

Journal

Os Gatos - Easy - 2



EASY Project

Entrepreneurial and Skilful Youth

So far so good: An Intermediate Evaluation

This Erasmus+ project is almost a year old and it's about time we did an analysis.

When we wrote the project, we said we had some objectives and results. We wanted students to gain a broader understanding of what a “sense of initiative and entrepreneurship” means, to find out more about what starting up a business is really like and to gain business ideas and inspiration. I would put a tick to this, we have done it every time we have visited a firm, especially when it is particularly innovative.

We wanted young people to develop new entrepreneurial skills and be more active in their communities through creative methodologies, as well as share best practices and useful methods and find innovative ideas. Ok, so far so good. I'd say we have done it when we have given students a task to work on, always with their peers, and to prepare a presentation to show their foreign friends. Thanks to these meetings, they have also been developing new skills in the following fields: opportunity, relationship, conceptual, organising, strategic, commitment.

I'm happy to say this Erasmus+ project of ours has opened my school to an international dimension and has created stable relationships among the schools of the project. As far as this point is concerned, I would like to stress the importance of this project in our everyday life. When we heard the project had been approved, back in September 2014, the project team and the Principal of ITS “Morigia-Perdisa” decided to have as many teachers participating in the mobilities as possible, that's why the teachers who take part in the TLT Activities change every time. By doing so, we believe the impact on the students is greater since it affects more classes and more pupils.

Of course, the schools have created open relationships with the world of enterprises, at least when they organise the three visits for their country's TLTA.

We have been producing online tools, a blog, a website, Google drive documents, and a diary of the project, which we actually write in the blog. We have been making presentations, reports and videos. Each school has created a wall of the project. A media coverage has been arranged since some local newspapers have issued articles on the project. This has been possible in some small cities like Ravenna,



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but unfortunately impossible in bigger ones, especially if they are capitals. The school websites have made up for this loss in these cases.

But we still have a lot to do. The most important results we have to focus on in the second year are:

- Conducting a research and analysis on young people's needs

- Reporting the challenges in the field of youth entrepreneurship

- Developing a platform composed of free educational modules and audio-visual content addressed to young people, youth workers, teachers of vocational schools, professors from universities in entrepreneurship.

So, step on the gas... We will talk it through during the next TLTA.

See you all in Italy on 27th September!

Cristina Casagrande

Teacher of English and EASY coordinator ■



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Having my Bulgarian friend over in Vidigueira was really nice. I met Neda early this year, in January, when we visited Sofia, and she came to Portugal in May. It was good to know her perspective about my country, about our culture and all the other things, because Portugal and Bulgaria are quite different. We were really different from each other but we got along quite well.

The funny part was seeing my parents trying to speak Bulgarian, failing, of course.

She saw a lot of things and she loved our relation with the animals we keep, and how close our families can be. She was very happy to have the opportunity to be in touch with nature and a experience life in the countryside.

Alice Capito

Student

EPFA - Vidigueira 



School without borders

Giada, Martina, Camilla, Stefano and I had an experience in life which is unforgettable. The Erasmus Plus Easy Project, in which we participated, has a great purpose: to open up to the world through intercultural activities, to visit foreign countries like Turkey and either discover new places or see them with new eyes. This short trip gave us the chance of seeing new realities and appreciating new cultures. We fought biases of all kinds. All this allowed me to know and meet Czech, Portuguese, Bulgarian, Latvian and, especially, Turkish students - boys and girls with whom I shared lifestyles by attending the Turkish school. My mind is crowded with memories, images and emotions, which I lived and savoured moment by moment.

My first contact with Turkey, albeit culturally different from my country, was easy - it was with Meis Yilmaz's family and immediately I felt at home. I liked their food - Turkish dishes of meat, fish and vegetables prepared with spicy and yoghurt sauces, flavours different from those of my house but just as appetizing. I shared a passion for classical music and opera with Melis's father and rock music, manga and anime with Melis. With her mother, even though she did not speak English, we understood each other perfectly. I was simply fascinated by the Muezzin's daily prayer – it echoed in the city as a universal song. Turkish schools are different from Italian ones both as structures and as organisations. Classes start at a different time and the students have the opportunity to socialize and to practise sports before school – for example they play basketball in the school courts. The school we visited was very large and well-equipped in terms of technology. All classrooms were fitted with a whiteboard. I also had the opportunity of visiting different industries in Turkey, some of which of which make a big effort to protect the environment while remaining competitive within the European market.

Although it is a country with a majority of Muslims, boys and girls like wearing Western clothes in Antalya. Only few people wear traditional clothes. After breaking the ice, I soon noticed that we all have fun in the same way – Turkish boys and girls live their lives, their passions, dreams and their emotions as we do in Italy. For example, one evening we all went to a shopping centre and then we had fun in an

amusement park.

Before leaving for Turkey I had been afraid of finding a very closed country, but my fears were unfounded. Honestly, the Turkish reality does not seem so far from that of Italy or of other European cities, although the roots of our cultures are different.

Amanda Buzzi

Student

ITS "Morigia-Perdisa" ■



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From the 3rd to the 9th of May my Turkish colleague, Yaren, came to Portugal and stayed in my home in Vidigueira. She loved my house, my family and friends. I had spent a week at her house in Antalya and we became friends instantly as she is very friendly, caring and funny.

When she came to Portugal she loved the experience of getting to know a completely different country and culture, our traditional food, the monuments and I would like to repeat this experience at least once more in my life.

During the day we visited some Portuguese companies and producers and took some notes to fill in the questionnaires online at the end of the week. We always had lunch together with our other colleagues and teachers but at night we had dinner in my house with my family, except for the farewell dinner. After dinner we used to meet other boys and girls from other countries and my friends from Vidigueira at some bars in my town and we had the opportunity to make many new friends and practise our English a lot.

Beatriz Marques
Student
EPFA - Vidigueira 



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A healthy shock-but-safe therapy

It was my first Erasmus experience as a teacher. I could never have expected a better start. Our Portuguese guests were fantastic in organising all in such a way that allowed us to be completely immersed in daily life: both of school and their region too.

Our students were immediately challenged by a task: they had to present their works in public and, for most of them, it was the first time of such a try. Doing this in English, not their native language, rose their stress and forced them to change perspective: they went from an individual test, as they do in their everyday school experience, to a group test. This way they were forced to experiment the strength of the group and to sense the team building force. In fact, they set up the job with their peers and the presentation was a group goal, not just individual one.

So this was the main thread of the experience to me: students left our country as school friends and ended it up as a real-team group in order to face the Erasmus tasks along the path: company visits, tests and new country stimuli. Due to the intensity we experienced, I saw my students perform a kind of "evolutionary" step in less than a week: a kind of healthy shock-but-safe therapy that allowed them to start seeing how open, and beautiful the world may be if you can feel it so deeply in the country culture as our Portuguese partners allowed us to.

I have only one regret concerning this experience: I brought only five students to Portugal and I left another ninety-five at school in Italy. We all know that Europe is living difficult economic times but if a future has to be built, the best of our youth must be stimulated and I hope that sooner or later every student of Europe can enjoy the experiences we lived in Portugal.

Mauro Sandrini
Teacher of mathematics
ITS "Morigia-Perdisa" 



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My Czech Experience

During the visit of our partners to Vidigueira I hosted a Czech girl, Andrea, and I was very curious about her and her culture and country. My experience was great, because I got to know many different cultures besides the Czech one. I had the opportunity to learn new words in Czech too.

The girl who stayed in my house was really nice but also a little shy and quiet, which made our communication a bit harder. But we made an effort and I think because of that we both improved our English. She gave me many presents, traditional food from her country and other things, which made me even more anxious to visit Czech Republic and learn more about their culture and traditions there.

But the important part of this experience was to create an international friendship, and maybe a friendship for life.

Carina Albuquerque
Student
EPFA - Vidigueira 



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Bulgaria: What a Surprise!

My name is Simone Melandri and I'm a student of the school ITG Camillo Morigia in Ravenna, Italy. Last year I decided to take part in the Erasmus+ EASY project. It was a tough decision. I felt that it would be a challenge for me and my parents weren't convinced to let me go abroad for one week without them. We also had to discuss about giving hospitality to an unknown boy. I knew that the project was a great opportunity to improve my knowledge of the



English language, to develop the entrepreneurial skills which are the main subject of this project and to find out new things about a foreign culture. Eventually, my parents decided to let me go and I was very excited. I participated in the first trip to Bulgaria. We spent the week from 11th to 17th January there. When my teacher told me that I had been chosen to go to Bulgaria, I was not very happy with that. The



other destinations seemed more attractive to me. But it was a nice surprise to find out that Sofia is a beautiful city. It is very similar to the cities of Western Europe: it has a lot of shops, shopping centres, bars, restaurants. There are also many things to see: churches, theatres, huge buildings and palaces, squares and very large parks.

Another thing that worried me was that I am a very shy boy. I had to spend a week with three Italian guys I didn't know and five Bulgarian guys. In addition, I had to spend a week in a Bulgarian boy's house. I knew it wouldn't be easy. But I wanted to spend an enjoyable week in Bulgaria, so I forced myself to be more extroverted and I found it easy to socialise with the other guys. Socialising with the Bulgarians and the other foreign students was even easier. When you talk to other guys in English, the topics of the



conversations are limited. As a result, some looks or some particular gestures are enough to create a relationship. So I would recommend the Erasmus+ project to all those guys who are introverted but want to be more extroverted.

I didn't know what to think of the Bulgarian guys because I had never met a foreign guy before. Even though their culture, their food and their habits are pretty different, they are very similar to the Italian

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guys. They have the same interests, the same ways to have fun, they like listening to music, spending time with friends or going to the disco.

In my opinion, the topics of the EASY project are very interesting and modern. Entrepreneurship and all the abilities that are developed during this project are really important nowadays. They can help you create and develop a new business and survive or even make money during this period of economic crisis.

The activities we did during the week in Bulgaria were very interesting and useful. The things I liked the most were the visit to Eleven Startup Accelerator and to Fortex Neutraceuticals. The first one is an enterprise which finances start-up businesses and gives young entrepreneurs a space to work and internet connection. I think that this service is really important, especially for young people, who may need some help to create their own business. Fortex

Neutraceuticals is a company that produces many types of medicines. During the visit, the most interesting thing was the motivational speech of the manager. He explained that ideas are the most important thing nowadays, because they can allow you to create everything you want. But you must not waste time, because it is too precious.

I think it would have been an even better experience if I had had the opportunity of doing some practical activities in the companies we visited, in order to learn new things in a more captivating way.

Overall, it was a fantastic and unforgettable experience: I really enjoyed myself, I learned new things about Bulgaria, I worked on entrepreneurial skills, I improved my English and I matured by spending a week without my parents.

Simone Melandri

Student

ITS "Morigia-Perdisa"



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My EASY Experience

My experience in the Erasmus+ project with my colleague from the Czech Republic was very important to develop my English language. The week I hosted my foreign colleague in May was fantastic. I liked Nikol very much, we talked about everything and all the time. She was so friendly and kind that I can hardly wait to see her again, meet her family and visit her country.

On Monday, 4th May, we visited Vidigueira Municipality and also the Centro Multifacetado de Novas Tecnologias de Vidigueira, where the presentations and discussions about Entrepreneurial Skills took place. We were all a bit nervous but everything was ok at the end of it.

Throughout the week we visited some interesting companies and places, like Adega Cooperativa de Vidigueira, Cuba e Alvito; the Municipal Museum in Vidigueira; the museum Casa do Arco of Vila de Frades; the Alqueva Dam and EDP (a hydroelectric power plant); Azeite Oliveira da Serra (an olive oil producing company) and Empresa de Desenvolvimento e Infraestruturas do Alqueva (a water supply company).

We also visited Évora where we took a walk around Giraldo's Square, the Temple to Diana, the Bones Chapel, the D. Manuel Palace and the municipal garden. Everybody enjoyed the visit to Monsaraz, a tiny medieval town, and also the visit to a small village called Mértola, which has many remains from the Islamic and Roman period.

On Friday, 8th May, we answered the questionnaires online about the companies we visited during the week and then we presented our ideas and opinions about the activities and visits we made in the school library. Everybody got a certificate from the EASY Project. I really loved this whole experience and I will never forget this week.



Filipa Coveiro
Student
EPFA - Vidigueira ■

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A beautiful experience!

From the 03rd to the 09th of May 2015 we stayed in Vidigueira, a small and lovely city in Portugal.

During the week we visited many cities in Portugal such as Lisboa, Beja, Alentejo and we met some students who came from Latvia, Bulgaria, Portugal and Turkey. We visited some local companies and it was very interesting because we could make comparisons with our typical Italian products and companies.

All the Italian students became friends with their Portuguese partners in a short time and felt at home in their partners' houses. We really liked Portuguese people, their food, their country and their hospitality. Portuguese culture is very similar to the Italian one.

We hope our partners will enjoy their stay in Italy and we want to thank all the Portuguese students and teachers for everything they made for us. A special thank to the teacher Vanda!

Tea Pappaterra

Student

ITS "Morigia-Perdisa" 



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From the 3rd to 9th May 2015 I hosted a Czech girl in my house, called Denisa, under the Erasmus+ Program. During the first days she was very shy and spoke little to me, but I really enjoyed having her here. As time passed by we became closer and started to communicate more easily.

Last year, I also hosted a Polish girl for ten days, under another Erasmus+ Program. I really like to participate in these projects because we are in contact with people from other countries and different cultures. These projects have helped me to make friends in other countries and improve my English.

During the EASY Project visit in May I met people from the Czech Republic, Italy, Latvia, Bulgaria and Turkey. Throughout the week in Portugal we developed various activities such as visiting quite important companies in our region, like a wine producers' cooperative in Vidigueira, Cuba and Alvito, the Oceanario in Lisbon, churches, the Alqueva dam and monuments in Lisbon. I really hope to enjoy my visit to the Czech Republic and to meet Denisa's family there.

Jéssica Amador
Student
EPFA - Vidigueira



I really loved the Erasmus+ Project, especially when everybody came to Portugal. We traveled a lot and had lots of fun. I hosted a Bulgarian girl called Ralica and we spent an amazing time together as we were already friends. I had met her in January when our school visited Sofia for the EASY Project and she became my host friend. She was great there and so I was happy to have her in my house and introduce her to my family too.

My favourite day was when we went to Lisbon, I really loved that day. The best part of it was when we went to the Oceanario, it was so cool!

There were some days when we finished all the activities and visits to the companies and had the opportunity to go out and get to know each other better, and laugh together.

I had the opportunity to improve my language skills and learn some new words in Bulgarian and other languages. I also feel that my English is a lot better.

I hope that one day, we all meet again, and remember this perfect week.

Joana Lança
Student
EPFA - Vidigueira



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I really enjoyed when the students from the EASY project were all together here in Portugal. We had lots of fun together. I received a girl from Latvia in my house, Kristīne.

My favorite day of this amazing week was the 6th of May, when we went to Lisbon and visited the "Mosteiro dos Jerónimos, Torre de Belém, Padrão dos Descobrimentos" and the Oceanario.

I loved having Kristine here with me, and I hope to see her again and meet her family soon. I am also anxious to visit Latvia and learn everything I can about that country that seems so different from my one.

Thanks to the EASY Project we had the opportunity to improve our English skills and I could notice some progress during that week in May. We also learned a lot about the different companies we visited and from the managers who presented them. Having partners from five different countries was also a great chance to learn new languages and quite interesting things about other cultures and traditions.

Marlene Doutor
Student
EPFA - Vidigueira



What can I say about the EASY week in Vidigueira? I can say that it was the best. I received two boys in my house, one from Turkey and another from Czech Republic. I already knew Kaan, because I was hosted by him in Turkey and I loved the experience there. Martin, the Czech boy, was also very friendly and having both of them in my house was great. We all got along quite well.

The experience of being part of the EASY Project was the best of my life. I talked a lot with my new friends in English and we did a lot of things together. The places that we visited were the best and the opportunity to talk with different people from other countries was perfect. I learnt a lot in this project, about entrepreneurship and the companies we visited, the history of the countries involved, their culture and the different languages spoken. It was one of the best moments of my life.

I really recommend this project because it is a great opportunity to learn more about different businesses and companies, new languages, new countries and traditions. We also get to know different places, meet different people and improve our English a lot.

"We only live one time, enjoy every moment, the opportunities and just be happy and grateful."

Miguel Formigo
Student
EPFA - Vidigueira



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I think it's important that schools have such projects and initiatives, like the EASY Project, so that they can motivate their students to develop their communication skills in English and learn more about Europe and different traditions and cultures there. Every student should try to take part in these projects and participate in the activities and visits they promote because they allow us to know other people, other cultures and different norms and customs that we are not used to. I hosted a girl from Latvia called Kristīne and she was very nice. We always met other students from the project and their partners to spend some time together in Beja after the activities with the teachers. We had a lot of fun together.

During this week in Portugal we visited some of the most important historical places of our country, which allowed us to learn more and better about the History of this country and the kind of life people used to have in the past and the differences we have today. We had also the opportunity to visit some of the major companies in our country and our region, including companies engaged in the wine and olive oil production, electricity and water supplies.

Raquel Laureano
Student
EPFA - Vidigueira

