



ERASMUS+ KA2 PROJECT, STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS/EXCHANGES OF GOOD PRACTICES, *OWN YOUR LEARNING 2.0*

On behalf of the Erasmus+ project, KA2, *Strategic Partnerships / Exchanges of Good Practices, Own Your Learning 2.0*, an LTTA meeting (*Learning / Teaching / Training Activities*) was held from 31st March to 7th April 2019 in Eindhoven, in The Netherlands. Several students and teachers from Ireland, Portugal, Finland and The Netherlands took part in it. Six Portuguese students were involved in this meeting: Ana Lara Leitão (10th B), Tiana Lopes (10th D), Constança Xavier, Luana Lopes, Madalena Cardia and Sara Pereira (9th B).

On the first day, after a school tour, we attended a Dutch crash course, which was quite interesting because it allowed us to learn some Dutch words, phrases and sentences.

On the following day, all the participating partner schools (apart from ours, *Sint Lucas* (from The Netherlands), *Killorglin Community College* (from Ireland) and *Latokartanon peruskoulu* (from Finland) presented the previously-done works.

On Tuesday, we had a field trip to the capital of the province North Brabant: 's-Hertogenbosch, where we had a guided tour throughout its historical centre as well as a visit to *Saint John's cathedral* (in Dutch, *Sint-Janskathedraal*), a Roman Catholic one. It started to be built in 1220 and was only complete more than 300 years later, in 1530. It's the largest Catholic church in The Netherlands and its Renaissance organ is one of the most important ones in the whole country. As we were climbing up to the top of its tower, on each floor we learned yet another stage of the cathedral's evolution from a Romanesque to a Gothic one. We also got to know the intricate system that operates the tower's 68 bells. Impressive! At the top of the tower, what a beautiful view we had of the city and of the surrounding countryside! In 1985, Pope John Paul II granted it the honorary title of *Basilica Minor*.

After lunch, we visited the *North Brabant's Museum* (in Dutch, *Noordbrabants Museum*), also known as *Den Bosch*, which allowed us to get information about the art, culture and history of the province.

The students enjoyed quite a lot the ICT workshop related to *Makey Makey*. They also had a fashionshow workshop. All the visiting teachers had a *Photoshop* course, which was very interesting and amusing. Then, in the afternoon, in multilingual groups, we had a tour in Eindhoven using a *Whatsappgame*. It was funny and it allowed everyone to get to know the city better. We sightsaw several monuments (Saint Catherine's church (*Sint-Catharinakerk*, in Dutch), the City Hall,...), the PSV stadium,... In the evening, after a traditional Dutch cuisine dinner, all the teachers and students enjoyed themselves playing bowling.

All the students also committed themselves to making a *health and well being app* related to Eindhoven. At the end of the day, all of us, together with about 700 guests, attended a *fashion show*. It took place down the wide wooden stairs of the school. Several Dutch students created imaginative clothing items and accessories using a wide range of materials. *Sint Lucas* is really a creative school! It seemed a professional show because of the fantastic audio/visual and lighting equipment! We were astonished at the glamour of it!

In one of the afternoons, some teachers visited the *Philips* museum, which was quite a great experience once we learnt a lot about this brand. The company was founded in Eindhoven by Gerard Philips and his father Frederik Philips. The latter was a benefactor and also a beloved industrialist due to his sensitivity in what his employees' social problems were concerned. Nowadays Philips is one of the largest electronics companies in the world and it's currently focused on the areas of healthcare, lighting and electrical devices. It's really a noteworthy museum!

On another day, all the visiting students created a pop-art image (*greenscreen copy and paste*) with their hosts, which gave them the chance of keeping a lifelong *souvenir*! After getting detailed information about the worldwide known Dutch painter Van Gogh, all the students and teachers could make a Van Gogh from their own A3 photos, which had been taken in a school studio in the beginning of the week. It allowed everyone to keep yet another lifelong *souvenir*!

Such as in all the previous *LTTA* meetings, in multilingual groups, this time the students also made an eMagazine, in which they included several short texts and photos about this *LTTA*.

Some of us travelled to Amsterdam where we spent a very peaceful and pleasant day: we strolled along several of its bustling streets, marvelled at the huge variety of Dutch cheeses displayed in an attractive way on shopwindows (of course we tasted some of them!), ... We also liked the huge bicycle parks and, last but not least, we loved to appreciate the typical high, colourful and narrow riverfront houses alongside one of the main canals, *Herengracht*.

Amsterdam is quite often fairly called *The Venice of the North* because its many seventeenth-century canals cover more than 100 kms. In 2010, the whole area was declared a *World Heritage* site by UNESCO. Although this was the second time we visited Amsterdam, undoubtedly there is always something new to discover in this city. In a nutshell, Amsterdam is an outstandingly nice and peculiar city and, because of that, worth a visit or many visits...

On the last day, at the airport, the farewell moment was quite an emotional one not only to our students but to the Dutch ones and their families as well. After all, this week allowed all of them to get innerly richer because of the lifelong experience they had lived together.

Here are our students' opinions about this *LTTA* in The Netherlands:

“This was one of the best experiences of my life. I loved the country and the school. I think that being part of this project was very good, not only because I improved my skills at English, but also because I grew up as a person.”

Constança Xavier, 9th B

“Eindhoven is an amazing city with a lot of different things. I had a wonderful experience living as a Dutch person, trying new things and, of course, the best part of this meeting, the school and the new people I met. In only a week, I made many new friends and I had a lot of unforgettable moments with all of them! My host family was very nice, I could not ask for a better one! It was definitely the best experience of my life!”

Lara Leitão, 10thB

“It was one of the best weeks of my life. I met some great people, made new and incredible friends, visited nice places and was hosted by a lovely family that treated me unbelievably well. It was great to get to know the school and Eindhoven. It was an amazing experience! I loved it and I will really miss it!”

Luana Lopes, 9thB

“It was an amazing experience. I loved Eindhoven and the school. I met new people and I made new friends. I loved my nice host and her family. They were really kind to me.”

Madalena Cardia, 9th B

“It was a very funny week. I loved the people, the school,... I loved everything. These people will stay forever in my heart.”

Sara Lufinha, 9th B

“It was the best experience of my life! Eindhoven is such a wonderful city with new things and a lot of creative things! I loved the school, *Sint Lucas*. It's a really good school where I met amazing friends for life! I will never forget this great experience and I also have to thank my host family because if they hadn't been so nice to me, I wouldn't have felt at home!”

Tiana Lopes, 10thD