

Our project with the title "My country, your country - our Europe" focussed on the priorities of foreign language competence acquisition and increasing social competence. This was conducted through elaboration of the project goals by groups of pupils from the three partner countries Germany, Poland and Slovenia. During three meetings at a partner school in each of the countries, the pupils elaborated the theatre play "The town musicians of Bremen", a youth dictionary, the Europe Song in regard to Michael Jackson's song "You are the world", as well as a shared homepage and a book about Europe, in which the meetings, activities and project achievements were documented.

Besides working together in groups, the pupils gained first-hand experience with the different cultures of the involved countries. Getting to know the pupils and schools of the partner countries helped decrease prejudice and allowed them to apply and further develop their foreign language skills. Furthermore, the pupils could increase and strengthen their social competence and self-esteem by working together as teams with groups from different countries. Having the students stay in Polish and Slovenian host families and a lot of meetings with supporters of the project, e.g. the city major, tourist guide, park ranger, members of the hometown club or the bakery owner, also contributed to these skills.

With our project, we were able to demonstrate that European pupils and teachers are able to achieve goals together and motivated other schools and countries to take part in ERASMUS+ projects. As a group consisting of 20 pupils and 8 teachers, we managed to achieve the pursued goals and consistently exchanged information, despite facing large difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For that reason, the planned meeting in Germany at the school "An der Mulde" and the public presentation of the project results unfortunately had to be canceled.

In terms of methods, our project profited especially from group and partner work, as well as the experience of the colleagues from Poland and Slovenia, who had already taken part in different European projects. During our stays abroad and also as a means of preparation and postprocessing, we exchanged information via social networks, digital media and eTwinning.

This enormously facilitated our organisation and collaboration in the period of 2018 - 2020.

The pupils faced the project tasks in small groups. Supervised by their teachers, they were able to find solutions together, which required endurance, creativity and teamwork. Furthermore, pupils and teachers benefitted from observing and actively taking part in lessons at the partner schools.

We learned about innovative methods, e.g. working with electronics (Lego education) in order to build and program robots. Furthermore, we explored evaluation schemes used in our partner countries and since started using them at our own school.

In order to make our project sustainable and persistent, we published the project process and the achieved goals on the project's homepage and include the results and experience in some subjects like Geography, English and social studies. The ability to exchange material and digital blackboard screens through the existing networks is another welcome advantage, especially during the current pandemic.

Our project ended with handing out our book about Europe to all involved partners. We profited and continue to profit from educational and private exchange and made a huge step towards the goal of intercultural understanding between children, adolescents and adults of different European countries.