

LTTA - Agrupamento de Escolas de Murça, Portugal: 25th-29th March 2019

Description of the activity

- *Describe the content, methodology and the results of this activity.*

Active citizenship in a diverse EU is our main topic. These LTTA aims to sensitize students to some aspects of Portuguese culture, heritage and social practices intending to make young people aware of responsible and active citizenship and respect the rich cultural and linguistic diversity of EU. We organise our LTTA program in sort of reaching these main goals. In first visit day, to get know each other's, each group present their schools and some activities they have already carried out. They were introduced to the school management team and to the Mayor of the Municipality who provide some local typical sweets and a moment of socializing. They all have lunch at school canteen to be familiarised with the Portuguese student's day life and type of meals they use to have. In the afternoon, a student's sport competition was organised. In a PE class, a volley-ball games that integrated local students and visitors to foster friendship between all the participants. In the second visit day, our focus was on reminding to local and visitor students that culture and traditions are still present and it will be important to preserve them and enable students to recognise the importance of them in their life and what they can do to preserve and promote it. We visit the Douro Valley – UNESCO world heritage- with a walk near Douro River and a visit to the viewpoint of S. Leonardo de Galafura overlooking the Porto wine vineyards. In the afternoon, in Vila Real, the district capital, we visit to local museums, the historical centre and we attend to a workshop - How to make "Cristas de galo" an old traditional sweet with a trademark in the Portuguese conventual pastry. Student's had the opportunity to make the pastry, cook it, and taste it. They also had a visit to "Vila Velha" museum with a documentary about "Bisalhães black pottery". Bisalhães black crockery is a traditional pottery technique in which the pieces produced have a characteristic black colour. This technique is characteristic of the village of Bisalhães, in the municipality of Vila Real and in 2016 was declared an Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, being included in the list of assets that requires urgent safeguard measures. The last day was dedicated to Murça, we visit the local wine and olive oil cooperatives the students could understand the importance of these products in the local economy. We think that had provide to students these experiences certainly make them think about their role in society and what they can do to their local community and for Europe. At the end of the day, time to say goodbye, all participants, students, teachers and host families assist to a School orchestra performance and had a Farwell party. Friendship was the strong point of this activity and will be without doubt the strong point to "SmartUp Europe for an optimistic future"

Track the LTTA on Google Earth: <https://earth.google.com/earth/d/1zpjM1d2Q2vrQDo1rFXyB9bd9Lb2dH0bN?usp=sharing>

- *Who were the participants in the activity (including local participants)?*

In this LTTA, all the school Agrupamento de Escolas de Murça as local participants was involved in the activity, students and staffs were involved on the visiting events. Directly involved on the accompanying activities there were 16 students (they host their partners and accompanied them in all experiences) and 6 teachers. The school management team and the municipality and Mayor of Murça also collaborate in the reception activities. The partners' participants in this 1st part of LTTA in Murça, Portugal were 6 students and 2 teachers from Cyprus, 5 students and 2 teachers from Spain and 5 students and 2 teachers from Italy.

- *How was this activity related to or integrated with the normal activities of the involved schools?*

The activities were integrated in everyday school life, visitors followed their partners' school schedules, lunch times, habits and routines. Even a day out to Vila Real was planned as a study visits that our students usually do. The local teachers involved in the project plan the activities together and each one in his specialty assumes the phases to work following the aims we intend to reach with this activity.

How did the participation in this activity benefit the involved participants?

With this LTTA, as we define it in our proposal, students involved in this project had the opportunity to experience the culture, to enjoy the heritage, and to participate in day life actions that arouse a sense of an active participation in the local community. In this way the students could learn with their student fellows' in the course of the visit ways to know and value their own culture and heritage and to think about actions that they can carry out in their

community to provide a more supportive society. This is a way to face the challenges of Europe in the 21st century, the main goal of this project.