



II NEWSLETTER

Comenius partnership project

SIROCCO

Building their tomorrows today!
SCHOOL YEAR 2012-2013

Information on activities

In 1994, UNESCO organized an international conference to consider the “fundamental policy shifts required to promote the approach of inclusive education, namely enabling schools to serve all children, particularly those with special educational needs. The Conference adopted the “Salamanca Statement on Principles, Policy and Practice in Special Needs Education and a Framework for Action, ”known by shorthand as the Salamanca Declaration, which was endorsed by 92 countries. According to the Declaration, inclusive education requires that: “... Schools should accommodate all children regardless of their physical, intellectual, social, emotional, linguistic or other conditions. This should include disabled and gifted children, street and working children, children from remote or nomadic populations, children from linguistic, ethnic or cultural minorities and children from other disadvantaged or marginalized areas or groups.”

Portugal

Professional School of Aveiro tried to put into practice all these assumptions so that we can in fact contribute to a society that is fairer and more inclusive. Thus, during the school year 2012/2013 there were several activities involving pupils with SEN from which we highlight the following:

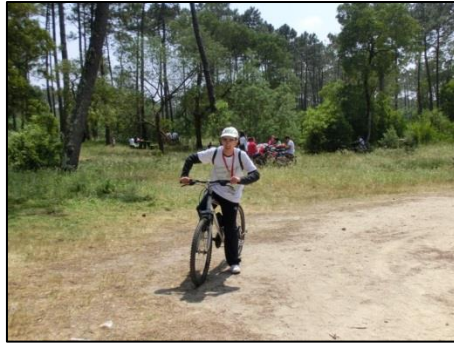
1. Integr'Art



2. "Building our Composter" - February 18, Location: CATEC
3. "We will build our Composter- last day: 28 February 2013



4. " Training on Composting" - February 26
5. "Peddy Papper-" - March 15
6. "SportEPA"-April 24
7. "Cycling Tour Eng Victor Matos" - April 26



8. TEDxAveiro - Inclusive Performance - May 15, University of Aveiro;
9. SIROCCO International meeting - May 17. CEO;
10. Celebration of World Environment Day - Composting Workshop - June 7
11. Participation in the national competition - **Alert School** -, sponsored by the National Institute for Rehabilitation of Portugal;
12. "Urban Mile" - June 14.
13. Preparation of a birthday cake





14. Open Day of Physics and Chemistry - experiment and see with our own eyes – June 28



During the second school year of this project, the students have been very much involved in preparing activities and role-plays for the E-Folio. They wrote them in Portuguese and in English.

We have also participated in all transnational project meetings, in the UK and in Estonia, with two teachers and two students in both places and in Italy with three teachers and two students.

We have also organized the last meeting, from 1 to 4 July, for the finalization of the outcomes and presentation of our seminar on special education.

This project has been very positive for all students and teachers involved.



MOVING ON: SECOND-YEAR ACTIVITIES IN ITALY

The second year was focused on the continuation of what was started last year, with workshops on social services, environmental care and education, information technology, drama, arts and music. The Comenius staff also worked on one of the main objectives pointed out by the project for the second year: combining inclusion practices with working experiences to prepare pupils for their professional life. For this reason, communication and social skills, problem solving and team work abilities had to be enhanced while *doing*. This need was fulfilled by volunteering, seen as a way to help pupils discover real-life contexts and get true work experiences.

The Comenius staff contacted several non lucrative organizations - first aid, clown therapy, environmental care, etc. - willing to hold training sessions for our students. The outcome of this experience was far more than positive as some of the pupils even decided to enroll and become volunteers.

A lesson on poaching during Legambiente's stage in Monte Arcosu WWF Oasis.

SIXTH MEETING**TALKING ABOUT THE RESULTS: THE SYMPOSIUM**

Held on 15th May in the crowded Assembly Hall of “Enrico Mattei” High School, the symposium was an opportunity for each school involved in *Sirocco, Building Their Tomorrows, Today!* to show the results achieved and draw the conclusions about this two-year experience. Portugal, Uk, Spain, Estonia, Turkey and Italy contributed to the meeting with a series of Power Point presentations and videos about the activities planned for the Comenius and the inclusive practices carried out in their institutions. Each of them also presented a “case study”: a student whose response to the project was particularly remarkable. Italy, in charge of the organization of the symposium, focused the attention on three case studies: three pupils whose benefits obtained were

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein

worth showing. Italy devoted some time to interviewing two students' mothers, to better understand the impact of the project activities and trips on both the pupils and their families, from an educational and social point of view. The conference was very moving as everybody could really feel the families' happiness and sense of gratitude for the school staff and the Comenius project as a whole. There was even time for entertainment with a touching performance by a group of students who sang and read about the beauty that lies in diversity.



Students performing the song *Beautiful*

Estonia

The necessity of Comenius project „Building their Tomorrow's, Today! SIROCCO

This project gave a bigger chance to involve students with learning difficulties and behavioural problems who are sometimes excluded from school activities. At our school there have been paid more attention on SEN students and have been held discussions about their problems because of the project. Some of our teachers have confessed honestly that they do not know how to manage with SEN students and there is lack of professional trainings. Our teachers were really happy when Bradfield's school head teacher Kim Johnson made the training at Sindi Gymnasium.

During the project meeting our teachers and students got a lot of new experience and knowledge and have shared their skills with colleagues. Project work has broaden students' and teaches' horizon and helped to improve skills to work with the SEN students. In our opinion, one of the strength of the project was that all partner schools were different and we had possibility to learn from each other.

In our society the number of SEN students is increasing and schools must support those students and help them to develop their talents.

Meeting in Estonia

From 4 to 8 March 2013 the meeting of Comenius Multilateral project “Building their Tomorrows, Today! SIROCCO was held in Estonia. Participants were from Portugal, Spain, Italy, Turkey, the UK and Estonia.

On the first day there was meeting at Sindi Gymnasium, introduction of school and welcome by our head teacher. All project teams introduced their schools, countries and project work that was prepared as homework. After lunch all quests visited Sindi’s Technical Centre and Town Hall where our mayor Marko Šorin gave an overview of Sindi.

On Tuesday all quests visited Pärnu’s History Museum and Magdaleena Gild where were prepared workshops for students (wood- and glass work).

On Wednesday was a trip to the capital of Estonia, Tallinn. During the trip we visited Astangu Rehabilitation Centre where was introduced educational system and living conditions of disabled people. The authorities of the centre gave an overview how they prepare disabled people for life and what kind of possibilities are here in Estonia. After that we visited Museum Port Lennusadam and the old town of Tallinn.

On Thursday morning was project meeting at Sindi Gymnasium. Work done so far and future plans were discussed. After lunch there was a trip to Tori, to horse breeding centre and was a walk along countryside. In the evening all quests took part in students’ activity “Playback”

Foreign students were in host families. Students took part in our school lessons. Visited Perona Bowling and did different activities at homes. Bradfield’s students stayed in host families first time and they liked that very much.

Estonian climate and lots of snow was attraction itself, some of the quests could walk on snow and frozen sea for the first time.

All participants said that meeting was nice and well organised.





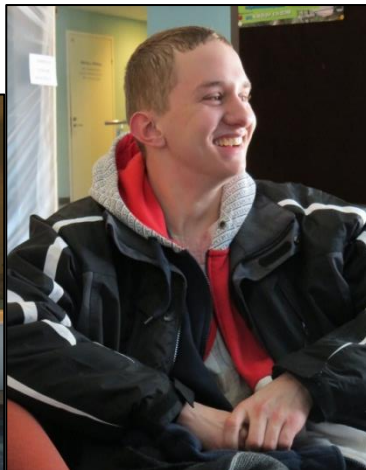
UK

My Trip to Estonia

My trip started on 2nd March from Bradfields School at 5.30am. We flew from Heathrow Airport to Frankfurt then onto Estonia. We landed at Tallin and got a bus to Sindi School where the host picked us up.

I stayed with Ailar, his brother and Mum and Dad. I went bowling and a couple of workshops. On the Monday it snowed and was -17oc, good job Mum had brought me a coat. I went to a water park and tried out the sauna. I went shopping and tried a local drink Kali. It was nice. I went to a museum and dressed like a soldier, so did Ailar. We looked very smart. The food was really good. We had Estonian Pizza for breakfast; we had bread, cheese and salad. My favourite part of the trip was the waterpark because it was really fun. I had a great time!





RobertBitton 11KA

My Wonderful Trip to Estonia

I started packing Friday and checked my suitcase on Saturday to make sure I had all my belongings. On Sunday morning I woke up at 3am. I was really excited even though I was nervous. I had a bath and breakfast and we left the house at half 4 and arrived at Bradfields at 5am. My Mum and Dad took me to Bradfields where I met Mr Johnson, Mrs Jenkins and Robert Bitton. My Mum and Dad were excited for me and encouraged me to enjoy the experience.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein

We got on a coach all together and travelled to Heathrow where Mr Johnson bought us all a bottle of coke. I loved flying and we arrived at Frankfurt at 11.45. We looked around the shops in Germany to kill some time before boarding our final plane. The second plane was bigger and longer which took us to Estonia. We did have to go through a lot of checks and security while travelling from one airport to another. When we were at one of the airports a funny incident happened to Mrs Jenkins who went through the wrong doors and got locked out of the airport and Mr Johnson had to rescue her.



When we arrived in Estonia we got a taxi to Mr Johnson's hotel where the host families picked me and Robert up. My host was called Madis who had one sister and two brothers. When I arrived at their house I looked around and I thought they had a really nice house. It was big and he had two bathrooms, one upstairs and one down, a shower room and even a sauna, although I wasn't allowed to use the sauna.



I had to still go to school while in Estonia but it was quite different to our school, Firstly their timetable was really spaced out- sometimes they only did two lessons in the morning and then they got to go home. The biggest shock was that the school had no disabled access. The building was 4 storeys high with no lift and all the classrooms were all upstairs- it was shocking. I also never saw a disabled person which I found this very strange as I am normally surrounded by disabled people, for me it is a normal way of life.

It was strange being in a lesson where a teacher was speaking in a different language so I ended up playing a lot of games on the computer because I didn't understand them and they didn't understand me.

In Estonia I went shopping in a place called Maxima. I went with the host family to the waterpark where we ate lots of pizza. I also ate at McDonalds I had a chicken burger but in Estonia it is



spicy where in England it is much plainer. I felt really out of my comfort zone, I was nervous to start off with and I missed lots of people back in the UK.

My experience was great I loved Estonia and would go back again I am grateful to all the staff that supported me and encouraged me to go.



Written by Andrew Davis 12PR

Alex Crozier's Trip to Italy 12 – 16th May 2013

10JW have spent time talking to Alex about his school trip to Italy.

Arran: Are you going to stay with a family or in a hotel?

Alex: I am staying with families but the staff are staying in a hotel.

Hamza: Are you looking forward to going to Italy?

Alex: Yes, but I am a bit nervous.

Arran: Why are you nervous?

Alex: Because I have never been away from home before and I am not sure of the language.

Chris: Talking of the language, can you speak Italian?

Alex: No

Lacey: Do you have a translation book to help you speak Italian?

Alex: I don't think I have got one.

Lacey: I would recommend that you get one as I struggled at times in Turkey.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein

Hamza: Do you feel confident about going?

Alex: Yes, Bruno is going he will help me.

Lacey: Are you looking forward to going with people from school?

Alex: Yes, so I can make new friends.

Lacey: What type of food do you think you will eat?

Alex: Hmmm..... Pasta... Lasagne... Spaghetti Bolognese.

Lacey: Which airport are you flying from?

Alex: I am flying from Stansted airport.

Hamza: How long are you staying in Italy for?

Alex: I am there for 5 days.

Mr C: What airport are you landing at?

Alex: I am landing at Cagliari which is in Sardinia.

Chris: What places will you be going to in Italy?

Alex: We haven't had the program yet, but he will be seeing various historic sites. The school "Istituto Enrico Mattei" which is in a place called Decimomannu.

Lacey: What clothes will you need / be taking?

Alex: I will take shorts but I will pack a coat just in case!



1. BILINGUAL- INTEGRATION CAMP in Gredos (4th-8th March 2013)

Forty-one of our students (2 SEN students) spent 5 days in the Sierra de Gredos, in the province of Ávila. They hiked discovering food of chains in four ecosystems, discovered insects and plants, enjoyed archery and climbing in a multi-adventure park and took part in integration activities in English.



2. Before the SOLIDARITY AND INTEGRATION festival:

2.1 Students draw hands with different messages to decorate school for the festival:



3. WEEK OF SOLIDARITY AND INTEGRATION (15th to 19th April 2013).



As in previous years, during a week in the second term, some activities related to solidarity and integration were performed. This Charity Festival was starred by immigrants, socially disadvantaged and disabled students.

There was a wide variety of actions and activities:

3.1 Decorate the school lobby with solidarity handicrafts made by students.



3.2 Songs containing solidarity messages, interpreted by students.



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein

3.3 Dances from different countries



3.4 BELLY DANCE: It was staged by a Moroccan student, very shy and with significant curricular adaptations in all subjects.

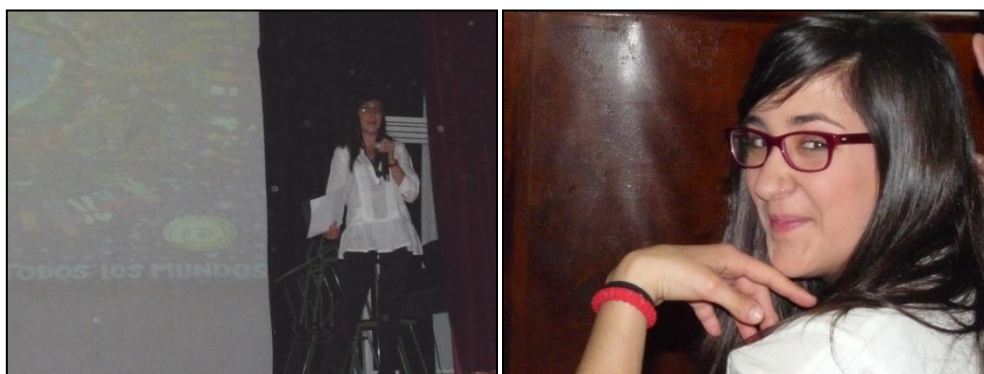


3.5 A BLOG titled "WITH ALL OF US A BETTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE" by 3rd-year Diversification students, where all charity initiatives are uploaded



3.6. Aurora, a physically disabled 2nd year student of Bachillerato, shared her experiences since the day she was born. Due to medical malpractice, came out with a leg and spine problem. Since then, she has not stopped her visits to hospitals, continuous operations and rehabilitation. She thanked her family, teachers and friends for their continued support in

this tough fight. However, the fact that startled us most was the confession of suffering many times because of classmates who have mocked and laughed at her disability. To prevent this from happening, she took the stage to tell her story.



3.7 Drama performance

- Play: "The Tócame-Roque lesson"



Some students with special educational needs participated in the performance of a comedy.

The main objectives were to improve students' self-esteem, to develop communication skills and verbal and body expression.

4. COLLECTING 1 KILO for the NGO CÁRITAS



Turquia

On 30th April 2013, Tuesday, students in the project took part in the children's festival of Pinar Special Education Centre. 6 students went to Pinar Special Education for 4 weeks or the Children's Festival Preparations.

During this preparations High School Students helped the SEN Teachers and worked with the SEN students to create the activities according to the program. After 4 weeks of preparations students from Mustafa Eminoğlu Anatolian High School took part in



the show actively and 350 audiences mainly families of the children and teachers watched that performance. The students also shared their experiences with the other students at the school and explain what they had experienced during the activities and during the festival.

Outcome: "Building Their Tomorrows, Today!" project created an opportunity for main stream high school students to work with SEN Students and mainly by activities which is planned together made them to understand the importance of active citizenship and volunteering for the disadvantaged groups in the society.