

Two applications for ERASMUS+, KA2 projects got approval by the European Union

It was right in the beginning of October 2016 that the process of preparation of an application for an Erasmus+, KA2 project began.

The first phase of this process consisted of trying to find European schools that, eventually, could be interested in working together with us in an application for a new project. Although the Erasmus+, KA2 project *EU-TOPIA+* was still being implemented at our school, it would officially come to an end on 31st August 2017. Another absolutely essential reason that led us to start all this process right in the beginning of October 2016 was the fact that the deadline to submit an eventual application online was strictly 29th March 2017.

After a lot of contacts, by e-mail, with various European high schools, we began receiving some feedback from several of them. By the end of November, the next step was to define a theme to develop a project together with some of those schools. We opted for the following one: ***Young Entrepreneurs – Learning by Experience***. The schools involved in this application were, apart from ours, the *Mazsalacas Vidusskola*, in Mazsalaca, in Latvia, the *Sint-Romboutscolle*, in Mechelen, in Belgium, the *Tamsalu Gymnasium*, in Tamsalu, in Estonia and the *Geniko Lykeio Volou*, in Volos, in Greece.

However, while we were working on this application, we got the contact of a Finnish school inviting us to participate in an application for another Erasmus+, KA2 project. We immediately accepted the invitation and so another huge load of work began to be done. The project theme of this application was ***Own Your Learning 2.0*** and it involved the schools *Latorkartanon Peruskulu*, in Helsinki, in Finland, Stichting *SintLucas*, in Eindhoven, in The Netherlands, and *Killorglin Community College*, in Kerry, in the Republic of Ireland.

Finally, after uncountable e-mails and google.docs as well as Skype conferences, we had both applications ready. They were submitted online on March 28th 2017 in the European Commission platform, according to the demanding regulations.

In the meantime, ahead of us was a long period of anxious expectation for the official publication of the results of the hundreds of applications of European institutions, which are all analyzed in Brussels. Finally, in August, the long-awaited news was made public: we joyfully got the official information that the two applications had been approved. Therefore, in the next two school years, the *Escola Básica e Secundária de Moimenta da Beira* will hold two projects Erasmus+, KA2: **Young Entrepreneurs – Learning by Experience** and **Own Your Learning 2.0**.

As soon as the school year starts, we will proceed to the selection of students that might be interested in participating, not cumulatively, in both projects, in order to, later, start developing the proposed activities in the respective applications. They have to be scrupulously put into practice according to the strict rules and regulations of the European Union as well as of the National Agencies of each country.

In October, we will fly to Finland, more precisely to Helsinki, in order to participate in a *Transnational Project Meeting (TPM)* of the project **Own Your Learning 2.0**. In the following week, we will welcome, here, in Portugal, eight colleagues from Latvia, Greece, Estonia and Belgium on account of a *TPM* of the project **Young Entrepreneurs – Learning by Experience**.