



THE READER

SPECIAL 2

ERASMUS+ ISSKO PROJECT
Students' common impressions on the ended project

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(II LO student)
Helping hand -
Natalia Król
(II LO teacher)**

Students of three European high schools: Baczyński High School from Radomsko, **Poland**, Stephen Liégeard High School in Brochon, **France** and Paimio High School in **Finland** have been taking part in an exchange within **Erasmus+** project. Talents Campus from France is also the partner of the project. The project's dates are October 2016 – March 2019. It's called **ISSKO** (Influence of Social Skills in the Orientation towards Higher Education). All the participants of the project have already been to Brochon (we went there in April 2017), Radomsko (we visited it in October 2017) and Paimio (April 2018). However, the students have just ended their adventure with the project. Whereas the teachers and the other staff members will continue throughout two more meetings until the final report is submitted to the EU in March 2019.



Here is the list of the participants of the project – students and adults (including teachers and other staff members):

Students:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Baumont Noemie | Nagała Filip |
| Borowiecka Aleksandra | Palokankare Jonna |
| Brandys Adam | Piasecka Natalia |
| De Magalhaes Louane | Prost Manon |
| Durey Cathy | Puntala Hilla |
| Dygudaj Iga | Ribeiro Chloe |
| Garrot Laure | Rusi Assi |
| Kallonen Kati | Ścistowska Urszula |
| Kaunonen Pinja | Siipola Elina |
| Klekowska Karolina | Smendowski Mateusz |
| Laaksonen Saana | Soncińska Izabela |
| Lähde Sanni | Sztaniak Ida |
| Lindstedt Milia | Tonot Alexis |
| Marteau Matteo | Virely Aesa |
| Nawrocki Eva | Zakrzewska Żaneta |

Adults:

Krawczyk-Broszkowska Agnieszka
 Król Natalia
 Latała Mariola
 Smendowska Anna
 Alasmäki Ritva
 Hietajärvi Hanna-Kaisa
 Salmela Juha-Matti
 Mulari Outi
 Brut Frederic
 Chasson Vincent
 Cougnot Bernard
 Fromage Alain
 Lanternier Dominique
 Trojanowski Pecaud Florence
 Souhait Melanie

Impacts of Erasmus+ project

This project has been one of the most efficient experiences in our lives. We have learnt a lot of useful things: like the right way for Polish people to drink vodka, how French are always five minutes late (or sometimes more...) and how Finnish people are always surprised to see other Finnish...

In reality, we have got to know different cultures and made new international friends, with whom we created strong bonds... we know that our friendship is going to last for a lifetime. Besides, we have learnt to appreciate more our own culture and history, noticed new qualities about ourselves and old friends and got to know them in a different way.

We have improved our social and language skills. We have taken more responsibilities about taking care of others and ourselves and also about the task that has been given to us.

We have gained self-confidence and appreciated our own skills a bit more. It has been very rewarding. We know that we are very lucky to be a part of this project and we would like to thank you for this opportunity. After that experience, we are more ready to participate in these kinds of programs and also in international context.



Filip, Assi, Noëlie

Experience with Erasmus+:

A year ago, our adventure with Erasmus started. Before the exchange we were more reserved and didn't have the courage to meet new people. Our first visit was in France, where the student from



France, Finland, and Poland met for the first time and made great new friends with each other.

During the project we became aware of our social skills thanks to Talent Campus. We shared our culture. It has been rewarding for us to learn about other cultures. So we started to create our first international experience. We learnt to plan our future with Future Camp and to become aware of the requirements in working life for example what employers expect from employees. We have learned how to work in multicultural teams. Now, we

know how to write CV and how to behave in a job interview

Each seminar was a rewarding experience. We have also improved our language skills. This project helps students like us to get to know ourselves and feel more confident in our future. None of the three of us regret to be a part of this exchange. We will never forget this. If you have the chance, we definitely recommend to you to participate in a project such as ERASMUS+.

Saana Laaksonen , Ida Szataniak, Cathy Durey

We cannot believe this project is almost over. The project has given us so much and we have experienced a lot. This kind of opportunity to speak English and the same kind of meeting new friends is brilliant. Indeed, the only way to communicate with the others is English so speaking this language has become more comfortable and the whole knowledge of English is much wider. Social skills have been important in this project and they have also become better, if you want to meet new people and make friends you have to be sociable and know how to speak to them. First of all, we discovered social skills that we didn't know before and without even thinking about it, we have improved our social skills. For example, through different activities we did in each country we improved our ability of team working, we noticed that some of us develop leadership capacities more than others. During this project we have realised that there are some differences between each of three countries, too. For sure, we have different systems of education, culture and habits. Simple, casual example is that we could see that Polish and Finish are used to eating more often than our French friends and it is also part of our cultures. We think that this, as a lot of other things, can be caused by different day organisation. Beyond that we of course have a lot in common, like the way we spend our free time or some of our traditions. We noticed that our nationality has no influence on our personalities. Most of us are sociable, active people who want to get to know different places, people. We all have positive attitude towards the world and others and we think that it is the thing which made us such a good team and friends.



Iga, Manon, Jonna

This Erasmus project has had many different impacts on us and on the way we approach things. First of all, it was an incredibly enriching project on a human aspect. Indeed, through these two years of project and of working together, we got to meet many new and different people, in our own home country (both students and teachers) as well as abroad. We now have international friends and know more about school systems in different countries, which allows us to be more critical about our own school system, since we now have something to compare it to. Then, being in other countries



enabled us to discover completely new European cultures while stepping out of our comfort zone. Meeting foreigners increased our open-mindedness and made us discover new ways of thinking and of approaching problems. We had to learn how to adapt quickly to new and bewildering situations as we were in unknown cultures and part of groups. Our team work skills have also improved throughout this project as we were entitled to work together, while in our countries or during international seminars. This project enhanced as well the importance of our future, and how our current actions can influence it, which encourages us to make better choices and be aware of our environment.

Iza, Aesa, Pinja

The impact of Erasmus-project:

Here we have written on the effects we had in common. We have also written about the personal effects.

All of us have learned more about different cultures. Before, we did have some basic information about the other cultures, but now we have more of a close perspective to them. I also understand our own cultures better because of this. We all made new friends and learned more English and became more comfortable with speaking in front of the people.

I now know more about the different education systems and my possibilities of studying abroad. I really want to study abroad later on, but I haven't decided on where yet. (Elina, Finland)

Thanks to Erasmus project I am more self-confident. We had a lot of challenges and while facing them, I started to believe in myself a bit more. I also learnt that it's alright to make mistakes and nobody's perfect so I don't demand as much from myself – as much to be ideal. I understood that deep inside we're not different. (Karolina, Poland)

The impact of the Erasmus+ project on my future is that it's gonna be useful for my studies and because of the project I still want to study abroad. Also it had an impact on me now, because with this project I learned to be more open to the other people and less shy. (Chloé, France)



Chloé, Elina, Karolina

Erasmus Impact



Through 3 amazing weeks in France, Poland and Finland, we experienced something great that we never lived before. Thanks to many workshops and activities led by really good people, we learnt more about ourselves every day, we even discovered some skills we didn't know we had inside. For example, it improved our ability to talk with other people, it developed our ability to take initiatives. Moreover, we've had the chance to see other systems of education in many different fields like applied sciences or chemistry. Therefore, it has been an opportunity to share the project and our knowledge with secondary school students. In addition, we had the chance to see new worlds we didn't know about, that is to say new cultures, new food...

But the most important thing in this story is that we met wonderful and amazing friends, we've had great times with them. We shared unforgettable moments. As a result, in the future, Erasmus will certainly have a real impact on our lives because thanks to the project, our eyes became wide opened for possibilities that are awaiting for us not only in the countries involved in the project but also in all the countries from all over the world. And finally, the experience earned during these 3 weeks will surely have an influence on our working lives in the future.

Adam. Mateusz. Alexis

Culture differences and similarities



First of all we have different food schedule. French people eat later than Finnish and Polish people. They eat in the evening after 8 o'clock. Polish people eat dinner about seven o'clock and Finnish people eat at about five o'clock. During visits we all tried new local food that we haven't tasted before. In Finland it is really important to be on time as in Poland. In France punctuality is not so important and the French are often a little bit late. In Finland it is very popular to go to the sauna unlike in Poland and France. In Poland and in Finland children start school when they're seven years old but in France kids have to go to school when they are three years old. In Poland and in Finland schooldays last six hours but in France schooldays are longer. School day can be nine hours. In Poland religion has bigger status than in Finland and in France. We all speak different languages as a native language. We all, Polish, Finnish and French people, appreciate the same values, for example good education and

health care. In this project we met lot of new people and got to know new people.

Milia, Natalia, Matteo

Our feelings of Erasmus+-project

We found that there are differences between our countries. Finnish people are more open, they don't have a problem with their bodies and being naked. It's not a taboo topic, for example because they can go to take a shower in big groups but the other Erasmus+ friends prefer going by themselves. Finnish and Polish people eat more often than in France. Another culture difference is that people in Finland drink much more milk, for example it's normal to drink milk with every meal.

Although we are from three different countries our families have a lot in common. Our families are all friendly and open to meet new people. Poland is a Catholic country so people go to church every Sunday. Finland and France are not so religious countries.

Us 3 have got more close and got along very well. Everyone has tried to be open to new things. Our friendship has grown bigger and bigger through the different trips and in between, thanks to social media. We quickly began to be very close and noticed that the fact that we were strangers allowed us to talk more frankly and to tell each other things that we couldn't talk about with other people.

In our way we are very similar to each other, but there are some small differences. Like the school subjects that we are studying are very different but it's nice to discuss it together because we can learn from each other. We share the same "teenager issues" and can compare our lives very easily.

Now, even if this project is coming to an end, we are sure that we will see each other again in our countries or maybe in some other country to discover it together. We made some friendship for life with everyone and we are very grateful for this project.



Eva Nawrocki, Hilla Puntala and Ola Borowiecka

SCHOOL IN THREE COUNTRIES

There is one main difference in high school between our three countries. It's the fact that French people end high school one year earlier. So they also start it one year earlier than Finnish and Polish people. French people have fifteen years of school before university. Finnish and Polish have to start school when they're 7 years old. Finnish have nine years of obligatory school and then they can go to high school and after that to university or whatever. In Poland people have to go to school for nine years too but after that they have to participate in lessons for 3 years in high school. When the three years have ended, they can either study more or just go to work. In France, students start school at the age of three and can quit at sixteen but almost everyone continues school and goes to university after that. For every country, it is quite a long part of our life that we actually live in school. It is there that we can develop ourselves, our competences and all the skills that we will need for the future. In fact, in each country school prepares us for life and for everything we will create or do in the future.



Sanni, Ula, Louane

Taking part in the Erasmus+ project gave us confidence to use other languages rather than our mother tongue. The project gave us different point of view and we realized that the way we do things is not the only right way. So sometimes it's good to take a look at or examine our daily habits and see if we could do things differently. As a matter of fact, we also noticed that there are slight differences in our values.

The project also encouraged us to go abroad and travel alone and without travel agencies. We became more open-minded and curious about discovering other cultures. Living in a host family gave us a more realistic point of view about the country, their habits and the culture. Our improved language skills enhance our chances to land a job in a foreign country. Since most of the activities were done in groups, we have had the chance to develop our social skills such as teamwork, communication and adaptation.

All in all, it was an incredible learning experience and we were so happy to take part in it. We made amazing friends and memories that will last a lifetime.



Žaneta, Kati, Laure