



Unesco Heritage. Erasmus + 2014-2016

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Learning-Teaching-Training Activities Report.

Code of activities according to the project's Gantt chart: C7, C8

-Learning session Castelnuovo ne Monti. Reggio Emiliano. Italy. 10 - 16 May 2015

Preface

This short report is a summary of the Greek participants' evaluation of the Learning, Teaching, Training Activities that took place in Castelnuovo ne Monti, Italy. The base of the following summary is: a questionnaire administered to the direct participants almost 2 weeks after their return, their informal feedback, observation of reactions and their personal thoughts in retrospect.

Students were aged between 13 to 14 years old, living in the urban area of the city of Heraklion. The teachers have between 20-25 years of didactic experience .The school (6th Gymnasio of Heraklion) is a lower secondary education school in the city center with approximately 450 students)

None of the participants had been involved in a European project before and they were from the beginning attracted to the idea of participating to a multicultural learning activity with many benefits and the chance to acquire knowledge and experience that could not have been obtained within the school curriculum.

Results in some detail, according to the structure of the questionnaire.

- Quality of the event
The event was found to be of very good quality. The participants were satisfied with the opportunity to offer input and share roles and responsibilities during the activities. They felt part of a multinational group working collaboratively on a theme oriented project. They also welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the development of a positive attitude towards cultural diversity by sharing information about their country.
- Structure, content and delivery of the event.
There was very good evidence of clear planning and realistic timescales with diverse plausible activities, appropriately related to the aims of the event. The mixture of the activities, ranging from icebreaking activities to information-giving and role sharing during workshops was much appreciated. There was a high degree of satisfaction with the effectiveness of the delivery by

workshop leaders and the on going assistance provided. The participants felt appreciated and welcomed to contribute their own expertise during activities.

- Materials, resources, equipment.

Provision and suitability of materials, resources and equipment was found to be very good and well organized.

- Quality of Domestic Arrangements.

There was attention paid to practical details and catering arrangements, very good suitability of the working venue and the participants were very pleased with the arrangements and the quality of accommodation.

- Aim of the educational activities

Participants reported that the educational activities and the event as a whole gave them the opportunity to increase knowledge, language and communication skills and increase their self esteem. They greatly appreciated their being exposed to a multicultural, diverse learning environment that consolidated their appreciation for their own and other cultural heritages and most importantly instill a new appreciation for experiential learning within the framework of a European programme.

Rates in more detail.

PART 1- QUALITY OF THE EVENT

		1.Poor	2.Good	3.Very Good	4. Excellent
Input into the event by the project beneficiaries	extent to which each participant contributed to the event		2	4	
	evidence of participants sharing roles and responsibilities during the event or as part of the overall project		2	3	1
Link between the aims of the event and the main aims of the project.	mutual understanding amongst participants about project and event rationale and the short-term/long-term objectives of the event and the project		1	3	2
	clear evidence in the event programme of relevance with the main project			5	1
Development of positive attitudes towards European cultural identity.	opportunities for the development of positive attitudes towards Europe and cultural diversity			2	4
	extent and quality of the intercultural dimension of the shared activities			2	4
	extent of the opportunity for participants to share relevant information about their own countries			2	4

PART 2- STRUCTURE, CONTENT AND DELIVERY OF THE EVENT

		1.Poor	2.Good	3.Very Good	4.Excellent
Organization of the event	evidence of clear planning			5	1
	realistic timescales			5	1
	appropriate selection of delegates			3	3
	Completion of activities			2	4
Effectiveness of content and appropriate range and balance of activities	appropriate content, clearly related to the aims/objectives of the event		2	1	3
	relevant mixture of activities: e.g. icebreaking activities, information-giving sessions, active participation in workshops by participants etc.		2	2	2
	appropriateness of social programme		1	4	1
Effectiveness of the delivery by trainers/workshop leaders etc.	trainers/leaders have the appropriate subject competence and knowledge		1	3	2
	trainers/leaders are good communicators, with the necessary language skills		1	3	2
	Evidence that trainers/leaders have the appropriate didactic experience for delivering training sessions		1	3	2
Effectiveness of shared ownership of the event	evidence that the needs and expectations of participants have been taken into account		1	3	2
	evidence that participants have the opportunity to contribute their own expertise		1	3	2
Effectiveness of the process of monitoring and evaluation of the activities	quality of the mechanism for monitoring, evaluation, feedback including postevent follow-up, if appropriate		2	2	2
	evidence of on-going assistance to participants.		1	1	4
Certificates	Participation certificate for every participant.				
	Mobility Document from Europass Portfolio for every participant.				

PART 3 - MATERIALS, RESOURCES, EQUIPMENT

Provision and suitability of materials, resources and equipment		1.Poor	2.Good	3.Very Good	4.Excellent
	evidence of appropriate prior information being issued to participants		1	3	2
	relevance and quality of materials issued during the event		2	3	1
	sufficiency, range and suitability of other resources, including, where appropriate, ICT		1	5	

	provision of support and assistance for technology users			6	
	extent to which technology and other resources are used effectively and innovatively			4	2

PART 4- QUALITY OF DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS

Quality and appropriateness of the domestic arrangements and the comfort factor		1.Poor	2.Good	3.Very Good	4.Excellent
	attention to practical details and catering arrangements			5	1
	suitability of working venue			5	1
	quality of accommodation		1	4	1
	evidence of any special requirements of participants being taken account of.		1	2	3

PART 6- AIM OF THE Educational ACTIVITIES. Please rate to what extent were the aims of the project (as they are described in the project proposal) reached during learning activities.

Aim was reached :	1.Not at all	2.To little extent	3.To some extent	4.To a good extent	5.To a great extent
To get acquainted to each other as a group or team in order to prepare further communication and cooperation.			2	4	
To increase knowledge and respect for world heritages.				5	1
To exchange experiences and disseminate good practices in heritage preservation.			1	5	
To provide the students with a sense of belonging to a European community with strong cultural identity through the knowledge of the Unesco World Heritage.			1	5	
To increase self-esteem and boost independent lifelong learning acquisition.				2	4
To provide the conditions for multicultural experiences that promote respect for social, linguistic and cultural diversity.				1	5

To consolidate a sense of European citizenship through cultural and linguistic exchange.				1	1	4
To develop communication skills through cooperative historical research.					4	2
To develop ICT skills through cooperative historical research.					3	3
To develop foreign language skills through cooperative historical research.					3	3
To develop data processing and linguistic skills by giving students hands-on experience on planning and organizing a common project.					3	3
To establish a positive attitude towards school education.				1	2	3
To develop Entrepreneurial competences (ex.initiative, systematic planning, critical thinking, creativity, problem solving, information management etc)				5	1	

Overall evaluation and Comments. (Coordinator's interpretations)

Overall, the event was found to be highly educational and beneficial to the students. Communication, collaboration and socializing in a multicultural setting are invaluable learning opportunities that provide educational benefits with lasting effect.

The presentation of the heritage site each country had chosen for the virtual puzzle was very informative and the research activity resulting in a student generated content that followed was very revealing of the educational potential of the resources that can be created within the framework of the programme. The teachers were very pleased to watch the students research, manage and present information to a multinational audience using English as a working language in real life situation. The students, took initiatives, practiced their skills and acquired new ones, strengthened their self-esteem with activities performed before an audience and cultivated the attitude of cooperation and tolerance.

The visit to Florence exposed the participants to live history. The role of the students as additional guides was much appreciated. The city itself was very revealing of the Italian cultural heritage, emitting a strong sense of historical and cultural significance. It was a very good example of experiential learning.

The visit to the Hydropower plant in Ligonchio (Tentative List for Unesco Man and Biosphere) offered an example of the balance achieved between conserving biological diversity while promoting cultural diversity and economic growth. The students were shown around the plant, conducted simple experiments with

water and powerful magnets and reported on the results in a common discussion. Participants reported that they greatly appreciated the efforts that are being made towards living and working in harmony with nature. They enjoyed the common discussion and would have welcomed even more time for asking questions.

Observing presentations on wildlife, flora and fauna of the area and then producing a synthetic report on knowledge gained in a creative way (by drawings, slogans, collages, poster) was also a highly educational and awareness raising activity.

The visit to Canossa, Rossena and the tower of Rossenella made a lasting impression on the participants as it highlighted the strongest point of the whole event (coordinators' point of view): the awareness of the need to preserve the notion of man travelling through history, forever interacting with nature, achieving sustainable balance. Both teachers and students noted that they were greatly impressed by the friendliness, simplicity and easy manner of the hosts and they both offered their close proximity to nature as an explanation for it.

The final workshop (creating pencil holder with collages of the monuments visited during the site visits) promoted the idea of entrepreneurship related to cultural heritage.

The activities ended with a walk through the most impressing viewpoints of the town of Castelnovo ne Monti. Quite a fitting choice for a learning activity that emphasized the powerful interaction and interdependence between man and nature.

The great hospitality offered and the sincere efforts made by the hosts to make the participants feel as welcomed as possible, was very much appreciated. In retrospect, the participants reported that their involvement in the event was also a lesson on transcending differences in origin, religion, language, socio-economic background and working collaboratively within a unifying context ,building bonds in the process.

The students also formed bonds with the hosting families and were looking forward to return their hospitality in September (Crete mobility). At the end they were really saddened, to bid farewell to their new friends.

Upon their return, they disseminated the positive impact of their experience to their family and peers and shared their experience and enthusiasm.

Some quotes by participants:

- "It is wonderful how we all worked together"
- "The activities were easy enough for all age groups"
- "I would have liked even more workshops, if we had time"
- "Some students are a bit more reserved than others about making friend from other countries. I wish there was more time"
- "I would have liked more art"
- " There was age difference between students"