



# Erasmus+

Six teachers were chosen of Primary School “Hristo Botev”- Velingrad, Bulgaria to participate in the project “To keep the kids in school” 2019 -1- BG01- KA101- 061732 Erasmus + Programme of the European Union with our partners of Mobility Friends. It was an enriching experience. We learnt a lot of techniques to cope with different kind of students in the classroom. Our lectures were separated in two groups: the first one called “Early school leaving prevention” with lecturer Herculano Andrade and the second one called “Digital Classroom” with lecturer Jose Ze Gabriel. Along with the learning part, we visited some inspiring cultural sites.

Our lectures with Herculano Andrade, who is a sociologist and psychologist were focused on several topics. First lecture was on "Emotional connection with the students" and "Sense of belonging. We discussed different behavioural models for effective communication with students. We shared different ways on how the students to be kept in school.

The next topic was “What’s the biggest challenge in front of the teachers today?”. We were shown contemporary methods for effective school process management. The multiple roles of the teachers and the lack of time to execute the given tasks are in the base of the difficulties teachers face in the educational process.

We also discussed “How to Promote Intrinsic Motivation in the Classroom” and “Strategies for Promotion of Emotional Regulations”. We were introduced to positive techniques for praise and encouragement of students, we practiced various role play games.

We were also introduced to the topic “How to develop the sense of self-control in students and to give them a secure learning environment”. Developing competition, keeping a friendly relationship among the students, praising the good students, giving them different responsibilities are just a part of the working strategies how to cope with aggression in school. The teacher should be a model for the students. They have to control the anxiety in the classroom. High goals have to be put for the students but attainable.

In the last educational day with Herculano Andrade we discussed role of games in the learning process and project-based learning in the classroom. We exercised different strategies with practical tasks for establishing a connection between a student and a teacher. An atmosphere of collaboration, trust and support is needed for a full-blooded communication process.

The lecturer Jose Cabriel presented us with variation of topics in "Digital classroom". He introduced us with the opportunities of different electronic resources. How to use them to make the process of learning easier for the students, more entertaining and also helping them with the execution of their tasks. This way we can motivate students to actively participate in our classes.

We were introduced to different graphic applications. We applied them on practice afterwards by creating our own resources.

We enriched the electronic resources for our Digital Classroom with fun applications which help students to improve their vocabulary and speaking skills, develop their imagination and associative thinking.

In the last day of our education the president Nuno Barbosa presented us with the certificates of participation in the project on a nice ceremony.

We also explored some of the most beautiful cities in Portugal. Our hotel was in Povoia de Varzim on the Atlantic ocean's coast. We had been organized day trips to Porto, where we wandered the incredible streets of the city and saw a lot of historic and cultural monuments. On the next day we visited Guimaraes and Braga- two cities with unforgettable atmosphere.

On some days after the classes we had time to look at different places around the town we stayed in, as the Monte Sao Felix Hill, famous for its amazing garden and the Monument of the immigrants

We are very grateful to our Portuguese partners for the perfect organization of our learning and free time. Our lectures were very useful. We had the opportunity to feel part of the big European family.