

Partners On the Corners

Students prepared posters about partner countries to learn about their culture, traditions, locations, languages, important people and places.



Population of Portugal
Official language
Capital city
Geography: The location of Portugal is on the southwestern coast of Europe, bordering the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. It is a peninsula, with the Iberian Peninsula to its east and the Atlantic Ocean to its west.



Traditional dishes of Portugal
Famous Portuguese wine
Portuguese architecture



Portugal is a country in southwestern Europe. It is a peninsula, with the Iberian Peninsula to its east and the Atlantic Ocean to its west. The capital is Lisbon. The official language is Portuguese. The population is approximately 10 million. The country is known for its rich history, culture, and cuisine.

Famous people: Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal's national football team.

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- The Last Meeting, June 2018 Turkey

From the 24th to the 29th June 2018 took place, in Merkez Secondary School Aydın, Turkey, the 5th Transnational Project Meeting.

On Sunday, June 24th, partners were welcomed at the İzmir Adnan Menderes Airport and they travelled to Aydın, where they did the check-in at the hotel.

On Monday, June 25th, the team explored the wine business in the old Ottoman town called “Şirince”, a village of 600 inhabitants in İzmir province, located about 8 kilometres east of the town Selçuk. The village was settled when Ephesus was abandoned in the 15th century but most of what one sees today dates from the 19th century. There is a story that the village was settled by freed Greek slaves who named the village Çirkince (meaning “Ugly” in Turkish) to deter others from following them. The village’s name was changed to Şirince (meaning “Pleasant”) in 1926 by the governor of İzmir Province. This lovely and unique old town will stay forever in the memory of all the Erasmus+ project visitors!

In the afternoon, the Turkish team led its partners in a visit to the Seljuk Archaeological Museum, a museum displaying an extraordinary collection, bringing together the most recent finds from Ephesus – its exhibits, which include famous items such as the effigy of the god Priapus, a statue of Eros mounted on a dolphin, and the head of Socrates, immortalised in

marble... Note also the statues of Artemis, the goddess of fertility, and the original frieze from the Temple of Hadrian, relating the origins of the foundation of Ephesus. In addition, mosaics and frescoes brilliantly re-create the sophisticated decor of the city.

Later, all teachers visited the “Virgin Mary House”, a Christian Sanctuary that Catholic pilgrims visit based on the belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken to this stone house by Saint John and lived there until her Assumption (according to Catholic dogma) or Dormition (according to Orthodox belief). The shrine has merited several papal Apostolic Blessings and visits from several popes, the earliest pilgrimage coming from Pope Leo XIII in 1896, and the most recent in 2006 by Pope Benedict XVI.

Continuing to dive into the past, the team explored the Roman and Hellenistic period art in the ancient UNESCO World Heritage city of Ephesus. Everyone was surprised and delighted with this an outstanding example of a Roman port city. Located within what was once the estuary of the River Kaystros, Ephesus comprises successive Hellenistic and Roman settlements founded on new locations, which followed the coastline as it retreated westward. Excavations have revealed grand monuments of the Roman Imperial period including the Library of Celsus and the Great Theatre and little remains of the famous Temple of Artemis, one of the “Seven Wonders of the World,” which drew pilgrims from all around the Mediterranean.

On Tuesday, June 26th, the participants had a meeting with the staff of Merkez Secondary School and they visited the buildings. This was also an opportunity to exchange ideas about teaching methods and school organisation, comparing experiences from the 5 countries involved in this project. In this working session, the team evaluated the project outcomes and reports and discussed the dissemination phase after the project ends.

This working session ended with a visit to Mrs Acar- the director of education of Yenipazar and the team had a brief lecture from her. Besides that, the participants asked Mrs Acar questions about the main goals of education in Yenipazar and about some future projects.

In the afternoon, the group took notice of an extinct profession – making jewellery from bone -visiting a workshop.

Since agriculture and cattle raising are the main economic income of Yenipazar, the team visited a small farm, recently built with the support of European Community funds.

Proceeding with the economic resources, the visitors learned about modern agriculture techniques. This time, the participants visited a greenhouse where tons of vegetables like tomato and cucumber are produced without soil. According to the greenhouse manager, all these products are exported to countries like Russia, Ukraine and Romania.

Later, in the hotel, a pleasant official dinner was served.

On Wednesday, June 27th, in a project meeting at the Merkez Secondary School, the team wrote the final report of the Erasmus+ project I'm Planning My Future. All participants agreed that this 2-year project was successful. The students involved in the mobilities to Latvia and to Portugal improved their ICT and English skills and they have met different realities that, for sure, will stay in their memories forever. Besides that, the activities implemented during these 2 years allowed them to be aware of the different choices they can make, as far as their future studies and career are concerned. They are, for sure, different and happier teenagers!

In the afternoon the group visited UNESCO World Heritage Pamukkale Travertines, a gift to Anatolia from nature. Pamukkale ("white castle") is a dreamy place that fascinates the people with its ancient city and white travertines. This unique natural miracle of milky white travertines and the golden city of Hierapolis and the ancient Roman bath have become culture and tourism centre moreover they have been declared as world heritage by Unesco. The spring with 36 degrees Celsius of hot water which contains a high amount of calcium hydro carbonate has caused the formation of travertine. Hierapolis was an ancient city located on hot springs in classical Phrygia. Its ruins are adjacent to modern Pamukkale and currently comprise an archaeological museum designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The hot springs have been used as a spa since the 2nd century BC, with many patrons retiring or dying there. The large necropolis is filled with sarcophagi, most famously that of Marcus Aurelius Ammianus, which bears a relief depicting the earliest known example of a crank and rod mechanism.

The great baths were constructed with huge stone blocks without the use of cement and consisted of various closed or open sections linked together. There are deep niches in the inner sections including the bath, library, and gymnasium.

The Cleopatra pool offered the Erasmus visitors the opportunity to swim in the healing water among the antique columns 2500 years of age... unforgettable!

On Thursday, June 28th, the participants travelled to Dalyan, which means "fishing weir" in Turkish. In addition to its attraction as a tourist destination, the region around Dalyan is a highly fertile and productive agricultural zone.

The team did a boat tour in the river. Above the river's sheer cliffs are the weathered façades of Lycian tombs cut from rock, circa 400 B.C.. The ruins of the ancient trading city of Kaunos are a short boat trip across the river.

In the south of Dalyan on the Mediterranean coast, the participants were in İztuzu Beach, near the village of the same name and they also had a natural skin treatment in the mud bath.

Later in the evening, the closing ceremony took place and the participants got the attendance certificates.

Turkey is an 80,810,525 million inhabitants Eurasian country. Asian Turkey, which includes 97 per cent of the country, is separated from European Turkey by the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmara, and the Dardanelles. European Turkey comprises 3 percent of the country. The territory of Turkey is more than 1,600 kilometres (990 miles) long and 800 kilometres (500 miles) wide, with a roughly rectangular shape.

The Anatolian peninsula, comprising most of modern Turkey, is one of the oldest permanently settled regions in the world. Turkey has been inhabited since the Paleolithic age by various ancient civilisations. It's a country with 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, a very rich history and wonderful and varied landscapes...

In this few days, and thanks to a very well designed programme, the Turkish team gave its partners from Bulgaria, Latvia, Portugal and Romania the opportunity to learn more about this huge Humanity treasure: the Republic of Turkey.







- LTT Meeting in Portugal

As part of the Erasmus + project under the theme “I’m planning my future”, our school was visited by teachers and students from Bulgaria, Latvia, Romania and Turkey.

The activities took place between April 30 and May 4 and included workshops and visits to the School and beyond. In the School Library, visitors enjoyed an exhibition about the writers of the different countries and books that are representative of Portuguese literature and that of the visiting countries (some of them translated into English, made available by the Municipal Library).

In the school were realized the work sessions, a guided visit and a workshop of meditation.

The delegation visited the playground and the facilities of Moreirense Futebol Clube.

In Braga, after visiting the sanctuaries of Bom Jesus and Sameiro, they visited the Regiment of Cavalry 6 and had lunch there. In the afternoon of that day, they strolled through the historic center. The same happened in Guimarães, after the reception in the City Hall.

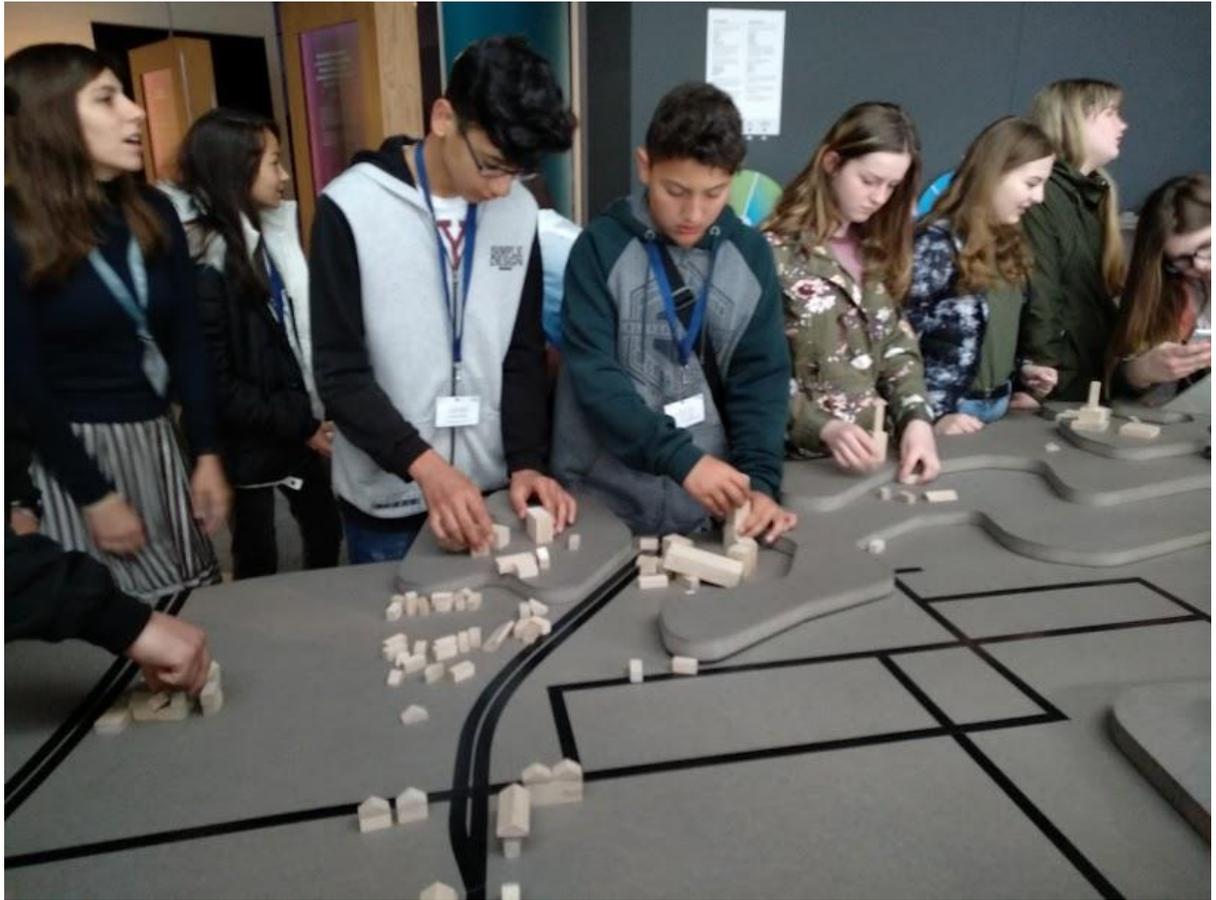
The group traveled to S. João da Madeira where, as part of the Industrial Tourism project, it visited the “Helsar” and “Viarco” pencil factories. On the way back, there was a stop at Espinho and another at Gaia.

In both cases participants enjoyed a breathtaking landscape, a unique experience for most of them.

On the last day, there was an activity promoted by the Parish Council of Moreira de Cónegos, in the area of the mills. In addition to the traditional snack, the students of the Senior University cheered up the afternoon, which ended with the delivery of the certificates of attendance.







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- Second Transnational Project Meeting in Bulgaria between 16th-21st october 2018

The Erasmus+ project «I'm Planning My Future» is developed by five countries: Romania, Latvia, Portugal, Bulgaria and Turkey (as the país coordinator country). The main goal of the project is «Today's happy students will be tomorrow's happy workers».

In Varna, Bulgaria, between the 16th and the 21th october, took place the 3rd Transnational Project Meeting.

Varna is the third-largest city in Bulgaria and the largest city and seaside resort on the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast. Situated strategically in the Gulf of Varna, the city has been a major economic, social and cultural centre for almost three millennia. Varna, historically known as Odessos, grew from a Thracian seaside settlement to a major seaport on the Black Sea.

According to the programme, and after the welcoming ceremony, partners met in Panayot Volov Secondary School, in Varna, for some working sessions. The main purpose of these meetings was to make a point of situation of the first year of activities, to plan future activities and check the global achievement of the project.

On the 19th october the team had a meeting with the director of education in Varna's municipality building. The participants discussed questions about the main goals of education in Varna and about some future projects. This was also an opportunity to exchange ideas about teaching methods and school organisation, comparing experiences from the 5 countries involved in this project.

The cultural programme was also very interesting.

Varna is a very old roman city, in the black sea coast, with a mediterranean style, with fresh avenues and gardens. City landmarks include the Varna Archaeological Museum, exhibiting the Gold of Varna, the Roman Baths, the Battle of Varna Park Museum, the Naval Museum in the Italianate Villa Assareto displaying the museum ship Drazki torpedo boat, the Museum of Ethnography in an Ottoman-period compound featuring the life of local urban dwellers, fisherfolk, and peasants in the late 19th and early 20th century.

The 'Sea Garden' is the oldest and perhaps largest park in town containing an open-air theatre (venue of the International Ballet Competition, opera performances and concerts), Varna Aquarium (opened 1932), the Festa Dolphinarium (opened 1984), the Nicolaus Copernicus Observatory and Planetarium, the Museum of Natural History, a terrarium, a zoo, an alpineum, a children's amusement park with a pond, boat house and ice-skating rink, and other attractions.

In the Museum of Natural History, after a very interesting guided visit, the group joined the bulgarian students that heard a brief lecture from an archaeologist. After that, everyone participated in a workshop: reconstruction of a piece of pottery allegedly discovered during an excavation.

Later in the afternoon, there was a walking tour in the city centre and, in the evening, the team assisted the classical ballet "Giselle", in the National Opera, a beautiful building from the early 20th century.

The team also visited the Euxinograd palace, a 19th-century palace

featuring with period furnishings, botanical gardens with rare plants, and the wine collections of Prince Ferdinand and Tsar Boris III. An unforgettable place is Aladzha Monastery, a medieval Orthodox Christian cave monastery complex 17 km north of central Varna and 3 km west of Golden Sands beach resort, in a protected forest area adjacent to the Golden Sands Nature Park. The monastery caves were hewn into a 25-m high vertical karst cliff near the upper edge of the Franga plateau on several levels. The complex includes two small nearby catacombs. Dedicated to the Holy Trinity, it was an active hesychast monastic community of the Second Bulgarian Empire since the 12th century and perhaps survived until the early 18th century. Nearby, remains of a 5th-century cave monastery have been found. After the monastery, the team visited the Golden Sands beach resort, a major seaside resort town. It is virtually connected to the city by a continuous swath of resorts and villa communities. It is a popular tourist destination, drawing many visitors from Romania, Ukraine, Poland, Germany, the United Kingdom, Russia, Scandinavia, France, Central and Eastern Europe, the Persian Gulf, Israel, and other countries. This wonderful day ended with the official dinner, in a local restaurant. And, once more, the participants had a surprise: an ancient fire ritual... In the last day of activities, the Bulgarian team led its hosts to the local Delphinarium, where the dolphins and their coaches present the unique Dolphin show. Before that, a visit to the Naval Academy and, after, a guided visit to the control tower in the port of Varna. The closing ceremony took place in the best scenario: the Astronomical observatory "Nicolaus Copernicus"! After a very interesting presentation about the mysteries of the universe, the participants got their attendance certificates.





LTT in Jaunpiebalga Secondary school, Jaunpiebalga, Latvia
May 31-June 4, 2017

The 2nd LTT of the project I'm planning my future was developed in Jaunpiebalga Secondary school, Jaunpiebalga, Latvia from May 31 to June 4. It was a very important mobility since there were students involved.

On wednesday the 31st may the group was present in a meeting with the headteacher/ and the local mayor. After this official session, each country shared a presentation of its country and school.

Later in the morning the latvian hosts proposed a rich programme that included sports activities with Jaunpiebalga secondary school students. This activity allowed students from to know each other, developing communication skills in english and improving their social skills too.

After lunch, the group went on a guided visit to the school museum, installed in a troid house on the land adjacent to the school buiding and where many documents and other ancient objects are well preserved.

After this visit, students did career tests that allowed them to fulfill one of the main goals of the project: find out which job(s) is (are) the most suitable for them.

The first day programme ended with a Jaunpiebalgas Secondary school concert in Jaunpiebalga Culture house.

On thursday, June the 1st, the morning was dedicated to workshops and learning activities at school. The latvian team invited ZINOO (science & curiosity centers with science centers in Riga, Cesis, Liepaja and Daugavpils) to present practical

workshop/ science show and experiments to the students.

In the afternoon, all the participants visited secondary and primary school buildings and heard a short story about these schools.

Some kilometers later, took place a practical workshop in “ Vēveri” with baking traditional latvian (delicious!) bread.

On friday, June 2, the Erasmus+ visitors visited the Art and Music school, quite near from the Jaunpiebalga Secondary school and where many latvian students attend music and art classes. People from the community also attend classes and have access to workshops here. Everyone was very surprised with this ancient building, totally renovated, and with excellent conditions and equipment. Both students and teachers did practical activities in Art School: painting, music, metal and weave.

After lunch, another career scenario was proposed to students: the group visited a furniture factory. A lecture about producing furniture and business possibilities was presented by the factory manager.

The group left the factory towards Raimonds Dombrovskis’s house. This Latvian sportsman, 7 time champion of United States in Biathlon, is an adventurous personality. He man crossed America (6759 km) from Canada (Arctic, Inuvik) till Mexico (Baja) in 90 days.... on rollerblades!!! Now his profession is traveler and not only... With this very special meeting, both students and teachers were faced with thrilling ideas how to create their lives in a (very) different way...

Next day, saturday, June 3, the group had a very rich and intense cultural experience, with an excursion day to Sigulda, Cēsis. Sigulda town combines ancient and modern times.

Cēsis is situated in the central area of the Vidzeme region, and it is one of the most beautiful cities in Latvia. With over 800 years of history, Cēsis is one of the best-preserved medieval towns in the Baltics. The beginnings of this town can be traced back to 800 years ago. They are related to the mediaeval Cēsis castle, around which, in the 13th century, a town appeared. Cēsis medieval castle and its surrounding park is a superb place to enjoy nature and history and the castle offers a fascinating historical exhibition.

On sunday, June 4, several practical workshops/ lectures were developed in ECO farm “ Pļavnas”, where the group has been staying.

While students did the activities, teachers worked on the project, filling questionnaires and discussing future activities.

In the end of the day certificates of attendance were delivered to all the participants and... it was time to say goodbye to each other!







First Transnational Meeting, Romania November 2016

Host organization: Școala Gimnazială nr 1 Vîrfu-Cîmpului (Dorohoi – Botosani-Romania)

Dates: 16 November 2016 to 19 November 2016

The 1st TPM occurred between the 16th and the 19th November 2016, in the Școala Gimnazială nr 1, at Vîrfu-Cîmpului with the participants of Turkey , Latvia, Bulgaria and Portugal, hosted by the Romanian partners.

According to the meeting program, on Tuesday, the 15th November, teachers arrived at the international airport Henri Coandă, in Bucharest and were received by Gianina Butescu and Filip Anamaria Filip, from the Vîrfu-Cîmpului school. Then, the trip by bus to Dorohoi started. Teachers arrived at the hotel in Dorohoi, late in the evening, and did their checking.

The official program opening took place on the 16th November. At the Școala Gimnazială nr 1, at Vîrfu-Cîmpului, the headmistress Daniela Halici, gave the welcome to all the participants. In the meeting room, all the participants were delighted by the presentation of traditional songs made by a group of students and their music teacher. Then, all partners were guided in a visit to the school, having the opportunity to see the different classrooms and taking knowledge of the different levels and of the activities developed by the students and their

teachers.

After the guided tour, back to the meeting room, all the participants presented themselves, their schools and their hometown/country. They talked about their education systems and the activities that they develop. They shared their experiences and they also referred to the main obstacles and setbacks they face in their daily practice.

The coordinator, Yalçın Karaca, made an exhaustive and detailed presentation of the project I'm planning my future. As he said, "The ultimate goal [of the project] is to create a happier society, of people who love what they do". In order to do this, jobs should be introduced to the students, so that they can choose a career that fits with their nature, interests and skills.

Yalçın presented each partner's responsibilities. The activities plan was defined as follows:

the Turkish team will be responsible to create and manage the project's website and Facebook page; they will also create a YouTube channel;
the Bulgarian team is responsible for the final album of the project. They should make the photos, choose them and select them, in order to compose the final album. This album will be for global use in the future;
the Latvian team will have at its charge the task of dissemination (in the local media, they will be disseminating films and news/reports about the activities);
the Romanian team will produce all the documents required to evaluate the development of the project;
the Portuguese team will write all the reports of the different activities accomplished.

Each country decided who will be the contact person/coordinator in each school.

Later in the morning, all teachers participated in a roundtable, at the Primaria Comunei Vîrfu-Cîmpului, where they discussed the subject "Relations between local authorities and school". After this discussion, led by the mayor, a press conference took place. Local reporters made an interview with the different partners, questioning them about the main objectives of the project and its importance.

After a lunch in a local restaurant, all the participants continued working on the project at the Școala Gimnazială nr 1. They settled the dates of mobilities, according to each partner's school calendars. They have also discussed some details concerning the mobilities, mainly the student's accommodation, that should be near their teachers, in a hotel/guesthouse.

According to the meeting program, the participants drafted the plan for monitoring the project and for the evaluation of the activities developed.

In the evening, all the participants joined for the official dinner, at the Pensiunea Splendid, in Dorohoi. Before dinner, the participants watched different musical presentations, such as traditional dances, dance and songs, performed by the students.

On Thursday, the 17th of November, the team worked on the logotype project. According to what the coordinator country Yalçin Karaca demanded, each country promoted an internal contest, in order to choose the best logotype. In this meeting, all partners were quite pleased with the quality of the works each country presented. So, it was settled that Anamaria Filip will make a composition with the different logotypes, in order to conceive the final logo.

In the second working session of the morning, the participants drew the plan for dissemination and improvement of the project. All the partners agreed in sharing and posting the activities in the social networks, mainly the secret Facebook page of the project.

After lunch, all the participants went on a documentation visit, trying to discover the eventual future jobs and sharing experiences about the different educational systems.

On the 18th of November, the morning began with a working session, where the participants planned the tasks to accomplish and the way they will do that. In this working session partners also planned the budget needed for the different mobilities.

In the afternoon, the participants continued their work, discussing subjects related to the mobilities: the accommodation of the students and the teachers, the transportations and how to handle the budgets.

Later in the afternoon, all the participants made the evaluation of this 1st Transnational project meeting. The document used as a quiz/questionnaire, produced by the host team of Romania. The teachers also prepared the report of the 1st Transnational project meeting.

Finally, the Romanian host team invited the headmistress to officially close the 1st Transnational project meeting. All the participants filled the suitable documents and received their certificates.

On Saturday, the 19th November, the participants made their trips back to their countries, with their heads full of ideas to develop with their students.









- **Project Logo**
One of the initial activities was to design a unique logo for the project. Students in partner countries designed their logos. During the 1st Transnational Meeting in Romania in November 2016, teachers from partner countries held a meeting in order to vote for the best logo. However, all the logos created by students were so good that we couldn't make a decision. After a long debate, we finally agreed to combine all the logos and create a single one.

