixi, Greece** and the team engaged on its behalf, were presented by Mrs. Grammatiki Palamouti, its coordinator.

- **BAKIRKÖY CUMHURİYET ORTAOKULU, Istanbul, Turkey**, the country, institution and activities developed, were presented by Mr. Serkan Erdogan.

- Mr. Fernando Carvalho presented Portugal, the city of Barcelos and **Escola Secundária de Barcelos**, Portugal, as well as the members of the project management and implementation team and their activities.

Next were presented the educational systems of each partner country in the project and were discussed aspects of the education for students with special needs from each country, the organisation of special education in Romania and Poland and the way in which integration is achieved of the students with special needs, with various disabilities, in the inclusive schools within the other institutions.

The colleagues from the 5 countries participating in the meeting shared experience of their work with the students with hearing impairment and other disabilities, talked about the involvement of the educational institutions in the their educational and vocational guidance, as well as their integration on the job market. References were also made to the government involvement in these students' training and support.

Afterwards, **the School Principal, Mr. JORGE SALEIRO** presented the activities that would take place during this meeting – workshops and the tour of **Escola Secundária de Barcelos**, a work session with the project team of the institution and the job shadowing activities.



During the visit of the host school we noticed the spacious classrooms, very well organized and equipped with the latest communication equipment and technology. The school is a highly modern-looking institution, built 5 years ago with European funding. We also noticed the outstanding roomy workspaces which accommodate extracurricular activities: the dance room, gym, kinetotherapy room, drama and other performing arts, the festivities hall, the sports grounds and the running track. Classes have an average of 30-34 students. We visited the IT rooms, drawing and arts, the classes for students with special needs, the library and the school canteen where students have their lunch everyday. The large administrative workspaces are remarkable, accommodating a number of over 12 secretaries and several accountants and patrimony administrators. The school has a total of 2400 students, from primary to secondary/high school level.

Each teacher has his own workspace, properly equipped with a PC and various teaching materials according to his specialty so that, after completing his classes, he can prepare his teaching aids and organize his activity for the next day.

School management is provided by one Principal and 5 other Deputy Principals, coordinators of different departments.

The Coordinator of all European programs and projects in this school, as well as of its European Club is Mr. Fernando Carvalho, a PE teacher. He is assisted in his organisation and coordination activity by several language teachers and other subjects (Adelina Oliveira, Maria Da Gloria Cardoso, Joao Figueiredo, Paula Dionis, Ju Carvahal Goncalves) and other persons engaged in volunteer work for the school, among which Mr. Francisco Penedo particularly stands out.

The meeting continued with discussions between the project coordinator and the persons in charge with the project from each partner institution, the study of the application form of the project EUROPE'S FRIENDS and details on the budget allotted to each of them and the way in which the amounts for each chapter/section of the project are to be spent.

In the afternoon all participants went on a sightseeing of the wonderful city of Barcelos. We visited the old centre of the city and stopped at **the City Hall** where we were received by the **Vice-Mayor and Manager of the educational department in Barcelos, Mrs. Arnandina Saleiro.**

She spoke about the important role of the state, government and local community in the development of the educational system in Portugal and the way in which the City Hall of Barcelos is engaged in school activities in Barcelos. Each participant got a gift – the „Rooster” figurine, the symbol of the city of Barcelos.

The evening was concluded with a wonderful dinner in the company of the project management and implementation team of the hosting school.



2. Tuesday, 16th of January, 2018

In the morning we rejoined the project management and implementation team of the hosting institution, **Escola Secundária de Barcelos, Portugal** and we carried out talks about the activities and products to be accomplished and the development of the teamwork schedule.

During a round table talk, the stage of the project activities was presented for each partner up to the present (financing contracts, procedures used for the smooth development of the project, procedures for granting wage rights to the members of the management and implementation teams according to each country's laws, the activity program and the way reports are made, the minutes which have to be drawn up after each meeting of the members of the management and implementation teams in each institution, the dissemination plan and documents which have to be written by each partner to prove their accomplishment, the financial reports which are to be made after each activity is carried out).

In the second part of the day the project coordinator, Mrs. Florica Stoica, presented her project implementation plan with all the steps to be taken by each project partner institution. The tasks and responsibilities of each project partner were debated and settled, as well as the deadlines for activities. The Gantt diagram was reorganised, with all the main activities of the project. We discussed the activities in connection with the project management and the way of spending the budget allocated at the Project Management section. The strategy was debated of monitoring and internal evaluation of project activities and the way of reporting this. The project's coordinating institution, „St. Mary” Special Vocational School for Hearing Impaired, will be monitoring the development of the whole project by means of each monitorisation manager assigned by each partner school. They will apply questionnaires to members of the management and implementation teams, school managers, teachers in the partner schools, students; the results obtained will be analysed and every 6 months a report will be sent on the stage of activities carried out in each school, the way of disseminating the results, as well as the financial situation at the end of the 6 months.

Next was presented the Plan for dissemination and valorisation of the project's results, written by project coordinator, Mrs. Florica Stoica. The plan is to be adapted by each partner institution and implemented at its level. A copy of the dissemination plan from each partner institution will be sent to the project's coordinating institution. Every 6 months, the dissemination manager from each partner school will send a report on the dissemination activities that have been carried out until then.

The project coordinator, Mrs. Florica Stoica, drew the attention of the coordinators of each partner school upon filling-in the data in the Mobility Tool.

At the end of the day the image was chosen which will appear on the roll-up of each project partner school and it was decided that each institution have its own project logo, because each of the drawings made by the students in these schools was very special.



Logo for Romania:

Logo for Portugal:



The winning image for the roll-up was made by the Polish students:



Logo for Greece:

Logo for Turkey :



Logo for Poland:





3. Wednesday, 17th of January, 2018

The morning program began with the presentation of the rooms where activities are carried out with the students with special needs. Students with SEN (Special Educational Needs) have got special classrooms for various activities: therapies and specific activities in specially designed rooms; occupational therapy rooms – where they are engaged in theme actions such as „The week of sweets”, „The week of vegetables”, etc.

Next we split in two groups and attended two classes of English, one of Geography and one of IT, as follows:

- At Class 9C – the chapter „*Tomorrow's world*”, the lesson entitled *The Internet: good or bad?* had these objectives: knowing the advantages and disadvantages of using the Internet, the students' expressing their agreement /disagreement regarding the use of internet;
- At Class 11D – the chapter „*Our world*”, the lesson entitled *Going Veg* had the objectives: expressing one's own opinion on vegetarianism and the benefits of keeping a daily vegetarian diet;
- At 10th Grade – the chapter „Integration into the European area”, the lesson entitled *Locate the member states of the European Union and Recognize the geographical diversity of the EU countries* had the objectives: identifying the member states of the EU and their geographical position, knowing their capital cities, type of climate, relief, population, economy; students accessed the internet at <http://www.euroid.pt>;
- At 10th Grade – the chapter „*Creating websites*”, the lesson entitled *Tables in html. Mapping images* had the objectives: recognizing the importance of the tables in html when creating web pages, implementing tables in html; mapping an image in Html, client-side, as well as server-side mapping.

The lessons' duration was 1 period (90 minutes) each, with teachers using teaching - learning methods and strategies such as: conversation, film / video viewing (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThxmgXMBpoM>), listening to an interview, after which students expressed their opinions on its contents; learning by cooperation, team work. They used the computers with access to internet all through the classes, as well as the SMART board, the overhead projector, their textbooks, notebooks, worksheets. Evaluation was focused on the students' engagement in conversation, the level of their understanding of the discussion, the degree of their fulfilment of the tasks given in the worksheets.

In the second part of the day, Mr. Serkan Erdogan, project coordinator from Turkey, together with Mr. Ali Ulvi Atasoy – member of the management team and IT teacher, presented their proposal for the training program in Istanbul. We decided that all participants should learn and know how to use in class the applications GOOGLE, KAHOOT, EDMODO,



PREZI, SKRATCH – to create films and animation, PUBLISHER, GOCONQR - to make flash cards, mind maps, questionnaires and interpret data, ADOBE PHOTOSHOP. In addition, for an optimal enfolding of the course entitled „**IT-based teaching methods, the key to success in school**”, and a most efficient transfer of information and knowledge to participants, it was decided that the trainers in Turkey should devise a course support.

The date of the training course was chosen following discussions with the representatives of all project partner institutions and the project coordinator. The teacher training course entitled „**IT-based teaching methods, the key to success in school**” will be organized by **BAKIRKOY CUMHURIYET ORTAOKULU** in Istanbul, in the period 19-23 March, 2018. Evaluation of participants will be done after the analysis of their portfolio made up at the end of the 5-day training, as well as from their results obtained at the practical activities to be carried out during the course and at the multiple choice test. Each participant in the course will receive a certificate of attendance and the Mobility Pass Certificate attesting to his/her skills and competences acquired after training.

Next we discussed the structure of the interactive lessons to be devised by each partner institution and their use during the camp activities in Poland and Greece. The contents of these lessons will follow the structure of the guidebooks to be written at the end of the two camps: information and knowledge about the geography, history, culture, customs and traditions in each project partner country. The first interactive lesson must be prepared in advance of the camp in Poland. Each partner will develop a lesson divided into 10 parts, with a duration of 90 minutes each. The lesson will contain the necessary information corresponding to each partner country. The lesson will be organized in such a way that, along the 90 minutes, on each of the 10 days, students should interact both with their teachers and among themselves – taking into account that the teams will be mixed, the lesson should be entertaining, even funny, to stimulate the students’ imagination and creativity.

At the end of the meeting, Mrs. Florica Stoica, the project coordinator, and Mrs. Agnieszka Wiatrowska, representative of the Polish team, presented the themes of the online training sessions for sign language, which will be carried out by teachers from the two institutions in Poland and Romania.

4. Thursday, 18th January, 2018

On the fourth day we participated in a round table with the theme “**Internal monitoring and evaluation of the project’s activities**”. The talks were focused on the monitoring and evaluation activities developed in each project partner institution. Monitoring and evaluation of the project’s activities and of the results obtained are necessary, useful and beneficial to the project’s optimal development, as they help us correct the project implementation in case of shortcomings of any kind, which might impede the attainment of the proposed objectives.



Practically, monitoring will be carried out by:

- periodical discussions and exchanges of information between the project coordinator/managerial team and partners (phone, e-mails, direct meetings)
- discussions and exchanges of information between coordinator and partners during transnational project meetings
- the SWOT analysis – a periodical analysis of the activity at the level of each partner institution by the project team, as well as at the level of the transnational project meetings (Strong points, Weak points, Opportunities, Threats)
- analysis of the activities recorded in the project diary of each partner institution and check-up of the correspondence between the diary and the moment when the activity was performed
- direct observation of the activities carried out at the level of each institution and during transnational project meetings.

Evaluation of the quality of activity and the outcome of the project will be done at three levels:

- at the level of the partnership, during transnational project meetings, by the project coordinators in each partner institution
- at the level of the school, twice a year, by the school principal/project coordinator and the project team
- at the level of each activity (after each activity, the persons involved will provide feedback about it).

Next Mrs. Florica Stoica presented a draft about the schedule of the activities for the two camps in Poland and Greece. Mrs. Agnieszka Wiatrowska, representative of the project management team from Poland and Mrs. Grammatiki Palamouti, the project coordinator of the school in Greece, expressed their decision to develop these proposals and organize the activity programs of these two camps, the finalized schedule to be discussed and approved at the meeting in Turkey.

The first camp will be organized at Przemysl, Poland, on 10-23 May, 2018.

At the end of the meeting we set the schedule of the video-conferences:

- for the project coordinators in each institution, in order to check up the progress of the project and possible clarifications for a most efficient development of the proposed activities, according to the Gantt diagram
- for the training sessions in sign language, for the students' and teachers' training who will be participating in the two camps.

The day ended with a wonderful cultural sightseeing tour of the city of Braga, organized by Mr. Fernando Carvalho, the project coordinator of the hosting institution and Mrs. Adelina Oliveira, member of the project management team.



5. Friday, 19th January, 2018

On the fifth day of the transnational meeting of the participants in the project **EUROPE'S FRIENDS**, during a workshop organized at **Escola Secundaria de Barcelos**, we discussed about the project's site, the structure of the web pages of the project. The team from Turkey, coordinated by Messrs. Serkan Erdogan and Ali Ulvi Atasoy, will be in charge of the site domain and its administration. The costs for the management of this site (for 7 years) and the purchase of the domain (for 10 years) will be borne from the budget allocated for Management. Each institution will pay the sum of 60 euros.

In the course of the morning each coordinator from the project partner institutions received a password necessary for the development of the project site. All participants were taught to upload materials onto the site and use the information correctly.

The address of the project's site is: <http://europesfriends.com>. The site will comprise details about the project, information on the project partners and the educational systems in each project partner country, the results obtained during the project, a photo gallery, documents needed for an efficient development of the project.

Next there were talks about the structure of the questionnaires for the evaluation of various project activities. Each coordinating institution who organizes activities, must devise and apply the questionnaires for initial and final evaluation, for students as well as teachers, depending on the activity they are performing.

In the second part of the day took place the evaluation of the first transnational meeting. Participants filled in the questionnaires which Mr. Fernando Carvalho and his team had devised for this purpose.

After the evaluation of this first activity within the project **EUROPE'S FRIENDS**, there took place the closing ceremony. In a festive atmosphere, Mr. Jorge Soleiro, School Principal, Mr. Fernando Carvalho and Mrs. Adelina Oliveira handed the participants their certificates of attendance at the first transnational project meeting. Each project partner team was presented with the symbol of the school **Escola Secundaria de Barcelos** and the symbol of the project:

