

## **Non-formal activities in wonderful Budapest**

*Motto: "Play is the highest form of research!" (Albert Einstein)*

On the week of 26 November – 2 December 2017 there was a new meeting between the project partners Erasmus+, "Nonformal Activities for Inclusive Groups of Students". The partner countries of this project were Estonia, Norway, Hungary, Portugal, Romania and Turkey and the meeting took place this time in Hungary at the Mosgazjavito school. The purpose of the meetings in this project was to provide and to learn us methods and strategies for planning and implementing non-formal activities. These non-formal activities aim to improve the active participation of pupils with special educational needs at school and in social activities. These project is meant to improve and promote school inclusion through the use of non-formal activities and inclusive games in curricular and extracurricular activities.

Our partners from Hungary, our host in this week, have organized a program that presented various non-formal activities which included students from Mosgazjavito school, some from a mainstream school, as well as students from a inclusive school. In addition to these activities, we were introduced to the Hungarian care system for persons with disabilities, teacher training experiences to work with disabled people and the inclusion system in Hungary.

Our meetings took place at Mosgazjavito school, where we were greeted warmly by the entire teaching staff and students. Our host have prepared us some activities and games to get to know each other, followed up by a presentation of the school made by the principle of the school. It was impressive that for the school's tour we were guided by two students of the Mosgazjavito school that have physical deficiencies.

An important aspect is the interest for sports and it is worth mentioning that students with physical deficiencies, most of them in wheelchairs, could practice various sports activities: football, basketball, swimming, darts, boccia. For the practice of these activities, the pupils had at their disposal many devices adapted to their needs. It was very impressive to see how they participate in sport activities and we were very excited that we

could participate with them in some activities. Besides sport, as a non-formal activity, we also took part in the presentation of games and activities which included creativity and movement, supported by the kindergarten children.



The students of Mosgazjavito school managed to surprise us by presenting a material about the culture of each partner country of the project and then by preparing a special dinner for us. The hosts offered us a dinner and prepared various dishes specific to each partner country. The atmosphere was very pleasant and relaxing for us and the students were very excited about the fact that we appreciated the culinary dishes that they've made for us.

We also visited an inclusive primary school in Budapest where we observed non-formal activities. Here we were very nicely welcomed by the pupils and the teachers. Teachers, along with the pupils, have prepared demonstrative activities within the mathematics, English and maternal language classes. The activities were pleasant, the pupils worked individually and in groups and used various materials, games and individual files. The children with special educational needs let us to understand that they have integrated very easily and participated with pleasure and interest in activities along with the rest of the students.

A very pleasant impression left us the visit to the cafe where the staff working included only people with disabilities. The whole staff was well-prepared, very friendly and served with great pleasure every client who was passing their threshold. Another pleasant surprise was visiting a special fitness hall for normal people and also for people with

disabilities. Here there were several working devices, adapted for the needs of the working people.

The week ended with a festivity of the Mosgazjavito school because on Friday, 2 December was the „Open Gates Day“. On this day our host prepared a beautiful program which included a thematic dance performed by five students with physical deficiencies, followed by sports competitions attended by the pupils from a mainstream school and the participants from the mobility.



Our impression of this week is a very good one. The atmosphere in the schools we visited was very pleasant: the pupils were very cheerful, welcoming, eager to communicate with all of us; the teachers were very open, communicative and interested in our perspectives on the educational system.

It was a beautiful and beneficial experience for all, we learned new things, various games and non-formal activities. We have learned how to take advantage of the free time of the pupils from an educational point of view and how important is the game in every each's ones life.

It was an experience that we will never forget, a unique experience from which we will see our professional life with other eyes. We have made many friends, learned many new things and made amazingly beautiful memories that will last for a long time. We will repeat this experience with great devotion whenever we will get a new chance!