



Erasmus+

The West University of Timisoara
Teacher Training Department

Work for an Inclusive School Heritage

Report

The 1st Short-Term Joint Staff Training Event
in Timisoara, November, 13-17, 2017



The report is covering the 1st Short-Term Joint Staff Training including reflections of both activities. All participants arrived on the 12th of November 2017 and had accommodation at the Euro Hotel, Timisoara. Project activities started on the 13th of November 2017 and ended on the 18th November 2017 with the departure of all the participants. Activities were held at the West University of Timisoara, room 710 and 041. Although training and transnational activities were held separate rooms with own schedule, there was plenty of interaction and common activities like meals, coffee breaks, cultural activities, city visits and school visits.

The 1st Short-term joint staff training

The activities where and training were carried out according to the attached schedule. The training started with a welcome word and the presentation of the partner institutions. Each partner team used Power Point and verbal presentation to present its institution and its country. This activity was joined for the management team and the teacher participants.

Dr. Mehmet Fatih Özmantar from Turkey led the first Seminar *The 21st Century Skills* and Dr. Darius Borovic from Romania the second seminar concerning *Problem-Based Learning*. The basic concepts of the project were presented interactively and vivid. Building on the theoretical input the activities continued with a workshop: *How to Improve the 21st Century Skills by Project-Based Learning*. Each participant expressed hers/his opinion on PBL and how project activities were implemented in their schools. Several approaches were noted and the participants had very interesting opinions about how to implement project based learning. New for all participants was the main idea from proper PBL: the project goals should be stated by the students and not by the teacher.

Good Practices of project implementations at the Partner Schools and how to improve the 21st Century Skills of the Students were discussed and reviewed. The Place of the 21st Century Skills in Government Policies and Curricular Documents provided also an interesting discussion. The conclusion: in neither of the countries PBL and 21st Century Skills has a very important place in the school practice, although it is mentioned in curricular documents. The partner schools are exceptions from these.

Interesting ideas were exchanged about the general outline of handbooks *How to Improve the 21st Century Skills Handbook* and *STEPS of Effective PBL Implementation Handbook*.

Joined activities for all participants

Both meetings started with a common welcome word and the presentation of the partner institutions. Each partner team used Power Point and verbal presentation to present its institution and its country.

The trip to Herneacova, one of the oldest towns in Timis county, documented in 1349, was a special attraction for the participants because they had the opportunity to communicate in a non-formal way. The elements of interculturality and local history welded the group and contribute to the achievement of the project objectives. Herneacova has all the features of a real tourist attraction – a rich and tumultuous history, a spectacular rustic architecture and a unique natural ambience. The first stop was at Recas, the hilly town known for the vineyards since the third century, when it was part of the Roman Empire.

A visit to a famous local high-school *The Pedagogical Lyceum Carmen Silva* was carried out. The participants were impressed by the architecture, the personality of all classes and the speech of the headmaster, Dr. Petroman. A spontaneous dialog emerged between the visiting teachers and the students. The school is going to be one of the Romanian pilot schools.

The participants in the project participated in a cultural tour of the city, in which the main historical landmarks, connected to culture and education, were presented. The foreign guests were familiarised to the multicultural aspect of Timișoara, a city that was chosen as cultural capital of Europe in 2021. We paid attention to the main steps in the historical development of the region and discussed some aspects of European identity as reflected in the city architecture and monuments.

The Closing Ceremony was also common, held at a restaurant in Timisoara that provided authentic traditional Romanian food. Each participant received his/her certificate, country specific song was sung by the participants.

Dr. Darius Borovic

Dr. Maria Niculescu



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union