



Teachers from all over Europe gain new experience

From 20 to 24 March Ikšķīle Free school hosted teachers from Portugal, Italy, France, Romania, Turkey, Poland and Lithuania in the framework of the EU Erasmus+ project “Europe for Inclusion”. The main aim of the project is cooperation among the schools from different countries in order to improve accessibility and methodology in inclusion of students with the behaviour disorders.

During this week more than 30 teachers from foreign countries had a possibility to obtain practical and theoretical knowledge about children with the behaviour disorders. The teachers learned about the programme “STOP 4-7”, which foresees involvement of the student, his/her parents and the teachers. Our Portuguese and Italian colleagues rated very highly the training organised by Latvian Autism society, as this topic is very acute in their countries as well.

“It is important that the teacher includes into the school environment children with slightly different needs. At the same time, the preventive measures are to be applied to them all, so that their mindfulness is developed and that they learn to express their emotions, and thus reduce the aggressive behaviour. At the Ikšķīle Free school this is possible during the lessons of silence, thinking and art therapy, and our foreign guests were involved into these activities, too. During these master classes the teachers not only gained new experiences, but also could concentrate on their own emotional hygiene. As during their daily work teachers use a lot of energy, it is important that they also renew their internal reserves,” says Development manager of Ikšķīle Free school Katrīna Dimsone when explaining the benefits of the project.

Participants of the project highly rated the knowledge gathered during the week, the people they learned to know, as well as the knowledge gained about the Latvian culture. “Teachers from Poland were very surprised that Latvians have good command of English language, whereas a teacher from France liked Ikšķīle Free school so much that she was ready to spend her vacation here teaching French to our children” tells Evija Rudzīte, Administrative Manager of Ikšķīle Free school, coordinator of the project.

Each day for the participants of Erasmus+ project was fulfilled not only with the educational events, but also with learning about Latvia and its culture. Our guests participated in the weaving master class by jointly adding colours of flags of the participating countries into a common canvas. In the beginning of the week in the cellar of “Libertu” winery teachers learned about the good properties of the birch sap, and during their stay the guests as well as the schoolchildren enjoyed this unique spring drink that was tapped from the trees in the school yard. Teachers from Lithuania were very much looking forward to the meeting with Julgī Stalte, who led us all to the celebration of the spring solstice with the egg battles and calling of the sun. And the visit to the National Opera to ballet “Peer Gynt” was highly appreciated by the Turkish, Portuguese, Polish and Italian delegations.



And at the very end of the visit out school became a restaurant where after a great meal the dancing took place late into the night.

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