



SINTLUCAS



Erasmus+, Strategic Partnership
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On behalf of the Erasmus+ project, KA2, *Strategic Partnerships / Exchanges of Good Practices, For peaceful schools, against bullying*, an LTTA meeting (*Learning / Teaching / Training Activities*) was held from 26th March to 1st April 2023 in Eindhoven, in The Netherlands. Several students and teachers from Romania, Portugal, The Netherlands and France took part in it. Unfortunately, no teachers and students from Nurdagi/Gazientep, in Turkey, could take part in this meeting, due to the serious earthquake that devastated this region.

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. Then, all the participating partner schools (apart from ours, the previously-mentioned one, *Sint Lucas* (from Eindhoven, in The Netherlands), *Colegiul de Servicii in Turism Napoca* (from Cluj-Napoca, in Romania) and *La Martinière Duchère* (from Lyon, in France) presented several works related to the respective countries and schools as well as to the towns/cities where they are located. In the afternoon, the whole group of more than 30 students and 8 teachers was split into several smaller groups so that they could take part in a *tour* throughout Eindhoven, using the *what's app tour* e *AR-tour*. It was amusing and it allowed everyone to get to know the city in a better way. We saw several monuments and buildings such as *Saint Catherine's church* (*Sint-Catharinakerk*, in dutch), the Town Hall, the PSV stadium, ...

On Tuesday, we visited Evoluon, which is an iconic building because of its astonishing shape: it resembles a landed flying saucer. It was built in 1966 by the electronics/electricity company Philips in Eindhoven, because, by then, this company was headquartered in this city. In 1998, the building reopened as a conference center and exhibition venue. Several conferences and exhibitions have been held in it since then. Its common innovative and interactive exhibitions attract many people. In September 2022, the *RetroFuture* exhibition was opened. It was appreciated by all of us mainly due to its innovative and

interactive characteristics. After this visit, a *worksho*, aimed at students took place at school under the general topic “harassment”

On Wednesday, 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 completed 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. In 1985, Pope John Paul II granted it the honorary title of *Minor Basilica*. 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! 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 this province.

On the following day, the students from all the countries, in multinational groups, got involved in the workshop *See it. Name it. STOP it*. Then they carried out works in *2D* and *3D*. After lunch, they took part in *BMX-ing* and *skating* activities. In the evening, after a typical dinner, all the host and guest students and teachers enjoyed themselves playing *bowling*.

On Friday, along the whole morning, in multinational groups, all the students went on carrying out the workshop *See it. Name it. STOP it*, on several kinds of harassment, which they had begun on the previous day. In the afternoon, some Dutch traditional games were enthusiastically played by the students. Then, a final gathering of all the students, teachers and some parents was a good opportunity for everyone to enjoy a really pleasant evening.

On the last day, we 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!). In the *St. Nicholas Basilica* (*Sint Nicolaasbasiliek*, in dutch), we attended, along a while, a rehearsal of a classical music choir. They sang quite in tune! 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 fourth time we visited Amsterdam, surely 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...

This meeting was a remarkable experience not only to the students that took part in it, but to the teachers as well. It was undoubtedly an unforgettable experience to all of them. In the end of this enriching week, all of them were aware that their cultural horizons had notoriously broadened. That's why we are grateful to the teams of teachers and students that planned it so well. We would also like to thank the families that hosted our students in such a nice and kind way. In short, the main mottoes of the Erasmus+, KA2 projects, "Enriching lives" and "Opening minds" were clearly put into practice in this week. After all, this lifelong experience allowed everyone to get innerly richer.

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."

Duarte Antunes

"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!"

Alice Calhau

"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!"

Beatriz Soares

"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."

Beatriz Grilo

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

Maria Rôlo

“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!”

Julia Salgado