



**BORDERS AREN'T WALLS!
BORDERS ARE DOORS TO BE OPENED**

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Erasmus+ KA2 Project
2017-1-IT02-KA219-036441

From (im)migrants to citizens: old roots vs. new opportunities

F.I.T.C.O.R.N.O.
2017-2019

Language, Teaching, Training Activity – LTTA C1

12th-16th of March, 2018

Școala Gimnazială Olga Gudynn International School (OGIS)

Str. Erou Iancu Nicolae, nr. 5, Voluntari, Ilfov

<https://fitcornoerasmus.weebly.com/>

Meeting Protocol

General Outline

Olga Gudynn International School was honored to host the sessions of the second international meeting of the Erasmus+ project *From (im) migrants to citizens project: old roots vs. new opportunities* (F.I.T.C.O.R.N.O.), between 12th and 16th of March. It was a Learning, Teaching, Training Activity, with international student and teacher mobility (LTTA C1), attended by 37 guests from partner schools (25 pupils and 12 teachers). The two-year project (2017-2019) is coordinated by Italy and is co-funded by the Erasmus+ program of the European Union, with English as a working language, representing a strategic partnership between seven secondary schools, all these with tradition in the development of international projects: ITALY, "Scuola Secondaria di Primo Grado Ettore Romagnoli", Gela, Sicily; FRANCE, "Saint Denis International School, Loches"; GERMANY, "Hermann-Böse-Gymnasium", Bremen; POLAND, Gimnazjum nr. 94 im. Cichociemnych Spadochroniarzy Armii Krajowej, Warsaw; PORTUGAL, "Agrupamento de Escolas Joao de Deus", Faro; ROMANIA, "Olga Gudynn International School", Voluntari, Ilfov, HUNGARY, "Baktay Ervin" Gimnazium, Dunaharaszti.

The main goals and activities of LTTA C1, according to the Project Schedule agreed and approved in the initial application form and also digitally shared to all the team, were the following:

For staff: rehearse the use of digital tools; moderate debates; prepare a Kahoot test to choose the project logo; work out a common plan saying which data will be collected and statistically processed (ethnic minority has to come from one of the project partners): historical, social, demographic, religious, political data);

For students: exchange reflections on the film in international groups and present their project outputs (from Oct-to Feb 2018) and digital postcards; work in international groups and benefit from training (from teachers) for the acquisition of ICT and transversal skills (Google tools); use digital tools to present their research about migration and ethnic minorities supported by key sentences and images to produce a digital output (Animoto, Prezi, PowToon); work on the slogan starting from the proposals (integration activity); vote to choose the project logo (Kahoot).

For local community: attend official meetings; provide consultancy



Hosting, accommodation, expenses

All the members of the staff in the partner countries were hosted at the Hotel Ancor which is located in the school area and offered the most convenient fees (200 RON/night/room, breakfast included).

All the students involved in international mobility programme were hosted in families of the hosting school community. Both the hosted students' families and the hosting families made a connection before the arrival of the delegations.

All the delegations were welcomed at the airport and/or transferred at the hotel or homes by members of the school staff and/or parents.

Expenses regarding accommodation and meals (lunch, dinner) for the hosting teachers were fully covered within mobility grants. Students received full accommodation and after-school programme from the hosting families.

In order to comply with the project's goals and LTTA C1 meeting's agenda and also for ensuring safety of all the participants, transportation was needed for organizing the activities. All the expenses required by transportation were covered evenly by all participants. These were the following:

- transportation for students at the Public European Space on the 13th of March, 2018, on Tuesday (700 for all the 40 group, 17 RON/person);
- transportation in Bucharest on the 14th of March, 2018, on Wednesday (1200 RON for the group, 30 RON/person, 180 RON/6 members delegation, 210 RON/ 7 members delegation);
- a trip outside Bucharest on the 15th of March, 2018, on Thursday (140 RON for students and 90 RON for teachers, travel, lunch and two workshops included; 740 RON/6 members delegation, 880/7 members delegation).

The receipt was issued per delegation: approx. 1020 RON for 6 members delegation and 1230 for 7 members delegation.

Also, see the **Annex** to this document.

The goals of this activities and their relevance of the project will be detailed below.

Communication, dissemination, public testimonials

During the 5 working days meeting of LTTA C1, an active connection was maintained to the project's coordinator, either by written conversations or audio recordings.

Also, 2 press releases were published in one of the central Romanian newspapers, *România Liberă* and a 2 pages review in Nine O'Clock journal, the only full English journal in Romania.

An audio intervention of an invited Erasmus+ group was made at the national cultural radio.

A video material was made at the invitation of DIGI 24 television post and another one posted on the official Facebook page of Olga Gudynn International School.

Links to press releases, Radio, TV and Facebook broadcast:

1. <https://www.news.ro/comunicate/comunicat-de-presa-romania-vazuta-prin-ochii-copiilor-17959896>
2. <http://comunicate.mediafax.biz/Pages/Public/Comunicate.aspx?comunicatId=12197>
3. <https://www.facebook.com/Manpres>
4. <https://m.digi24.ro/emisiuni/jurnal-pentru-copii/jurnal-pentru-copii-25-martie-09-30-2-901413>
(from min. 14:15)
5. https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2064981437105072&id=1666692970267256
6. <https://www.facebook.com/OlgaGudynnInternationalSchool/videos/1640601512690338/>
(video OGIS, official Facebook page)
7. <http://www.nineoclock.ro/olga-gudynn-international-school-hosted-erasmus-project-from-immigrants-to-citizens-project-old-roots-vs-new-opportunities-romania-through-the-eyes-of-children/>
(link to Nine O'Clock, the only English journal in Romania)



Project's agenda

Day 1 12th of March, 2018

The opening of the working sessions was attended by representatives of the ministry by school inspectorate, UNESCO collaborators, and members of the Erasmus + group from the hosting school.



The LTTA opened with a foreword by Olga Gudynn, the founder of Olga Gudynn International School in which she pointed out that is very important that seven countries are working together to promote one of the most important values in education that all children should learn at a very young age, promoting tolerance and mutual understanding.



A short moment of ice-breaker activities was used in order to build a positive connection among the participants.



The presentations of the project's outputs were made alphabetically, by students and teachers.

The meetings developed on three coordinates: presentations and discussions of the project outputs, working inside international groups according to the agreed schedule (choosing logo and slogan, using ICT collaborative tools, revising strategies for collecting data on ethnic minorities and migration) and cultural encounters relevant to the project's topic.

France team pointed out push factors and pull factors of migration, then presented causes of voluntarily and involuntarily migration.

Germany emphasized the strong international profile of the school, relevant for the theme of the project, as it broadens the school's community perspective (migration in Germany). Ex. 66% of the Erasmus+ group component have migrant background. The German team also presented percentage drop-outs in function of migration background.

Hungary dealt with historical aspects in the history of migration. Also, they discussed upon reasons for migration (stay another place, health affair, overpopulation, poverty, starvation, escape form war a.s.o., pointing out consequences that migrant people have to face.

Italy team used a very elaborate animated presentation, *Our word cloud on migrations*, emphasizing the great role of collaborative tools in the work with students and presenting data on migration.

Polish students' presentation based on their positive perception of living and staying in Warsaw. However, their discourse repeatedly pointed out that it is important to have open space, fresh air, non-office building areas as elements which generate stability and attached by your space. The Polish team also presented a situation of the minorities in Poland and an interview with Ukrainian migrant students of their school. Their slogan is related to acceptance.

Whereas **Portugal** emphasized different types of migrants in their school by means of interviews, **Romania** presented results of students' and teachers' work, as: development of a website, organizing the meeting, a PowToon clip resumng the outputs of the project (watching *Fuoccoammare*, working on a logo, country general data on migration, organizing of LTTA).



The Erasmus+ group could also have an important input on migration from an OGIS teacher, Nouhad Osman who offered a living proof of confronting non-familiar spaces, turning them in creative, inspiring frames for better integration of both native, and migrant students.



Day 2
13th of March, 2018

The Erasmus+ activity started with attending English classes, in split, mixed, international groups.



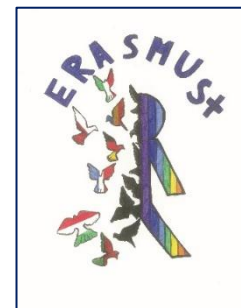
Then, the first part of the second working day was dedicated to a Kahoot activity managed by prof. Valeria Psaila, Italy and prof. Matthias Myrczek, Germany.



The logo and the slogan of the FITCORNO Erasmus+ project were chosen. These are the following:

BORDERS AREN'T WALLS!
BORDERS ARE DOORS TO BE OPENED

Slogan



Logo

The second part of the day was dedicated to a working session for the teachers. They discussed the strategy to be used for working before the meeting in Poland, in May 2018 and also pointed out that work should be more collaborative.



The students group had an interactive class on European values, culture and society held at the Public European Space in Bucharest.



Day 3
14th of March, 2018

The 3rd working day developed outside school.

The group had a stop at the National College "Gheorghe Lazăr", where students got an immediate feedback of one of the project's ideas, migration after finishing studies. The European project coordinator stated that the process can be traced in two phases: in the first one, students tend to come to high scored schools, sometimes migrating from outside the city, in order to get a very good instruction. However, in a second phase, most of the students with high scores intend to migrate for studies, on a medium term, and move abroad for living, on a long term. This particular situation can be used as a real proof for the complex nature of the migration phenomenon and a country specific feature in the students' digital outputs.

One of the seats of Olga Gudynn International School organized a short presentation of activities related to the topic of migration (interviews, posters), showing that a complex subject may be developed at any age, using the proper instruments (collaborative tools, interactive activities).



A restrained group formed by prof. Matthias Myrczek (Germany), prof. Florin Balotescu (Romania), students: Tom Hill (Germany), Erica Palma (Portugal), Shiraz Baruch, Darius Vârjan (Romania) was invited to the National Cultural Radio for a live broadcast called `Science in Proper Words`, to speak about the project's goals, outputs and activities.



Day 4
15th of March, 2018

The first part of the fourth working day was dedicated to a thematic trip outside Bucharest, at the Paper Mill and Handcraft Village. Participating at two workshops (handcraft recycled paper and printing with the help of both specialists and the people of Comana) was meant to emphasize the fact that, in the traditional world, the human individuals were used to make things with their own hands and transmitted both knowledge and handcraft. This way, they generated elements of stability, managed to reinforce their community and prevented members from leaving it in order to migrate for a better living.



The second part of the day, the Erasmus+ group had a visit at the National Village Museum in Bucharest, where the participants could find proofs of the strong points in the Romanian culture. A highlight was laid upon the idea of road, of entering and leaving community. The idea of human as a migrant or pilgrim often appears in the traditional world, not only in lyrical creations, but also in the form of the stranger for whom people used to leave food at the gate. He was both an image of God and of the deceased ones. The traditional architecture of the Romanian village included elements as the fountain or the *troița* (small assemble representing the Holy Trinity) which were meant to make space familiar also to travellers and migrants who entered the community.



Day 5
16th of March, 2018

The last working day was dedicated to: practicing ICT collaborative tools, conclusions from all delegations, granting the certificates of participation and also setting important elements to future meetings. There was also an informal communication via Skype to the Erasmus+ project Italian coordinator who reminded that, beyond good organization of an Erasmus LTTA and building a strong social dimension inside an European project team, it is of outmost importance to comply with the agreed schedule. Thus, all important working documents have been checked and digitally shared to all members.



ANNEXES:

1. List of the staff members accomodated at the Hotel Ancor:

Lista persoane cazate la hotel ANCOR***

	Tara	Nume/Prenume	Check-in	Check-out
1	Franta	Dna.Heike Kroll DI.Wilfried Tilloux	11.03.2018	17.03.2018
2	Germania	DI.Matthias Myrczek Dna.Anna-Lena Kutsch	11.03.2018	16.03.2018
3	Ungaria	Dna.Kinga Nemesne Molnar Dna.Judit Heimeczyne Bosanszki	11.03.2018	16.03.2018
4	Italia	Dna.Valeria Psaila Dna.Maria Pia Umana	11.03.2018	17.03.2018
5	Polonia	Dna.Nina Lawendowska Dna.Katarzyna Mlynarczyk	11.03.2018	17.03.2018
6	Portugalia	DI.Luis Miguel Gomes DI.Rui Antonio	11.03.2018	16.03.2018
7	Portugalia	D-soara Nunes Martins Rita + inca 1 persoana	13.03.2018	14.03.2018

☆☆☆
HOTEL ANCOR

Handwritten signature

2. List of the expenses for the Erasmus+ group, approved by school's legal representative:



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<https://fitcornoerasmus.weebly.com/>

REGISTRATURĂ	
INTRARE	Nr. <u>55</u>
IEȘIRE	
Ziua <u>27</u>	Luna <u>02</u> Anul <u>2018</u>

List of expenses for the Erasmus+ members in the partner schools

In order to achieve all the items in the agreed agenda of the LTTA C1 and also for ensuring safety transportation of all the participants, we hereby agree the following cost to be split to the whole group of active participants:

transportation for students at the Public European Space on the 13th of March, 2018, on Tuesday (700 for all the 40 persons group, 17,5 RON/person);
transportation in Bucharest on the 14th of March, 2018, on Wednesday (1200 RON for the group, 30 RON/person, 180 RON/6 members delegation, 210 RON/ 7 members delegation);
a trip outside Bucharest on the 15th of March, 2018, on Thursday (140 RON for students and 90 RON for teachers, travel, lunch and two workshops included; 740 RON/6 members delegation, 880/7 members delegation).

The transportation of the group members will be ensured by the private company Children Tour.

The receipt was issued per delegation: 1025 RON for 6 members delegation and 1212,5 for 7 members delegation:

6 members delegation:

Bus for Public European Space:
700: 40 persons = 17,5 RON/person
17,5 x 6 = **105 RON/group of 6**
Bus for Wednesday tour:
1200 : 40 persons = 30 RON/person
30 x 6 = **180 RON/group of 6**
Trip outside Bucharest: 140 RON/
student, 90 RON/teacher
140 x 4 = 560
90 x 2 = 180
560 + 180 = **740 RON/group of 6**
TOTAL: 105 + 180 + 740 = 1025 RON

7 members delegation:

Bus for Public European Space:
700: 40 persons = 17,5 RON/person
17,5 x 7 = **122,5 RON/group of 7**
Bus for Wednesday tour:
1200 : 40 persons = 30 RON/person
30 x 7 = **210 RON/group of 7**
Trip outside Bucharest: 140 RON/student, 90
RON/teacher
140 x 5 = 700
90 x 2 = 180
700 + 180 = **880 RON/group of 7**
TOTAL: 122,5 + 210 + 880 = 1212,5 RON

All the fees were issued in the national currency, RON.

All the transportation necessary for the rest of the activities it is to be freely and fully provided by Olga Gudynn International School, that is: transport of the delegation from the hotel every morning and back to the hotel in the evening, transport for lunch break, transport from an to the airport, where needed.

The occasional differences between this estimation and the issued receipts are due to transportation companies' fees fluctuations.

For the members of the Romanian group, the cost will be covered from project's funding for relevant activities as previewed in the agreed agenda of the LTTA C1.

School Legal Representative,
Lucia ȘERBAN

3. List of participants/Agreement for using photo and video

Erasmus+ KA2
Project 2017-1-IT02-KA219-036441
2017-2019
F.I.T.C.O.R.N.O.
From (m)migrants to citizens: old roots vs. new opportunities
Learning, Teaching, Training Activity LTTA C1
Romania, 12-16 of March, 2018



Agreement for using photo and video in public materials

MEMBERS OF STAFF (TEACHERS)

No	Country	Ms./Mrs./Mr.	Name/Surname	Role (principal, teacher, coordinator etc.)
1.	France	Mrs.	Heike KROLL	German teacher <i>H. Kroll</i>
		Mr.	Wilfried TILLOUX	Head of IT <i>W. Tiloux</i>
2.	Germany	Mr.	Matthias MYRCZEK	coordinator <i>M. Myrczek</i>
		Mrs.	Anna-Lena KUTSCH	teacher <i>A. Kutsch</i>
3.	Hungary	Mrs.	Kinga NEMESNÉ Molnár	teacher <i>K. Nemesné Molnár</i>
		Mrs.	Judit HELMÉCZYNE Bosánszki	teacher <i>J. Helméczyne Bosánszki</i>
4.	Italy	Mrs.	Valeria PSAILA	Head of the language department
		Mrs.	Maria Pia UMANA	teacher
5.	Poland	Mrs.	Nina LAWENDOWSKA	teacher <i>Nina Lawendowska</i>
		Mrs.	Katarzyna MLYNARCZYK	teacher <i>K. Mlynarczyk</i>
6.	Portugal	Mr.	Luis Miguel Gomes	teacher <i>L. M. Gomes</i>
		Mr.	Rui António	teacher <i>R. António</i>

STUDENTS

No.	Country	Student's Name/Surname	Gender	Age
1.	France	Amandine Basile <i>Amandine Basile</i>	F	14
		Thel-Mina Doerle <i>Thel-Mina Doerle</i>	F	12
		Fanny Moulé <i>Fanny Moulé</i>	F	12
		Carla Rouille <i>Carla Rouille</i>	F	12
2.	Germany	Samuel Pavlak <i>Samuel Pavlak</i>	M	13/14
		Tom Hill <i>Tom Hill</i>	M	13/14
		Lina Berg <i>Lina Berg</i>	F	13/14
		Min-Young Lee <i>Min-Young Lee</i>	F	13/14
3.	Hungary	Artúr FÜRST <i>Artúr Fürst</i>	M	13
		Dániel LADJÁNSZKY	M	14
		Norbert BOLYÓS	M	14
		Ágoston TÓTH	M	14
		Blanka ZAGYVAI <i>Blanka Zagyvai</i>	F	15
		Bernadett SPINYHÉRT <i>Bernadett Spinyhért</i>	F	15
4.	Italy	DI FRANCESCO Alessia	F	12
		GIUFFRIDA Anastasia Maria	F	12
		PASSARO Giulia	F	12

		ROMANO Noemi Maurizia	F	12
5.	Poland	BORKOWSKA Natalia <i>Natalia Borkowska</i>	F	13/14
		SIEMIASZKO Weronika <i>Weronika Siemiaszko</i>	F	14/15
		STARCZEWSKI Grzegorz <i>Grzegorz Starczewski</i>	M	13/14
		SZYK Paweł <i>Paweł Szyk</i>	M	13/14
6.	Portugal	Erica Palma <i>Erica Palma</i>	F	17/18
		Rita Martins <i>Rita Martins</i>	F	17/18
		Magda Grade <i>Magda Grade</i>	F	17/18
		Rodrigo Ruivo <i>Rodrigo Ruivo</i>	M	17/18

4. Outline of the Romanian school presentation



2017-2019
ERASMUS+
From (m)migrants to citizens.
Old roots vs. new opportunities

OUR VALUES

Tolerance
Inclusion
Creativity
Positive emotions

First, there was the meeting in Faro, Portugal, November 2017...



We've met & established our schedules...



Here in Romania

And discussed "Fuocoammare"...



...and symbols of migration



















Here in Romania



Here in Romania



Here in Romania



In search for a logo...



Or like this...



Erasmus+ F.I.T.C.O.R.N.O
Write World's Way Back!

Sometimes we were just thinking that birds always find their way back




Some of them never finished...



Then there were our meetings, movies, and then many...



Erasmus+ **F.I.T.C.O.R.N.O** 2017-2019

<https://fitcornoerasmus.weebly.com>

We Write World's Way Back!



It's not all! Here are some facts & figures about Romania...



It's not all! Here are some facts & figures about Romania...



Language: Romanian (Latin origin). Know the others? FR, IT, PT, SP

Neighbours:
Moldavia 450 km,
Bulgaria 608 km, Hungary 443 km,
Serbia 476 km,
Ukraine (N) 362 km,
Ukraine (E) 169 km

A Little History...

Origins: Roman Empire and the Province of Dacia

Great EVENTS

- December 31st, 1918 – end of the 1st World War & The Great Union. Now, all the provinces of Romania unite. The Greater Romania is born (1918-1940)
- After the 2nd World War...

1947-1989 - Communist period



- NO Freedom
- Borders are CLOSED
- COLD
- FEAR

1947-1989 - Communist period

Never ending queues for food...



Orphans forgotten...



21st of December, 1989 - The Revolution
2004 - NATO
1st of January, 2007 - European Union

New hopes...



People are free to:

- Think, Talk, Express, Travel and... EVEN MIGRATE
- Democracy
- Freedom
- Borders opened

What we DO

NOW, in 2018...

Mark
Imagine
Group
Remember
Attend
Train
Invent
Observe
Narrate

We are back to our project of MIGRATION.



Anonymous or Famous?
Romanian Migrants on FITCORNO map
 (situation from 2016)

France: 334 990
 Germany: 510 943
 Hungary: 26 545
 Italy: 1 290 051
 Poland: up to 5000
 Portugal: 38 312

Distribution of ethnic Romanians in South-Eastern Europe

- Italy - Romanians
- Hungary - Romanians
- Poland - Romanians
- Portugal - Romanians

Eugene Ionesco - playwright, Tristan Tzara - poet, Constantin Brancuși, FRANCE

Herta Muller - Nobel Prize winner, left Romania after 1989, GERMANY

Vasile Pârvan - historian, Accademia di Romania, ITALY

Iolanda Balas (Jolanda Baláz) - 1960, 1964 Ecaterina Szabo (Katalin Szabó) - 1984 Emília Eberle (Hungarian-German) - 1980 Gabriela Szabo, 1996, 2000 (half Hungarian) - won Olympic medals

Octav Smigelschi - painter, Polish origin

Lucian Blaga, famous poet, ambassador in Portugal

Thinking about migration

The 2nd place after Syria...

3.400.000 people left Romania from 2009....

But there's hope. That's why we are all here...

Erasmus+
 Changing lives. Opening minds.

Erasmus+ FLTCO.R.N.O Students, Parents, Teachers!

Romania, March 2018

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Capital: Bucharest

Official language: Romanian

Area: 237,500 km²

Population (2002): 21,680,974

Population density: 90.9 inhabitants per km²

Population growth (natural increase in 2000): -1.9%

Foreign citizens as percentage of total population: 0.2% (MIRA)

Labour force participation rate (2000): 62.4% (DNS)

Unemployment rate: 4.5% (April 2007), 5.4% (2006), 5.9% (2005) (DNS)

Religion (2002 census): 85.5% Romanian Orthodox, 4.7% Roman Catholic, 3.3% Reformed, 1.5% Pentecostal, 0.9% Greek Catholic, 3.7% other; 0.2% no religion, atheist or not stated

Source: Institutul National de Statistica (INS)

FIGURE 2: Ethnic structure of the emigrant population (1975-1989) compared to the ethnic composition of the Romanian population (1977 census)

	Share of general population (1977 census)	Share of emigrant population (1975-1989)
Romanians	87.0%	35.5%
Germans	1.6%	44.2%
Hungarians	7.9%	12.8%
Jews	0.1%	5.6%
Others	3.3%	2.1%

Source: Institutul National de Statistica (INS)

FIGURE 3: The top five source countries of temporary foreign workers in Romania

Country	2005	2006
1. Turkey	1,481	1,721
2. China	529	1,129
3. France	155	310
4. Germany	55	200

Source: Ministerul Internelor și Reformei Administrative (MIRA) (2007)

FIGURE 4: Total number of immigrants and immigrants from the Republic of Moldova, 1997-2005

Source: Institutul National de Statistica (INS) (2006)

FIGURE 5: Number of applications for naturalisation, submitted and approved, 2001-2006

Source: Ministerul Justiției

FIGURE 6: Asylum applications by Romanian citizens in OECD countries, 1990-2006

Source: OECD

FIGURE 7: Asylum in France, applications submitted and approved, 1991-2006

Source: INS

Don't be scared, you don't need to memorize it!

Erasmus+

All we have to do is to activate the most precious resource of this planet. YOU!

So, back to work now...

LTTA C1, Romania, 12th-16th of March, 2018

Our proposal:

Work in groups:

- ✓ Form international groups;
- ✓ Gather ideas from all presentations;
- ✓ Each group maps its own vision on migration.

Possible working groups on:

- Vocabulary of migration
- Feelings and emotions
- Works of art, movies, documentaries
- UNESCO World's Heritage – common traditions
- Insider: migrants' point of view
- Outsider: people on migrants

Mark
Imagine
Group
Remember
Attend
Train
Invent
Observe
Narrate

**Olga Gudynn International School hosted Erasmus+ Project
"From (im) migrants to citizens project: old roots vs. new opportunities"**

Romania Through the Eyes Of Children

By Florin Balotescu

Olga Gudynn International School was honoured to host the sessions of the second international meeting of the Erasmus+ project "From (im) migrants to citizens project: old roots vs. new opportunities" between 12th and 16th of March 2018.

It was a Learning, Teaching, Training Activity, with international students and teachers, attended by 37 guests from partner schools, 25 pupils and 12 teachers. The project is coordinated by Italy and is co-funded by the Erasmus + program of the European Union, with English as a working language, representing a strategic partnership between seven secondary schools, all these with traditions in the development of international projects: ITALY, "Scuola Secondaria di Primo Grado - Ettore Romagnoli"; FRANCE, "Saint Denis International School, Loches"; GERMANY, "Hermann-Böse-Gymnasium"; POLAND, "Gimnazjum nr. 94 im. Cichociemnych Spadochroniarzy Armii Krajowej"; PORTUGAL, "Agrupamento de Escolas Joao de Deus"; HUNGARY, "Bakray Ervin Gimnázium and ROMANIA, "Olga Gudynn International School".

The opening of the working sessions was also attended by representatives of the ministry and school inspectorate, UNESCO collaborators, and members of the Erasmus + group from the hosting school.

The meetings followed three main topics: presentations and discussions of the project outputs, working inside international groups according to the agreed schedule (choosing logo and slogan, using ICT collaborative tools, building strategies for collecting data on ethnic minorities and migration) and cultural encounters relevant to the project's topic.

The Erasmus+ project was highly supported by the Olga Gudynn International School's community, all the 25 students being hosted in families, to keep a safe,



warm and inspiring environment for them during the whole 5 working days meeting. Beyond the achievements of specific goals in the project's plan, the international group had some meaningful encounters with the Romanian culture and society. They could perceive elements of stability within Romania's traditional background by guided tours at National Village Museum and Comana Paper Mill and Crafts Village, they could experience the eclectic landscape of the present-day Bucharest and they made their voice heard at the Radio Romania Cultural, as guests in the live broadcasting "Science in Proper Words", by Corina Negrea and

Dan Manolache. Feedback was always positive. Mrs. Olga Gudynn, founder of the hosting school, expressed pride "that our school represents Romania in this project where seven countries are working together to promote one of the most important value that all children should learn at a very young age: Tolerance and the joy of bringing people together!" The founder also thanked all teachers and parents for their generosity and passion of doing things together, for their effort to make the world a better place for all of us, by "planting good seeds in the place where everything starts... which is educa-

tion!" showing that "kids are the strongest dreamers and it's important to inspire them to dream about friendship, love, tolerance, about peace and a beautiful big world".

The international Italian coordinator, Tiziana Anna-Maria Finocchiaro thanked "the school, the staff and families, for the high quality standards they assured to the development of the project", as "a good social dimension is maybe a key element in a good partnership, and it is crucial to have things run in full accordance to the project's plan".

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**Olga Gudynn International School hosted Erasmus+ Project
"From (im) migrants to citizens project: old roots vs. new opportunities"**

Romania Through the Eyes Of Children

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Most of the participants left their impressions in OGIS Book of Honour. In the name of the coordinating school in Gela, the students Alessia Di Francesco, Anastasia Giuffrida, Giulia Passaro, Noemi Romano said "thank you so much for all and for beautiful moments that you gave us".

Valeria Psaila, Italian teacher, pointed out that she "found a fantastic team, great teachers, dedicated people very fond of their job and education" and she expressed great confidence in our team work: "this let me hope in a better world. I'll bring home the memory of happy Erasmus moments which help me open doors to Europe".

The Polish students Natalia Borkowska, Weronika Stemiaszko, Grzegorz Starczewski and Pawel Szyk talked about "a brilliant experience, lot of wonderful people and amazing places", whereas the French, the German and Portuguese delegations wrote and talked about the impressive hospitality and also about a wonderful



experience which was motivating, unique and a good impulse for all our future work.

All the Romanian team expresses its confidence in this great work. It was the start of new relations and it

also meant continuing a long term work. Migration is surely a strong force in the whole world, but it is also a mark of our life, of our spirit, of the invisible flow which connects us all. It brings back symbols, traditions, it makes us think about our roots. The F.I.T.C.O.R.N.O. Erasmus+ project in which Olga Gudynn International School is a partner is sure a powerful example of how unity and creative dialogue may be the solution for most of the problems that our world deals with today. What is left to be done is showing that there is something more than words. To bring these to reality. To make them visible, viable, persistent by creating and maintaining a working, collaborative, inspirational net. As the chosen motto of the project says: "Borders aren't walls! Borders are doors to be opened".

Florin Balorescu is Coordinator ERASMUS project and teacher at Olga Gudynn International School, Bucharest



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