

## ERASMUS+, KA", Strategic Partnerships

### LTTA in Moimenta da Beira

On behalf of the Erasmus+ project KA2 *Strategic Partnerships/Exchanges of Practices, Own Your Learning 2.0*, an LTTA (*Learning/ Teaching/Training Activities*) meeting took place at the *Escola Básica e Secundária de Moimenta da Beira* from 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May. It involved eighteen pupils and six teachers from the Netherlands, Ireland and Finland, apart from, obviously, the eighteen Portuguese students and six teachers who are part of this project team.

On the first day, in the morning, the guest teachers and students came to know the facilities of the *School Centre*, and the *Escola Básica e Secundária de Moimenta da Beira*. Then, after a welcome visit by the Mayor in the Noble Hall of the Town Hall, the whole group visited the *Convento das Freiras*, and then took a walk along several streets of Moimenta.

In the afternoon, multilingual groups of students discussed the themes: *melting pot/assimilation (in the past) and salad bowl/integration/social inclusion (nowadays)*. Then they presented the conclusions they came to. New groups were formed and the theme *Social inclusion measures carried out so far at each school* was discussed, being the conclusions again presented to all the students and teachers. In the end, our students, through a *PowerPoint* presentation with expressions in Portuguese and English, gave a *class* with the main goal of teaching the foreign teachers and students some basic Portuguese words of communication, which led to funny situations.

In addition, and in compliance with the requirements set forth in the application for this project, there was a workshop aimed at the foreign teachers about *Social Inclusion* presented by the colleagues of the *Special Needs Education* Manuela Frias and Sónia Miguel. The whole following day was

dedicated to making known some monuments and places such as the Monastery *São João de Tarouca*, the *Douro* region (focusing on the *Douro Museum* in Régua) and Lamego.

On another day, again in multilingual groups, the students discussed the theme *Travelling enriches your understanding of other cultures and makes you more tolerant*, linking it with their personal experiences. Later they presented their conclusions, which led to moments of interesting intercultural situations. The *Kahoot* game about various particularities of our country was enjoyed by everyone.

The performance of the *Master Class*, an orchestra of our school made up of students and teachers, clearly pleased everyone.

The whole of the next day was dedicated to the *Passadiços do Paiva*, in the county of Arouca. Lush landscapes, varied flora, breathtaking waterfalls, the winding *Paiva* river (in some places imposing due to its fast flow and rapids) charmed the fifty-five teachers and students who walked along the eight kilometers of this wooden pathways.

On the last day, in Viseu, we visited the *Grão Vasco* museum and the Cathedral. We walked to Rossio along some emblematic streets of the city and after some time in the *Palácio do Gelo Centre*, we returned to Moimenta to attend a presentation of *Clube da Voz*, which was very interesting.

After the certificates and souvenirs were handed out to all the foreign and Portuguese students and teachers, we were invited by the students of Penedono involved in the project to attend a surprise - assault to the castle of this small town. It was organized by the medieval reconstruction group of Penedono, *Hoste do Magriço*, in which these committed students have been heartily participating for years. The Finnish students actively and enthusiastically engaged in this assault wearing medieval costumes and nettings and wielding swords, just like the various Portuguese students. This

activity, due to its peculiar characteristics, was extraordinarily appreciated by all who attended it.

Finally, we were very kindly offered a real gastronomic banquet by the families. "The icing on the cake" was the opportunity everyone had to appreciate the musical dexterity with which Rafael Melfe played bagpipes, accordion and concertina. One of the Finnish teachers, delighted with Rafael's performance, asked us to tell his parents that "such a young man speaks very highly of his parents", which we did with great pleasure and gratitude to Rafael.

As usual, on the last day and after a pleasant and relaxing afternoon in the Vilar dam with the Irish colleagues, the farewells were moving, with many tears, not only of our students, but also of the foreign ones. It was, once again, a lifelong experience for all.