



Lifelong Learning Programme



Education and Culture DG



Multilateral Comenius Partnership – 2010/2012
Project - “Class in the nature, nature in the classroom“
Report on the *Comenius* Partnership Project Meeting
September 26th to 30th – Vidigueira, Portugal

The first meeting of the project took place in Vidigueira – Portugal - there were no students, and the partners were:

- Bulgaria – 4 teachers
- Italy – 3 teachers
- Latvia – 2 teachers
- Portugal – 2 teachers
- Spain – 3 teachers
- Slovakia – 2 teachers
- Turkey – 2 teachers

26th September 2010 (Sunday)

Arriving day

Meeting all participants at Lisbon airport at 20.30

Travel to Vidigueira and accommodation at the hotel

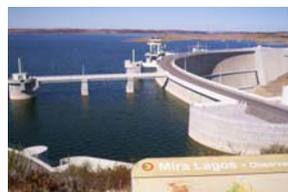
27th September 2010 (Monday)

At 9 a.m. we all met at school and there was a reception to the group. At 9.30 a.m. there was an assembly welcome and then we all started working by presenting the powerpoints of each country. The presentations showed us each country, its characteristics and culture, the school, its facilities, and students involved in the project. The aim of these presentations was let others know something about each country/partner, culture and major aspects for the project. At 10.30 a.m. we had a short break and then we went back to work – there was an ice-breaking game so we all could know each other better and share opinions and ideas. At 13.00 we had lunch at the

school canteen. After lunch there was a tour around town: we had a reception at the Town Hall, we visited the museum and all the old things which characterised Vidigueira. By the end of the day the whole group went on a walking tour in the countryside – we had the chance to see natural spots and some flora species.

28th September 2010 (Tuesday)

The group met at 8.30 a.m. at school and left to a trip to Évora – a Unesco world heritage city. We had a guided tour so we could visit the most important icons of the city – we visited the Cathedral, the Roman Temple, the main square “Praça do Geraldo”, and the church of “São Francisco” (Saint Francisco Church with its unique chapel made of human bones). At 12 we left Évora and drove to Amieira – a pleasant sight by the water. We had lunch at Amieira Marina Panoramic Restaurant and after lunch we went on a boat trip on the Great Lake – the biggest Portuguese dam (Alqueva Dam). It is the biggest artificial lake in Europe, and it is in the Guadiana River in the interior of the Alentejo near Alqueva village. The dam was built to water all the area around it because of the extreme summers and the lack of water as well as to produce energy and develop agriculture.



At 5 p.m. we went back to Vidigueira.

29th September 2010 (Wednesday)

The group arrived to school at 9.00 a.m. and went on a tour round the new school building. Then there was an exhibition of all logos done by the students. All the groups took a look and decided which one would be the logo for the project. After that we got together to share and discussing ideas for the project to be developed in the next stage; planning activities, setting calendar dates and the teachers’ meeting. After presenting some ideas the group decided the following:

- Each hosting partner will have to write a project meeting protocol describing all the ideas and work for the Project;
- The Portuguese partner will send to other partners some pictures and information on the big lake and on fauna and flora as well;
- Italy will create a website and will give us all a password (in October) so we can put all the information we have on the different stages of the project;
- The website created by Italy must have a nice design and easy access to all partners so each agency and all other interested persons can also have easy access to all the material;
- Portugal will have to send some information to Italy about the big lake: fauna and flora species, beauty, importance of the lake to the region;
- All the groups have to decide together how will the material be used: as a book, a diary or a journal;
- It is important to get together, as much as possible, with our partners/teachers at each school involved in the project and decided how we will work on it;
- All partners took a careful look at the plan of activities already done and decided what could be done accordingly;
- December was set as the time for the first internal evaluation of the project;
- In May there is “The day of Europe” we must do something to celebrate this festivity (Portugal will decided what to do and will send an email to Latvia to add to the map, as soon as possible);
- The group decided to calendar for the next meetings:

January – Latvia 23rd to 27th and May – Spain 8th to 12th

- In June there will be an evaluation of the first year of the project – Latvia asked about the type of formulary we should use: will it be the same to all partners or not? Latvia suggested us all to think about it and take suggestions about it by the time we will meet again);
- Latvia asked the partners about taking children with us to the meetings. All partners said that the number of students they could take would depend on/change according to the conditions for accommodation;
- Considering that the students involved in the project are very young, all the partners decided that the minimum age of students to be taken with us would be 12 years old;

- The accommodation can be either in hostels, hotels or in families, depending on the possibilities of each country by the time we all get together again;
- After discussing the item and voting, the result was the following, as far as taking children and accommodation is concerned:

Country	Accommodation for students
Spain	16
Latvia	8
Slovakia	16
Turkey	16
Italy	2
Bulgaria	4

- All partners voted for the option of taking students with us to all meetings except to the last one in Bulgaria;
- By January Italy will have the website ready to put all the materials including the presentations of our first meeting in Portugal;
- It was mentioned that it would be important to take someone to the next meeting who knows about computing.
- Latvia will send us all a sample of a Diary Report so we can write down all the activities we will be doing during the project.

After the meeting the countries went on a visit to

30th September 2010 (Thursday)

Departures:

4.00 a.m. – Bulgaria and Slovakia

9.00 a.m. – Spain, Italy, Latvia and Turkey