

TEACHING INNOVATIVELY: WITH FOCUS ON ICT

The final report of the Italians.

The Comenius planning proposal for the years 2011/2013 has come to an end with the last stage in Romania. A store of experiences and emotions has characterized the meetings in various European countries.

Turkey, Spain, Poland, Bulgaria, Sweden, Romania, Italy: geographically far-away countries, but by now emotionally present in our minds and in our hearts. We savour again the tastes of every place, we smell again scents, we see again smiles, welcome, hospitality.

From Ankara, crossroads of peoples, to Stockholm's magic atmosphere; from the warm Villanueva De La Torre to the cold, but enchanting Cyeszin; from Gorna to Bucarest and to Mottola, innovative teaching and its coming into contact with the quality of education has been round Europe, being enriched by experiences, thanks to teachers and students' contribution. Every country, every school, together with students' families has offered moments of cultural and human growth, without losing sight of the main purpose: forming and preparing minds capable of building and handling the future. In a globalized society the Comenius planning proposal is highly formative, spreading information, interests, knowledge through the English language, the language which has the power of joining far-off and varied peoples.

The role of Romania, leader of the countries, was admirable, with the great guide of Iulia Manicea, who was able to translate the spirit of the project into effective competences. The website represents the common thread, the guide which oriented the choices of the partners in each country. Competence, seriousness, strong sense of duty and responsibility were common denominators to teachers and students. Each country has interiorized the message of the project "Teaching innovatively: with focus on ICT" offering concrete answers in using new technologies at school in every subject.

Each institute stressed the peculiarities about the explication of each activity. From Physics, to Mathematics, Science, Italian, each group of students showed their own cultural wealth in an interchange which has brought to a cultural and human enrichment. We have been able to demolish the barriers of prejudice and of distance.

IN confirmation of what we thought, we relate what students felt since the beginning of the project in which they strongly believed due to their active role. According to them the experience of Comenius is something they surely will not easily forget.

Everything started when we prospected them the possibility of hosting foreign students from the countries of the partnership.

After months of hard work, in march 2012, 25 students filled the lecture hall of our school where we organized a wonderful opening ceremony. They soon understood the importance of communicating with them using a language which is not ours: English. Through it they managed to fill the gap between our culture and theirs. Inch by inch they have been able to delete the distance and to start a never-ending friendship. Everything was kept alive by technologies, the main theme of the project, as well as by the use of social networks such like Facebook. This project has made us aware of the importance of the relationships out of the borders of our Country, participants are now like siblings with whom they can talk about everything.

Our memory brings us back to the first meeting.

In Ankara, the call of muezzin, threw us into the oriental culture in a triumph of colours and tastes together with the silent mystery of the mosques. Stockholm, with its multi-ethnic culture, gave us unforgettable experiences for the elegance of the places, for the kindness and for the competence of colleagues, for the cultural vivacity. The emotion felt in Auschwitz let us closely see one of the most impressive tragedies of history.

Who could forget the Spanish families' hospitality, the headmaster who guided us along cathedrals, museums, palaces, savouring paella and sangria? But the strongest emotion has been experienced while arranging to welcome the whole group in our town. A lively participation involved teachers and pupils: the entire institute joyfully dedicated itself to the success of the project. Alberobello, Bari, Taranto, were significant parts of our tour and the tranquillity of "Casa Isabella" together with a tasting itinerary among typical dishes (Pizza and Mozzarella), reinforced the friendship and sowed the seed of new initiatives. Every moment was characterized by the great enthusiasm of students who contended the victory, showing their works with a spirit of genuine competition. As a great family, all of us have learnt a new language: the language of love.

Simply thanks to Iulia, Ebru, Helena, Inaki, Graszyna, Polina, _These_ are only some of the names, but the thought is addressed to everyone. We will remember forever the faces, laughs, smiles, hugs of this high and unforgettable educational moment.