



ERASMUS+ PROJECT, strategic partnership, KA2, *YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS – LEARNING BY EXPERIENCE*

The third *TPM (Transnational Project Meeting)* of the Erasmus+, KA2 project, *Young Entrepreneurs – Learning by Experience* took place in Latvia from 29th June to 2nd July 2019. One of the aims of this meeting was not only to assess the activities carried out in the partner schools (apart from ours, *Mazsalacas vidusskola*, *Geniko Lykeio Volou*, *Tamsalu Gymnasium* and *Sint-Romboutscollege*) along the two years of the implementation of the above-mentioned project, but also the ones that were performed in the five LTTA (in Greece, Latvia, Portugal, Estonia and Belgium), as well as the ones that were held in the two previous TPM (in Portugal and in Estonia). Another absolutely essential purpose of this meeting was to plan and exchange ideas related to the project final report.

On the first day, after two very productive and useful work sessions, we left to the beautiful town of Talsi and, in Ance, we had the chance to get involved in a cookery masterclass, in which we “tried out our cooking gifts” by making little typical pies of the Latvian gastronomy (*skandrausis*). We also took a pleasant walk along the beautiful gardens of the palace *Jaunmoku Pils* and *the Drubazas Botanic Path*. In the evening, dinner at a restaurant in the forest was really agreeable, not only because of the idyllic environment, but also because of the tasty dishes we were granted with. Then, the sun set in Kolka, where the Baltic sea meets the gulf of Riga, was wonderfully magic.

On the following day, we visited a winery that makes several kinds of wine not only out of various sorts of berries (in Latvia, there is a wide range of berries), but also, quite curiously, out of a certain kind of grapes. Then we climbed up to the top of the hill *Sabiles Vīna Kalns*, all over which 800 vines of 30 types are grown. It was planted a long time ago, back in the 14th century. In 2018, it was considered one of the 50 Latvian landscape treasures. It is registered in the *Guinness World Record Book* as the most northern open-air vineyard in Europe. Afterwards, we got to know a crystal clear waterfall in the *Abava* river. Then, and again on behalf of the general theme of the project, we visited a company that



makes cider beverages out of many kinds of apples. The guided tour in Kuldiga was a very clarifying one in what the historical facts of its old, picturesque center are concerned. Taking the best of the long summer days, we walked to the waterfall *Ventas rumba* in this same town. It is the widest waterfall in Europe. We also spent some time in a terrace of the *Curonia Coffee Roasters*.

On the last day but one, after a very productive working session of the project report, we had lunch in the medieval castle Jaunpils. Apart from having a medieval meal in a medieval decorated room, we had to eat with our fingers, which was really quite an experience! In Kandava, we saw interesting typical houses. We also had a guided tour in the sumptuous Rundāle palace, where we could appreciate its richly decorated rooms. We particularly liked not only the plastered flowers, painted in delicate colours which decorated some walls and ceilings, but also the blue and white tiles that covered the big stoves in all the rooms. These tiles reminded us of the typical Portuguese tiles (although sometimes the yellow colour is also used). And how wonderful the gardens of this palace were! They cover an area as big as 10 hectares, in which 9000 beautiful rosebushes out of more than 2000 types are grown! The huge wooded area (34 hectares) behind the gardens was, in ancient times, used by the noble men as a hunting one.

On the last day, we took an enjoyable walk along several streets of Jūrmala, a coastal town.

It must be said that we were accommodated in an agreeable hotel by the Baltic sea. It was so relaxing! And the weather was really fine, thus enhancing the loveliness of these mild days!

Riga, the capital of the country, exhibits very well preserved stunning buildings in the *art nouveau* style. Actually Riga is the city with the highest concentration of art nouveau architecture all over the world. No wonder, thus, that such amazing buildings are UNESCO World Heritage.

This last meeting was the highlight of the work carried out along the two years (2017/2018 and 2018/2019) of this project implementation. In the farewell dinner, we agreed that, apart from feeling very much enriched in social inner terms due to the gratifying and true friendships that we had been consolidating along these two years, our deep cultural growth was also a charming reality. We felt grateful to one another. Needless to say that the activities that were performed along that period of time were also very positive.



Finally, in relation to this lovely country, some facts are noteworthy: in the summer, the sun only sets at about 10.30 p.m., it never gets totally dark and, at 2 a. m., dawn begins! Once in Portugal, Greece and Belgium such phenomena can never be seen, they were deliciously interesting, not only for us, but for the Greek and the Belgian colleagues as well. The Latvians like taking the most of these long summer days. Noteworthy are also other interesting facts: immense forests expand over vast plains. They cover half of the Latvian territory. About 12000 rivers flow all around the country! This reality contributes to the development of an ecological sustainable tourism. Last, but not least, the kindness of the Latvian people must be highlighted. All in all, Latvia is undoubtedly a praiseworthy country.