



4 ELEMENTS

FOR A GREEN PLANET!

FIRST YEAR NEWSLETTER



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4 ELEMENTS AND FLIPPED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

by Portuguese Team

01

4Elements is a Project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, inserted in key action 2: cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices.

In this two-year project (Sept. 2017-Oct. 2019) participates a group of four partner schools from Portugal (coordinators), the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Italy. The aim of this Project is that students

get the chance to explore and know more about the 4 Natural Elements: Earth, Water, Air and Fire and on the process to raise students awareness about environmental issues. During the mobilities students explored the element of Water in Portugal (Feb. 2018) and the element of Earth in the Czech Republic (May 2018).

The project contemplates also other educational issues concerning teaching methodologies, particularly the Project Work strategy and the concept of “Flipped Classroom”. The activities were based on a students’centred learning approach. This way the activities were based on cross-curricular subjects because students had to combine knowledge and skills from the different subjects.

To develop the study of the Elements the Project team agreed to make learning materials so we could test and study the



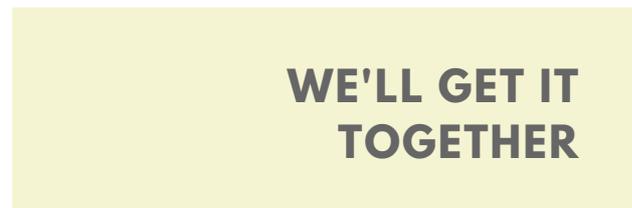
Flipped Classroom methodology. This way two learning videos were produced for the element of Water and the element of Earth, observation worksheets to complete the learning task and classroom plans were established. Using this method student had more time to discuss the different issues, to do experiments and to consider a more interventional approach on the matter of raising one’s awareness on social and environmental questions.

TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING IN PORTUGAL

by Portuguese Team

02

On October 9th and 10th, 2018, Alexandre Herculano School Group hosted the first transnational meeting of the Erasmus + Project “4Elements”, of which it is the coordinator. The event was attended by the coordinators of the schools involved: Základní Skola Komenského, from Czech Republic, Stichting Sintlucas, from the Netherlands and Ciro Scianna, from Italy.



According to the programme established for the meeting, the work focused on important aspects for the development of the project, such as: the planning of the first activities and the eTwinning platform; the timing of the learning teaching training activities (LTTA) related to students mobility to Portugal and to the Czech Republic; the second transnational meeting in Italy; the concept of the digital diary of the project; selection criteria to choose

students to participate on the mobilities; preparation of the Flipped Classroom materials and the public presentations of the project which had to be held by the different partners at their school.

Apart from the meeting, the participants from Italy, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands had also the chance to have a glimpse of the monuments and some traditions from Santarém, the hosting city.

LEARNING/TEACHING/TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN PORTUGAL

by Portuguese Team

03

Between 26th February and 2nd March, the first international meeting with students and teachers was held in Portugal (Santarém) at Alexandre Herculano Basic School, under the Erasmus + Project “4Elements”.

A set of educational and socio-cultural activities were developed according to the Natural Element worked so far at this stage of the European project: “Water”.

The working week was named as “The Water week” and the working plan gathered different moments and activities: students had to present digital presentations of schools, cities, countries and a set of chose cultural aspects of each country; a digital presentation of the materials and activities created and developed in each school within the approach of the main teaching/learning



concept worked in this project: the Flipped Classroom method; different school visits were planned to explore concepts and develop activities concerning freshwater and saltwater natural resources with sample collection by the students – visit to the “Salinas de Rio Maior”, “Nazaré”, “Olhos de Água” spring of the “Alviela” River and “Mira D’Aire” caves. Students had to develop social and personal abilities within a team, to actively suggest and accept

opinions of others in order to fulfill the main issue of this teamwork: raising awareness of the importance of water as a natural resource.

These activities provided students the opportunity to improve social and communication skills, creativity, environmental awareness and boost entrepreneurship concepts.

LEARNING/TEACHING/TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN CZECH REPUBLIC

04

by Czech Team



The second LTT event of Erasmus+ project 4Elements took place in Trutnov, the Czech Republic. It gathered four groups from the four countries participating in the Project: 3 teachers and 9 students from the hosting school in Trutnov, Czech Republic, 3 teachers and 6 students from Santarém, Portugal, 2 teachers and 5 students from Eindhoven, Netherlands and 2 teachers and 5 students from Bagheria, Italy.



During the event the Czech team hosted the participants at Základní škola, Trutnov, Komenského 399 and organized the programme according to what was established when planning the project. The Dutch students stayed with the hosting families.

During the first day the project participants were welcomed by the headmaster Mr. Petr



Horčička shortly after their arrival to the school. Then they were divided into three groups and took a tour of the school with Czech students being the tour guides. After the tour everybody gathered in the Biology classroom for the Earth and Geography presentations. Later the whole group socialized during Icebreaking activities, making a project symbol from the ceramics and rock climbing.

Tuesday was the only School Trip Day. The participants took a bus to Pec pod Sněžkou in the Giant Mountains, then a cable car to a stop at Růžohorky from where they walked to the summit of Sněžka, the highest mountain in the Czech Republic. Along the way they observed geomorphological phenomena and fauna and flora of the mountains. They descended via Obří důl which was announced as one of the seven wonders of the Giant Mountains for its beauty and uniqueness. The participants gathered materials for future presentations and also worked on the tasks given on worksheets.



On Wednesday morning everybody gathered in PC classroom to work on presentations based on materials and experience from the previous day. Then the international groups presented their work in Biology classroom. After a short break the participants walked to the train station to go to Adršpach Rock Town which is an unusual set of sandstone formations covering 17 km² in North-eastern Bohemia. The rocks have been protected as a national natural reserve since 1933, and since 1991 the whole adjacent region of Broumovsko has enjoyed the status of protected landscape area. The group took a tour through the Rock Town to see the most significant rock formations.

On Thursday the project participants worked with soil samples using PASCO (technology-based solutions for hands-on science that provides educators worldwide with innovative technology and solutions for teaching science and full support of those solutions in schools). They made presentations about their results. Everybody also gave final touches to their ceramics products so that they could have been put to the furnace. After lunch the group played Earth Week Games and Challenges.

Friday started with short presentations about Earth and history that were prepared by each country. Then the participants left by bus to visit Hospital Kuks which is a unique monument of central European town-planning, architecture and statuary art, originally comprising a spa, a chateau, a

hospital, a theatre, ecclesiastical edifices and sets of High Baroque statuary. The only remaining remembrance of the old glory and monumentality is the still standing Hospital of Merciful Brethren, surrounded by masterpieces of European art - Braun's sculptures of Virtues and Vices and also newly renovated herb garden. After returning from the trip the participants evaluated their stay in Trutnov then they were dismissed to meet in late afternoon for a bowling match and farewell dinner.



STUDENTS OPINIONS

by Students

05

The Erasmus+ project is an amazing kind of project that allows us, students, to interact with other countries and get to know their culture.

I have been in two positions in an Erasmus project: receiving the other students involved and going to others countries. The first one, about receiving other students and showing them my country, is really cool because you can show them your own country the one that you are proud of to being a part of it, and you have the opportunity to show them the best of your culture. The second one is the most awesome part because you have the chance to travel to countries with very different habits and culture; we also have the chance to interact with other students in person and to create a strong friendship.

In my opinion this project's all about getting to know another countries, their culture and interact with other students.

The most fun part for me was visiting the places with all the amazing friends that we made during the trip.

Rita, Santarém, Portugal



Our trip to Portugal was awesome, we enjoyed working together with other students and were happy to visit many interesting places. We looked forward to living in a family because we wanted to see how Portuguese people live but we couldn't which was sad. But we had fun anyway.

Silvie, Trutnov, Czech Republic

Before the exchange I liked the preparation for the week, like preparing for the presentation and flipping the classroom. We had a lot of fun with the other Dutch students and teachers in the apartment and at school we got to work with Italian, Czech and Portuguese students which was very funny and interesting. I liked the excursion and I also liked the theme of the week "water".

Niels, Eindhoven, Netherlands

I liked this experience so much because we did so much activities and we made fantastic school trips. I made friends and visited Trutnov. I liked all but the best thing we did was going to Sneska.

Arianna, Bagheria, Italy



I enjoyed a lot when the students from other countries came to our school and showed us a little more of their History and culture. I already knew Portugal was a very cultural country so I was happy to see the other's culture as well because it was different from ours.

The other students interacted with us pretty well so it became easier to get to know them and their personalities. I was glad to hear them saying that they were enjoying because Portugal is definitely a small country but is a beautiful one indeed! I made some great friends, we still talk and I really like them.

The mobility was amazing! I loved the whole week!

Rodrigo, Santarém, Portugal



I really liked the excursions and program at our school. I was glad I could host a Dutch student because I learnt something about Holland. I learn things about other countries, too. It was a great experience.

Tobiáš, Trutnov, Czech Republic

Even though we had to get up really, really early for the flights to and from Trutnov, I loved to fly. I also liked staying in a family, because I learned about the culture and they had really good food. The activities of the project were great, and I also liked to visit the nature in the Czech Republic especially Rock Town. I learned new things about Earth. Hopefully this project will continue for a long time and I hope to see the other students in the Netherlands soon.

Victor, Eindhoven, Netherlands



We had fun when we made the projects about the water. I was very interested because I learned new important things. Our school trips were very fantastic. We visited the salt museum, and the carsic caves. I learned new words in four different languages and I made new friends, it was funny. This Portuguese experience was very cool and I will remember it forever.

Giuseppe, Bagheria, Italy



visit our website

www.erasmus4elements.eu

