Building their Tomorrows, Today! Sirocco

At Sindi Gymnasium, during the Comenius project, is taken more notice of the managing of children with special needs. The cooperation takes part between Portugal, Italy, England, Spain and Turkey. There is conducted the survey with friends that helps better to understand problems of children of special needs and project partners try to find solutions.

During the school year meetings were held in Portugal, Spain, and Turkey. There were discussed topics of behaving disorder (bulling), different versions of autism and learning disorders. Teachers and students of special needs participated in the meetings. They listened lectures and took part at workshops. Children tried to introduce their schools themselves because the biggest problems for those students are communication and lack of language skills.

In the workshop held by the union of blind people children were explained what kind of problems blind people have in their everyday life. Later children could try themselves how is to move, with closed eyes, from one point to the other by the help of stick or friend. Children also tried the role of support person. As the “blind child” and support person were from different countries, it helped to improve communication, too. Short overview was given of different autistic problems at the autism workshop. Specialists gave some advice how to cope with autistic children and what to take in consideration when communicating with them.

Students and teachers visited special school and looked how the everyday school life looks like. They could enjoy nice concert. The therapist from Spain introduced different aspects of hippo-therapy. This means solving health problems by the help of animals. Some exercises were sown that help when children have bone, balance or psychological problems. Children could ride a horse as in Spain and Turkey.

Speech therapy teacher of Sindi Gymnasium: thoughts of meetings

Teachers and students had to consider different aspects of special needs during excursions and activities. It was understood that schedule must be flexible enough for participants to cope with tempo. Organisers must consider that lectures cannot be too difficult and it is necessary to use more pictures and tables. Children with special needs understand problems better through acting and playing the concrete situation.

The workshop of the union of blind people in Spain was very good. Students from different countries become more united through activities done all together. The most difficult part for children was to perform orally on stage but with the help of teachers students did well.

Liis Mitt, form 11a: thoughts of the last meeting in Turkey, Kayseri

People in Turkey are very friendly. When I arrived to my host family, I felt like at home. The family who hosted me was really nice, they were happy people. Very busy traffic, it was
scary how people drove. Turkish people are very religious. My host family was religious, too. Food was spicier than in Estonia. Nature was beautiful but weather changed very quickly. Turkish people are businessmen, there were lots of shops open even at night. The toilets were strange at schools no toilet pots only a hole in the floor. I thought that there are lots of beggars in the streets but I saw only a few. I did not like that people throw trash in the streets. I liked this trip very much because I saw different culture and how people live at home. It was fun!

**Eliise Nõmm, form 8amemories from trip to Turkey**

Breakfast is very different from Estonian food. Turkish kitchen is richer but also fatter. Turkish people are friendly and emotional. They like to dance. We visited historical buildings. There are very few trees. Few private houses, most people live in the blocks of flats. I saw lots of flowers and plants in the streets and this was very beautiful.