



Erasmus+

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REPORT ON THE 2nd SHORT TERM STUDENT EXCHANGE MEETING IN TURKEY 21–25 October, 2019

The European Erasmus+ Project
Effective Communication – Communication Skills
2018-1-CZ01-KA229-048217
Strategic Partnership for Schools



The EU



Portugal



Czech Republic



Bulgaria



Turkey



Italy

TOPIC: BARRIERS TO COMMUNICATION

VENUE OF THE MEETING: Ardeşen Şehit Ömer Halisdemir Fen Lisesi,
Fırtına Mah. Yıldırım Beyazıt, Ardesen/Rize,
Turkey.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- 1) Škola mezinárodních a veřejných vztahů Praha, Michelská 12, Praha 4,
Czech Republic.
- 2) Acad. Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov, Secondary School, Bulharia Street 18,
Botevgrad, **Bulgaria.**
- 3) Agrupamento de Escolas Dr. Ferreira da Silva, Cucujães, **Portugal.**

The following points were discussed and agreed upon by the partners at our last meeting in Portugal as part of the **preparation for the Turkish meeting**

- 1) Mobility in **Turkey** will take place from **21.10. to 25.10.2019** (+2 days for travelling)
- 2) Students from each country will create/prepare presentations designed to be completed in a total of 60 minutes on the topics: **BARRIERS TO COMMUNICATION**
- 3) Students from each country will also prepare presentations on: **“MY COUNTRY“** – Characteristics of National Economy, Export & Import, Typical products, GDP, etc.
- 4) Students from **TURKEY & The CZECH REPUBLIC** will have to prepare 1 presentation each on **“Communication for Understanding”**.
- 5) The above topics related to Communication and Economics will take place on the 1st and 2nd of the meeting.
- 6) The Turkish partners will prepare their own programme on the 3rd and 4th day of the meeting - sightseeing's, trips exploring the country, etc.
- 7) On the last day of the meeting, there will be games activities and a **SWOT** analysis will be realized in the form of a round table meeting, which will be moderated by the Turkish School. Each School will prepare their own SWOT analysis documents during the meeting.
- 8) During the meeting in Turkey, the following tasks will be carried out:
 - a) Creating **Common Song** for the project (Turkish school is responsible for creating it)
 - b) **Time Capsules Box** (messages, ideas, wishes, etc.), which students will put into this box and it will become part of the messages for the future.
 - c) **E-Twinning page** and the **Facebook group**.
- 9) The meeting in Turkey must discuss the content of one of the project outputs: **DVD**
- 10) The Portuguese School will prepare this **E-booklet** and send it to all partners. This will form part of the interim report which will be submitted at our National Agencies.
- 11) Each participating school shall inform its National Agency about the change of date of the meeting in Turkey (if it is the responsibility towards their NA).
- 12) Each partner school promotes the project on its school website, contributes to the FB project (both Official and Italian Alessandro version), asks the Czech Coordinator for joining e-twinning (found under the project name).
- 13) All partner schools will send all the materials they have presented at the 1st Students Exchange meeting in Portugal to the Czech Coordinators as soon as possible.

PROJECT & THE MAIN OBJECTIVES

Erasmus+ is the European Union programme which supports projects, partnerships, events and mobility in the areas of education, training, youth and sport. The programme, which runs from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of almost EUR 16,5 billion provides funding opportunities for cooperation in all these areas, both among European countries and between European countries and Partner countries throughout the world. It offers a number of opportunities for higher education students, doctoral candidates, staff and higher education institutions from around the world.

This project unites five Schools from **Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Italy, Portugal and Turkey** under the banner of **Effective Communication – Communication Skills**. The project was created to facilitate student's needs, with a view to preparing them to become citizens of a United Europe. In today's hectic world, we rely heavily on the sharing of information, resulting in greater emphasis being placed on having good communication skills. At its simplest, communication is any exchange of information between two entities. It can be observed to take place at the cellular level between microorganisms, and on a larger scale between members of a herd evading a predator. As modern humans living in a busy world, we rely on good communication every day to make our way through life. Every interaction we have with another person, from a raised eyebrow in a busy checkout lane, to an obscene gesture at another motorist in traffic, to the simple wave to your family as you pull out of the driveway in the morning, is a form of communication. Today, communication has gone from individual levels of conversing to mass communication. The most important aspects of communication are best understood when there is a lack of it. In the meeting, the main theme of the topic was: **"Barriers to Communication"**.

The following points were the **main objectives**:

- short-term exchange of groups of pupils and to prepare them to become citizens of a United Europe and consolidate European Identity in a spirit of respect for human rights;
- to raise awareness of the importance of dialogue and communication in order to understand each other and be able to work together without distinction because of race, social status, educational levels or any other disadvantage;
- to strengthen self-confidence and self-awareness of young European citizens;
- various presentation and discussions;
- presentations and discussion on Barriers to Communication.
A communication barrier may limit or reduce the ease at which we communicate and hence the name barrier. Although the barriers to effective communication may be different for different situations, here are some of the most important barriers, just to name a few: Linguistic Barriers, Psychological Barriers, Emotional Barriers, Organizational Structure Barriers, Physical Barriers, Cultural Barriers, Physiological Barriers, etc.;
- activities such as – common song, Kahoot, writing messages, games, quizzes, problem solving tasks, group activities, artistic moments, intercultural activities, etc. helping participants to realize how they currently express themselves and the importance of accuracy and clarity when communicating;
- Website implementation and updating;
- Social media updates and network building;

DETAILS OF THE MEETING

The 2nd Short Term Student Exchange meeting within the Erasmus+ project was hosted by Ardeşen Sehit Ömer Halisdemir, Science High School in **Ardeşen**. It is a town and district of Rize Province in the Black Sea region of Turkey, 48 km along the coast road from the city of Rize. The province is home to Laz, Hemshin, Turkish, Georgian and other communities. Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan spent his early childhood in Rize, where his father was a member of the Turkish Coast Guard.

All schools before the start of the meeting organized various activities at their schools and prepared their students well for the meeting. The main theme of the conference was **"Barriers to Communication"**.

Monday 21st October, the official meeting and opening ceremony began at 9:00 at the Auditorium of the school where the Turkish School Principal Mr Omer BEYAZAL, and on behalf of the Coordinator School, Mr H. Khan warmly welcomed the guests with their welcoming speeches - emphasising the importance of Erasmus+ project, about the different culture and places we come from and speaking different languages but our hearts beat as one, and wishing all the participants a lot of success with their project work and a pleasant week stay. Afterwards, accompanied by the Principal and teachers, all of us had a guided tour around the school where we learnt about the history, curriculum, mission and challenges of the school and tasted some Traditional Turkish snacks.

After the break, there was a detailed presentation by the Turkish Team (**"Turkey A Short Overview"**) about the History, Geography, Economy, Culture, Turkish War for Independence, Food and Drink, etc. This was followed by two presentations on **"Communication for Understanding"** (Czech and Turkish Teams). The main theme behind this topic was that many people struggle to communicate effectively – verbally and in writing. They impart thoughts and ideas that don't reflect their intended meaning, and that their recipients misinterpret or misunderstand. This can result in confusion, frustration, wasted effort, and missed opportunities. Communication breaks down, causing collaboration and progress to become impossible. So for Communication to be understood, it is important that both the parties sending the message and the other receiving it understand the key messages being put across. It was a good practical experience for all the students to work together in pairs and teams, share and exchange ideas, building skills and self-awareness and improving their English language as well as Communication skills. Teachers also had a short meeting and discussed the outline of the meeting.

In the afternoon, after the lunch break, all of us went on a trip to see Two Historical Mosques. The mosque is the heart of cultural significance for Muslims, from Indonesia to the United Kingdom, the mosque in its many forms is the quintessential Islamic building. The mosque, masjid in Arabic, is the Muslim gathering place for prayer. Though most of the five daily prayers prescribed in Islam can take place anywhere, all men are required to gather together at the mosque for the Friday noon prayer. Mosques are also used throughout the week for prayer, study, or simply as a place for rest and reflection. The style, layout, and decoration of a mosque can tell us a lot about Islam in general, but also about the period and region in which the mosque was constructed. Out of the two mosques that we visited, **ĞSESLIKAYA VILLAGE MOSQUE**, was historically older – built in 180, with a masonry construction system and sawn stones and rubble were used as material. The building has a square ground plan and consists of a ground floor and a normal floor. The building has a single entrance from the north. On the right and left side of the entrance are Ottoman inscriptions. During our trip, we also had the opportunity of seeing the beautiful nature and landscape.

Returning back to school all of us departed. Portuguese students went to host families and teachers from Bulgaria and the Czech Republic, with their students to hotel. In the evening teachers had a formal dinner together at the Hotel.

Tuesday 22nd October, All the students and teachers gathered in the School Auditorium and students started with their presentations. The **Turkish students** had presentations on: Effective Communication, Communication and its Barriers, Barriers To Communication; After the coffee break, the **Czech students**, presented on the topics: Communication Barriers + a video film, Barriers to Communication and Business and Economy of the Czech Republic. The **Bulgarian students** had presentations on: Export-Import of Bulgaria, Cultural Barriers, Communication Barriers, while the **Portuguese students** collectively started with an interaction about Barriers to communication. Then they showed us a short video on the theme and talked about the barriers and solutions that the video showed and finally, played a game with other students.

In all the above presentations, students tried to put emphasis on Communication and its Barriers. Communication means sharing meaning. With no sharing, there is no communication. To communicate successfully in a team or with others, at work or in the community, we have to understand the communication environment and the barriers which prevent messages being sent and received successfully. A communication barrier is anything that prevents us from receiving and understanding the messages others use to convey their information, ideas and thoughts. A common cause of communication breakdown in a workplace situation is people holding different attitudes, values and discrimination. Valuing people who are different allows us to draw on a broader range of insights, ideas, experience and knowledge. The behaviours like bias, generalizations and stereotyping can cause communication barriers. All the presentations were very well prepared and showed the abilities of our students to work in international projects, of course some presentations were a bit slaking!

The Turkish students love music and singing. Their team, according to our project, prepared and created a **"COMMON SONG"** which was then sung by all the students. The title of the song is **"HAPPY"**. Here are the first four lines of the text:

*We´re far from our houses
But also we´re are in our new houses
We have friends now from Erasmus
Tell me What´s your name and give some embraces*

This experience helped not only in achieving one of the projects tasks, but it was also a great contribution to the project.

After having worked till 12:30, we went for lunch at Şelale Restaurant at the Black sea coast. The location is good, restaurant was clean and there was a small water fall with a beautiful view from saloon. The food was delicious as well. Last but not the least, was an unforgettable tea and coffee pleasure by the Black sea!

Wednesday 23rd October, all the teachers and students were picked up from the hotel and transported to school. The first item on the agenda was to discuss and prepare a programme about the 3rd Short term student exchange **meeting in Bulgaria**, which will take place from 21 – 25 October, 2019. The topic "Digital Communication" and other tasks as well as the dates for the Bulgarian meeting had already been unanimously approved earlier. Full details of the programme are given separately in this report. Later all of us visited the **TÜBİTAK Science Exhibition at School**, prepared by the students, which was officially inaugurated by the city Governor and local delegates. Science fair is an exciting opportunity for students to do research, design some experiment, display some models, etc., and I think it was a very well prepared student´s activity, who are interested in

science and technology. To me it arouses interest in students in the study of science to develop faith in modern technology and adopt scientific outlook in life.

At around 11:00, we departed for a visit to **Ayder Upland** (With "Tulum": A Traditional/Regional Musical Instrument). Ayder Upland is nearly 69 km to Rize and only 19 km to Çamlıhemşin. It has very clean air and wonderful nature. Its being covered with spruce and fagus trees increases its visiting rate. It was accepted as a tourism centre in 1987 and national park in 1994. This enabled it to preserve its nature up until today. This amazingly beautiful tourism region is also famous with its thermal springs. We admired the beautiful nature, the fresh air, the simplicity of the place, We stopped for the swings, it was great fun. Some students and teachers tried it and I am sure they really enjoyed it.

After a nice lunch at a nice restaurant in nature, we moved to visit the historical **Zilkale Castle**. It is a medieval castle located in the Firtına Valley, and is one of the most important historical structures in Çamlıhemşin district of Rize Province in the Black Sea Region of Turkey. The castle is built at an altitude of 1,130 m, and sits at the edge of a cliff overlooking the Firtına Creek. It is believed to have been built in the 13th century by the breakaway Byzantine Comnenian dynasty in Trabzon and then to have been rebuilt in the 16th century by the Ottomans as a checkpoint on the Silk Road, working in collaboration with Kale-i Bala even further up the valley. The road up to the castle, and then up to the waterfall, is beautiful in itself. The castle isn't large but it is in a beautiful valley, all green in one direction and with huge mountains behind the castle in the other. Main attraction is the beautiful nature, but still you can understand how old history and culture northern people have from castle. We spent a nice time there and took some beautiful photos. In the evening, students with their teachers spent a nice time together.

Thursday 24th October, we had a full day tour. First we travelled to visit "**Sumela Monastery**". It was founded by Greeks in the 4th century and is one of the largest and most impressive Orthodox Byzantine complex located at a 1200 meters height on the steep cliff at Macka region of Trabzon city in Turkey. The monastery was looted and burnt by the Byzantines in AD 650. However the Comnenids restored and enlarged the monastery. The monastery with its 72 rooms and a rich library, lived its most flourishing time during the period of Alexios III & Michael I. It is a major tourist attraction and was included in UNESCO's temporary list of World Heritage sites in 2000. Unfortunately because of on-going restoration work, we were not able to go inside which was a bit of disappointment for all of us. But we liked the scenery and landscape of the region. We then had a Lunch break, went shopping at "**Forum Trabzon**" (A Shopping Mall) and returned back to our hotel in Ardeşen.

In the evening, all the students, teachers and host families parents were invited to an **International night farewell dinner** hosted by the Turkish partners at Rubix, a very nice restaurant. Many Turkish teachers, the School Principal, the city Governor, Mr. Ufuk Özen ALİBEYOĞLU, District National Education Director Ali Reşat YAZAR, together with some other guests attended the dinner. The evening was quite entertaining and lively; we enjoyed typical Turkish cuisine, tea, coffee, deserts, music and dances. The guests expressed their satisfaction with their visit and appreciated the country, culture, nature and hospitality. All the participant, in the end also received the **Certificates of Attendance**. It was a long hectic day but very well spent with good friends.

Friday 25th October, in the morning all the teachers were picked up at the hotel and transported to school. All Students then had a Quiz game, **Kahoot**, on Turkish History,

Geography and Culture. Kahoot quiz is a series of questions with between two to four multiple-choice answers to choose from which can be answered on mobile devices, laptops

and desktops. The gameplay is simple; all players connect using a generated game PIN shown on the common screen, and use a device to answer questions created by a teacher, or other person. These questions can be changed to award points. Points then show up on the leader board after each question. All the students actively took part in it.

After the Coffee break students actively took part in a Scientific Game prepared by the Turkish Physics Teacher Mr. Cihat Unsur. It wasn't that easy, but students, who took part enjoyed it. Later all the teachers and students assembled in a classroom to make a **SWOT** analysis of the project. It is an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats within the framework for identifying and analyzing the internal and external factors that can have an impact on the viability of the project. While it's typically used for strategic planning in business settings, it can also be used in goal setting to help you identify goals that will give you the most benefit in future. It was first done collectively by all the students in groups, then a final analysis and a table was prepared which was approved by everyone.

Later students continued with the **Time Capsules Box**, where they put messages, ideas, wishes, etc., regarding our project. This message box will be further used in Bulgaria and Turkey, where it will be broken and open and a final message table will be prepared. Good experience for our students!

The teachers in their meeting agreed to continue spreading information about the project and its results as well as sharing of pictures, video clips, questionnaires, evaluation forms and other project elements. Some teachers have been asked by the Czech Coordinator to join the e-Twinning platform. We are half-way on our project and so discussed the main points of our project that have we done so far. It was decided to propagate our Erasmus+ project to the beneficiaries and mini-conferences for interested parties will also be organized. The active participation of all participants is ensured through searching, presentation and preparation of new ideas, consistent with the assessment criteria.

In the afternoon we had a very nice lunch at a restaurant which serves traditional/regional food. As usual we all enjoyed it. Back to school, after lunch, there was **Regional Folk Dance with "Tulum" (Bagpipe)**. The Tulum is used in Trabzon, Rize, Erzurum and Kars, and in the northern and central regions of Anatolia, as well as in the Thracian region, where the Tulum made from lamb and goat skin is called 'Gayda.' It is the characteristic instrument and imposes its style on all the dance and entertainment music of those for whom it is "our music". It was very well played by a school girl and a lot of students learned the Turkish dance on it.

This was our last working day and we had to leave the school and go back to our hotel. Erasmus+ project is wonderful, but it also has a difficult side: it is the part of saying goodbye to your friends and colleagues, particularly for the young students. Leaving your new friends behind and coming back to reality is a difficult step for all international students. But we promised to remain in touch and to meet some of them in other projects meeting in future!

NEXT MEETING IN BULGARIA

Mobility in Bulgaria will take place from **25.11. to 29.11.2019** (+2 days for travelling)

During the meeting in Bulgaria, the following tasks will be carried out:

- 1) Students from each country will create/prepare presentations designed to be completed in a total of 60 minutes on the topics: **"DIGITAL COMMUNICATION"**
- 2) Students from each country will also prepare presentations on:
"UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN MY COUNTRY"
- 3) Students from **BULGARIA + PORTUGAL** will prepare presentations on:
"COMMUNICATION FOR UNDERSTANDING".
- 4) The above topics related to UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN MY COUNTRY will take place on the 1st or 2nd day of the meeting.
- 5) The Bulgarian partners will prepare their own programme for the 3rd and 4th day of the meeting – sightseeing's, trips to various places, exploring the country, etc.
- 6) Students from each country will prepare a **DIGITAL STORY** (12 - 15 min.). This digital story can be about anything using digital technology – (video recorder, camera, mobile phone, etc.)
- 7) **List of Vocabulary** – students will write these vocabularies during presentations And will create their own dictionary which will be translated into all project languages.
- 8) The Bulgarian team is responsible to create **"Bookmarks"**.
- 9) An **"E-report"** about the meeting will be prepared by the Bulgarian team – mid Jan. 2020.
- 10) On the last day of the meeting, there will be games activities and a **SWOT** analysis will be realized in the form of a round table meeting, which will be moderated by the Bulgarian School. All students will prepare their own SWOT analysis documents during the meeting.
- 11) **Time Capsule Messages Box.** (students on the last day will write short messages about our project).
- 11) All partner schools will send all the materials they presented at the C4 – Short-term exchange of groups of pupils meeting in Bulgaria to the Czech Coordinators as soon as possible.
- 12) Each partner school promotes the project on its school website, contributes to the FB project (both Official and Italian Alessandro version), send the Czech Coordinator materials for uploading on the e-twinning platform.

CONCLUSION AND ANALYSIS OF THE MEETING

During the 2nd Short Term Student Exchange Erasmus+ Project meeting in Turkey, all the participants were actively involved in all the activities proposed by the coordinator and the host team.

All the details regarding the project were discussed and the project coordinator facilitated communication amongst the partners. The relaxed atmosphere created a trust climate that enabled all partners to ask questions and share all aspects of the project and its implementation. The coordinator and participants mutually clarified all the reported problems. Partners worked efficiently and elaborated all the necessary documents and evaluation tools, planned all activities and easily agreed on the next time scheduled meetings in Bulgaria. The partners also agreed to send their contributions to the main Coordinator as soon as possible

Many thanks to the host school for organizing a very well planned meeting. They did everything to make all the partners feel at home. Everyone appreciated their warmth, kindness and particularly the hospitality. The whole week was a great experience and passed away smoothly. As stated above, the next meeting will take place in Botevgrad, Bulgaria, 25 – 29 November 2019.







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