

# GEOCACHING MINDS ON THE MOVE

## INTERMEDIATE REPORT

Ravizza, Italy, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017



Project Code:  
2016-1-IT02-KA219-024443  
Action: **Strategic Partnerships  
for Schools Only**  
Call: 2016



### Implementazione del progetto

Indicare lo stato di implementazione del progetto ad oggi: la fase iniziale si sta svolgendo come previsto? Sono state riscontrate criticità? Se sì, indicare quali.

### Implementation of the project

Indicate the state of project implementation to date: is the initial phase going on as expected? Are there any criticalities? If yes, indicate what.

### STATE OF THE ART

The aim of the project is to implement different ways of using Geocaching (a modern version of a treasure hunt, with much more learning and teaching potential) as a tool to explore the world and gain knowledge in different fields outside the walls of our schools.

The first part of the first year was mainly dedicated to making teachers and students acquainted with the tool by going geocaching in groups and individually, both in the area(s) where we live and wherever we met and had a chance to be together.

These activities created a bond among people involved and beyond, which is more than we expected, especially at this stage of the project. In fact, it started a positive trend: some students have decided to go geocaching spontaneously, very often with their families and friends; teachers do it together with colleagues, their families and friends; teachers and students share their experiences using different media, and by doing this they discover new places, new things and new ideas to be exploited for our own purposes.

As planned we have trained a group of teachers and students to use the Geocaching tool and also to create some geocaching targets (the so-called “traditional caches”) and trails (the so-called “multi-caches”).

During the Mobilities the partners went through common learning sessions and experienced the trails prepared by the hosting team in order to test and implement them:

- in Portugal (M1) teachers defined roles and set the agenda, studied and experimented together in order to have a common ground of knowledge and share skills. The project Website was established ([geocachingerasmus.weebly.com](http://geocachingerasmus.weebly.com)) ;
- In France (M2\*) we experienced and validated a Trail on **History and World Heritage Sites** in Orange ([https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC70Z6H\\_orange-a-multi-layered-history?guid=1c7493c4-a411-4afd-a0d1-65451fde7791](https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC70Z6H_orange-a-multi-layered-history?guid=1c7493c4-a411-4afd-a0d1-65451fde7791)) and one on **Food and Tourism** in Bollène ([https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC70TNE\\_1-a-traditional-sweet-from-provence?guid=5923fa86-ecc8-4120-b537-3e1b476e4b79](https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC70TNE_1-a-traditional-sweet-from-provence?guid=5923fa86-ecc8-4120-b537-3e1b476e4b79) and following), also learning how to create an interactive questionnaire with the use of a tool like Certitudes;
- In Spain (C1\*) we experienced and validated two Multiple Caches on **Tourism** in Loja, one on the “Miradores” and on “Water Sites” ([erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/loja.html](http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/loja.html)), and a Trail on Tourism in Granada;
- In Vilnius (M3) we were shown a set of original caches to be used in **Nature** and experienced a Trail in town and a set of very creative Traditional caches to be inspired by ([erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/vilnius.html](http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/vilnius.html))

Considering the necessity to experience as much as possible geocaching trails of different kinds, during the very first Mobility all partners agreed on the fact that it is absolutely necessary to travel with as many students as possible. For this reason we all agreed to take all the efforts possible by saving money and planning things far ahead in order to send and host a bigger number of people (especially students) than planned and approved by our National Agencies.

In between Mobilities each National Team

- met regularly on a week basis
- acquired expertise and skills in the use of the Geocaching Tool ([www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) )
- went geocaching as much as possible in their city and the areas nearby (the Italian team so far has found more than 150 caches - <https://www.geocaching.com/my/default.aspx> )
- created some original caches to experiment on their strength and weaknesses
- interacted with local geocachers (when possible)
- involved more students, classes, teachers, friends and families; plus started contacting other schools (next year's task)
- informed and involved local authorities like local Tourist Boards
- in Italy we made an agreement with the Stresa Music Weeks and developed a small project with them (see [erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/stresa.html](http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/stresa.html) )
- met the press and media (some articles appeared on newspapers and in Spain the local TV interviewed us at the Town Council)
- took regular meeting sessions to monitor the project and kept the Mobility Tool updated
- kept record of the activities performed (with documents and photos) and uploaded the most meaningful ones onto the common space on Google Drive
- implemented the Website and Twinspace
- stayed connected with the other teams both officially through the email and unofficially through other media like Facebook and Whatsapp
- attended training sessions arranged by the National Agencies and local institutions

Direct link to the Italian website: [erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com](http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com)

Here below we report a summary of the ACTIVITIES performed during the first months of the project in chronological order:

In October-November 2016 all partners advertised the project in the school, confirmed and established responsibilities for Coordinators, both Technical and Administrative, and set a NATIONAL CLUB made of expert teachers and motivated students who since then have been working on the project on a weekly basis. (link to the Italian Team webpage: [erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/italian-team.html](http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/italian-team.html) )  
The **first Transnational Project Meeting (M1)** took place in **Sintra, Portugal**, from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016.

There we focused on teachers' expertise and the knowledge of each country about geocaching. The Portuguese team organised a conference and workshop on how to design a creative geocache and how to hide it following a set of rules and guidelines (the rules established by the geocaching community plus a set of other useful hints such as how to make the cache waterproof, or how to keep it safe from animals or non-players). We also agreed on formats of project paper work and common documents (certificates of attendance, evaluation forms, meeting reports); we discussed and established our guidelines and rules, confirmed roles and tasks within the partnership.

French expert teacher Guillaume Raffin had a workshop to teach how to use the app c:geo and to download caches and map so as not to be forced to use Internet data (which can be very expensive) abroad, back home he then made an online video tutorial explaining how to use the website to make it available to students (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4q8MPu8PrA>)

\* We confirmed the Timeline and decided to switch the French and the Spanish Mobilities to allow teachers to work and experiment more by themselves in order to become more confident before involving all the students into the activities. The French partner agreed on providing a couple of sample trails to experience and evaluate. We confirmed Portugal as supervisor and manager of the common website, but we agreed on the necessity for each national coordinator to take an active role in its implementation: since the very beginning of the project each partner has been responsible for its webpages.

Before the meeting in Portugal all national teams worked on a Logo proposal. During the Mobility to Portugal a set of Logos were selected among the ones presented and back home the best logo was voted by all the school communities. The winning logo is the one submitted by the Italian Team:



see [erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/logo-contest.html](http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/logo-contest.html)

After the first TPM all National Teams received inputs to start work on the project activities and began Geocaching in the area.

Some time was also devoted to establish connections among participants through the Twinspace and other social media. Each team also started implementing its Web Pages.

Between December 2016 and February 2017 - National learning sessions for teachers and students from the Team took place in each country. Having understood that “you can only learn by doing”, each partner went on geocaching and collected ideas for new Geocaches. Preparation activities for the M2 were carried out.

A GPS Device (Garmin Etrex20x) was bought for the needs of the project, to replace phones for students who have iphones (c:geo does work on iphones).

Students were introduced to the use of Etwinning and the Greek teacher Chrysoula Nenou provided support for teachers who needed assistance.

Students were required to produce presentations of themselves and the school for the project and to publish them on the website.

The students' teams kept meeting once a week, under the supervision of teachers to first check the list of caches in the city and region, plan activities, and keep social media updated.

Contacts with local institutions were made.

The Italian Team decided to become Premium Member of the geocaching.com community in order to be able to do the most complex caches. Other partners decided to wait. This membership is shared by the whole Team (“Raviteam”) and we decided to use it together in order to have a common ground of expertise and being recognised on the platform (and interact with other users) as a group.

As agreed, during the **second Transnational Project Meeting (M2) in Bollène, France** – from 28<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – we tested the 2 trails (the one on History and World Heritage Sites and the one on Food and Tourism) and attended long training sessions about how to use [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) as a tool. We discussed the potential of both traditional and virtual caches and learnt how to create a multi-cache trail using enigmas to go from one point to the other (to trigger students' motivation).

Planning the Mobility to Spain – the Spanish partner distributes a draft Agenda and partners agree on it. Partners agreed on sharing info about travelling students by using a Form submitted by the Project coordinator. Some rules were set up for Learning Teaching and Training Mobilities, with special reference to students. The Coordinator made a Learning Agreement between students and families available through Google Drive. Budget-related issues were tackled.

A Meeting with the Local Authorities was organised at the Town Council “Communauté de Communes” to support the French Team by taking care of translations into different languages and by publishing leaflets and brochures at the Council expenses.

Between February and April 2017 National Teams worked at different tasks: the French partner was busy correcting what was wrong in the trails according to the partners' feedback during the M2. The Spanish partner arranged students activities to submit during the Mobility in Loja.

The Italian Team established their first cache in town (Ravizza #1), connected to the local Tourist Board, started a partnership with the Stresa Music Festival for some caches on the Maggiore Lake, established a twinning with the French school, took new training sessions for teachers and learnt how to use the Mobility Tool.

The other teams did some geocaching activities and implemented connections with local authorities. We all prompted students to use the Twinspace in order to share info and get to know each other.

The teachers in France also worked on how to produce guidelines for teachers dealing with different subjects and lesson plans. (see <http://teamfrancemom.weebly.com/our-work.html> )

In Italy teachers involved in the project learnt how to produce simple web pages in order to complement the use of geocaching.com and be less dependable on the platform.

The **first Project Transnational Meeting for Learning/Teaching/Training Activities (C1)** was in **Loja, Spain** – from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

In Spain, trails were created according to the model given in France and pupils from all the National teams tested the trails based on Tourism: a Water Trail in Loja, a Viewpoints Trail for tourists, and a Virtual Cache trail in Granada. The students did the trails and evaluated them giving comments and suggestions on how to implement them and make them more complete.

See the caches produced and validated in Spain:

<https://moraimaerasmus.wordpress.com/2017/07/03/first-year-outputs/>

A contest on Maths Patterns in Nature was also organised by the Spanish team

(<https://moraimaerasmus.wordpress.com/2017/07/13/maths-photo-contest/> ). The Italian partner submitted the group some guidelines for a couchsurfing summer activity to be discussed during the third TPM in Vilnius.

During the week in Loja partners also witnessed a very interesting Science Fair to be certainly used as a source of inspiration for similar events in our schools.

The « Cache of Memory » contest was organised on the Twinspace (7 contests instead of only one to enable all students to participate).

May 2017 - During the Home Sessions all partners focused on sharing with their school communities the lessons learnt and evaluated the project activities performed so far. Some partners prepared exhibits and adverts for local events. Others focused on doing more explorations.

The Italian Team was busy with the preparation of caches for the Stresa Music Festival

(<http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/stresa.html>) and went to Milan to test already existing caches and produce a Treasure Hunt in the Duomo for the partners' visit in October. Some new caches in Novara were produced.

The **third Transnational Project Meeting (M3)** took place in **Vilnius, Lithuania** – from 27<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017. There we evaluated the work done at the end of the first school year; we drafted together the Intermediate Evaluation Report; we established guidelines for the students' Couchsurfing Service (database for individual students' exchanges) and decided to re-launch the 7 Contests on the Twinspace for the summer season:

1: Best Article Contest

2: The best video done while geocaching (during a Mobility or at home)

3: The best LOG for a cache

4: The best "individual cache" (a cache made individually by a student)

5: The best portrait of a foreign friend

6: The best geocaching advert

7: The biggest number of caches individually found (provide photos to prove it)

The days we spent at the school were very educational. We all witnessed how much was done with little financial support. The Lithuanian students proved they are very committed to the project philosophy and are doing their best to produce interesting learning units. They showed us their original caches they had produced (<http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/vilnius.html>) and they guided us through some very interesting tourist caches in town.

During the following weeks all partners had to deal with the Intermediate Report questionnaires submitted by their National Agencies (each NA had different requests and deadlines).

The teachers from the Italian Team went on working at some History, Science and Art Trails to be made ready by September 2017. They also made all the caches available for the Music Festival and did some Geocaching explorations in the area around Novara and while on holiday. Also the students went Geocaching by themselves and shared results through social media.

We bought magnets and special containers and with other small stuff we had collected throughout the months we manufactured new types of caches.

International partners kept in contact throughout the summer by texting each other and sending interesting photos about their personal geocaching adventures.

Link to the pdf file with details about the Activities performed by the Italian Team:

[http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/uploads/5/9/8/8/59886631/erasmusgeocaching\\_2016-17\\_-\\_activities\\_italy\\_dates-events.pdf](http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/uploads/5/9/8/8/59886631/erasmusgeocaching_2016-17_-_activities_italy_dates-events.pdf)

Link to area where additional lessons are collected: <http://geocachingraviteam.weebly.com/> (work in progress)

Link to Traditional Caches created by the Italian Team:

<https://www.geocaching.com/seek/nearest.aspx?tx=32bc9333-5e52-4957-b0f6-5a2c8fc7b257&u=raviteam>

## DIFFICULTIES

We met three types of difficulties: technical problems, financial inequalities, and problems of communication inherent to the project management.

The communication problem was twofold: in the beginning some of the partners did not communicate or answer regularly to the coordinators' emails and to the other partners' questions. In addition, during the first TPM we understood the Lithuanian coordinator does not speak English and this was an obstacle, especially during the first meeting when the things to be discussed and agreed on were many and complex. Luckily the Lithuanian partners always had an English speaking assistant who did an excellent job – it took some effort by all of us, but with the passing of the months good relationships were established and face-to-face meetings helped a lot. The second aspect of the lack of communication from some partners was related to the fact that it was not clear how much progress or experiment was taking place in some of the countries. Again, after we tackled the subject during the second TPM, it was found that some partners had only forgotten to publish their experiments on a regular basis, or that they had published them without warning. It was therefore decided during the last meeting in Lithuania that the partners who put results, guidelines or videos of geocaching experience useful for the project would now have to send a message to the whole community of teachers working on the project, so that they could take it into their work. Indeed, the number of interfaces and pages of websites has multiplied, which renders the supervising work quite difficult sometimes. Still now some partners are very active on the common media while others keep track of activities in their own ways. This will be discussed again during the next TPM, which will take place in the beginning of October in Italy.

As for technical difficulties, they were noticed right away during the first TPM in Portugal. Some partners had very little experience with the tools which can be quite complex. It took a while and a good effort by the more expert teachers/partners to lead, motivate and support the others in order to have a group of people who share the same knowledge and expertise and can then work effectively in a team. Meetings were very much useful to put adults on the move: geocaching is an activity that requires to experiment and try and, even if it can be done individually, it is quite a social activity; doing it together, also without the students, was a winning idea.

Another technical problem was related to the devices and tools to be used. If people cannot use the internet abroad, then the official website [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) is utterly useless abroad. Therefore the French expert teacher advised partners to use c:geo (an app that works well on Android) and download maps from [www.mapsforge.com](http://www.mapsforge.com). However, the problem remained for Apple users, therefore buying a gps was advised to the partners. Besides, the creation of a multi-cache (that is a mystery trail requiring the solving of enigmas to access the next cache) raised other technical problems, for example the mastery of html when creating a cache, the complexity of posting on geocaching because you need to download them first on a specific place and in a specific format.

All these problems were met by the French team who found on their own (via forums) how to solve them, and could then explain to the other partners during the working session on the last day of the second TPM.

In Spain, the hosting partner came across another problem: it was impossible for them to publish the caches on time (it took 2 days for the first one to be published, so they weren't worried, but then it took 15 days for the second trail). This was solved by preparing the trails with coordinates on paper instead of using the website, and using alternative tools to geocache (like google maps or the c:geo app). We also came across problems of maintenance of caches (one was stolen in Spain, in France virtual caches rely on real caches that are not necessarily maintained by the owners, caches in Italy require to be replaced a couple of times). This thing is part of the game, but we are considering using our website as a backup and/or alternative for the Trails we want to keep working. Anyway, the geocachers community has proved to be very cooperative and there are users who can be very helpful (they tell you if something is wrong with your cache, they correct wrong coordinates, they give you advice). Finally, some financial problems were raised.

During the meeting in Portugal, the issue of countries hosting students versus countries that only hosted teachers was raised. Indeed, the budget is the same for each country but some need to book buses, pay for visits, etc. So, who should be responsible for the cost of activities carried out in each country? We mentioned several possibilities, and in conclusion we agreed on the option that every country needed to keep 2000 euros on the Management line of the budget to be used this way: for hosting countries it would be used for the geocaching activities to be performed together with the foreign students, while for countries that will not host students, that sum will be used for common expenses, like printed leaflets or posters when needed, gadgets, special types of cache containers, geocoins... or to buy whatever material is needed for the project.

In France, during the 2nd TPM, all partners agreed on the fact that Lithuania and France should send fewer students to the other partners' countries to make up for not hosting themselves (Anyway, all partners will still send and host more students than the number planned in the application form). In Vilnius, France agreed on buying the prizes of the "the cache of memory" contest to be given to the winners in Italy next October.

**La collaborazione dei partner per la realizzazione delle attività del progetto è soddisfacente? Si sono rese necessarie modifiche alla composizione originaria del partenariato? Se si sono state già comunicate all'Agenzia Nazionale?**

**Is the cooperation among the partners involved in the implementation of the project's activities satisfactory? Have you made any changes to the original composition of the partnership? If yes, have you notified these changes to the National Agency?**

During the first TPM all partners went through the project together and confirmed responsibilities and commitment. Since then, every country has taken the responsibilities to the international teams seriously and everyone has made efforts to be in the project and participate in its activities.

Some national teams seem to me more committed and active and interact more. This is due to the presence of excellent individualities who are really hard workers and others who act as catalysts and motivators. As a consequence also those participants who in the beginning were more shy and doubtful about actions to be taken, are now involved and give their contribution.

During the second year of the project more efforts should be taken in order to focus on active lessons and workshops for the use of the whole community.

During the first TPM in Portugal we understood that France was the only country with a teacher that has a long-term expertise on geocaching, so it was decided to reverse the dates of the mobility to Spain and the mobility to France to gain extra time to practice geocaching and give/receive geocaching tips, so that teachers would be more efficient to guide and help students using this new tool. In particular France was responsible for the creation of guidelines on 1) how to use the geocaching website 2) how to create a cache and a multi-cache (both guidelines are available on their website pages: <http://teamfrancemom.weebly.com/our-work.html> )

France also prepared a trail on Food to illustrate the workings of a multi cache with real caches and one virtual cache, and how to integrate food and tourism in a trail. Then to illustrate how to create trails in a place where there already exists interesting caches pupils in France prepared a second trail about history using a system of virtual caches, with enigmas, and the use of « certitude.org » to check answers, and « geocheck.org » to check the location of the final cache.

Initially France was supposed to organise a Food and Sports trail, but as the pupils already had an idea connecting food to tourism and patrimony, we decided that Poland would take up the responsibility of the Sport trail, as

they were already working on the subject. Spain also prepared and tested a trail with their PE teacher, focusing on hiking.

After the experience in France the Italian Team started working on a History Trail about the War of Independence Places; the final trail will be ready by October 2017 ([geocachingraviteam.weebly.com/battaglia-di-novara.html](http://geocachingraviteam.weebly.com/battaglia-di-novara.html) )

The Cache of Memory: this contest was supposed to be prepared in April in France after the mobility to Spain, during which all the countries' national teams would have experienced trails. Since we exchanged the dates of the mobilities, taking into account the need for the Spanish team to gather more experience, we postponed the creation of the contest to the mobility in Spain. Concerning the contents, we found more efficient to engage the students in a bigger number of challenges to develop various skills in autonomy and to enable more people to participate. Therefore, 7 contests were created to encourage students to go geocaching on their own during the summer time, and the results will be published in October 2017, during the mobility in Italy. The French team is still supervising and is responsible for the pre-selection of the winners. They will bring to Italy a file with the top 3 winners in each category and a list of arguments, so that the international team of teachers may in the end decide on the winner of each category.

Italy has already issued a set of documents for the partners to use along the course of the project for common activities (i.e. logo contest guidelines, meeting reports format, templates for evaluation grids and questionnaires, students' application forms, students' mobilities forms, Learning Agreement between families and schools). Italy supervised the teachers' meetings and activities, confirmed and/or updated the project agenda, sent reminders and monitored the progress made by the different partners during the home sessions. For example, the Italian coordinator suggested the exchange of mobilities between France and Spain, and took into account the need for more international representation in the vote of the Project Logo – initially to be only voted by the Portuguese students.

The Italian coordinator has helped other partners develop visit plans, oversees the project budget by discussing the justification of the expenses of each partner (see “difficulties”).

The Italian team conducted several geocaching expeditions on the region with the students, and photos were shared on the website to share experience with other countries (see [erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/geo-photos.html](http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/geo-photos.html) )

Portugal was responsible for hosting successfully the first TPM, kicking-off the learning/training sessions. The Training Sessions about Geocaching and the use of GPSs devices was conducted by an expert working for a local tourist company. Workshops on Cache design and creation, on-the-spot training in three different locations in Sintra were also conducted by the expert. Portugal also collected feedbacks and discussions about the experience, organised geocaching sessions using existing caches in world heritage monuments.

The Portuguese partner also coordinated the voting for the selection of the project logo.

Sintra and Portugal in general have a big geocaching community, which counts for a great expertise on the one hand, and the necessity to select, more than create, on the other hand. Some of the teachers in the Portuguese team are working at other aspects of geocaching (especially in the science field) and their contribution will be very helpful in the near future.

Finally the Portuguese partner was designated as responsible for the maintenance of the common project website (<http://geocachingerasmus.weebly.com/>) that hosts all the national teams' websites.

Greece was responsible for managing the E-twinning platform and collecting activities to be uploaded in the Twinspace. They are also in charge of training and providing support about the use of e-twinning and other digital media.

Spain has hosted the first Blended mobility (see description above) and so far is managing the common dropbox. They prepared the first interactive evaluation form, which will be used in the future Blended Mobilities to collect feedbacks from participants. They have an expert science teacher who is carrying out interesting ideas.

The Spanish partners are very active on e-twinning, sharing geocaching experiences and they have done a massive work to involve their students and families in geocaching expeditions. Their website contain lots of useful information and they established tight connections with the local community.

Lithuania and Poland gave their contribution during the M1 and M2 TPMs and are active posting videos of their geocaching experiences on e-twinning. Lithuania in particular has shown a very inventive cache workshop exhibition (<http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/vilnius.html> ) triggering the students' artistic and problem-solving skills and posted videos about hiding caches in snow on e-twinning. Besides, they also set up an active sightseeing trail during the M3, with a worksheet containing coordinates and pictures of places to stick to the right place.

Unfortunately, some partners do not update the common website and for this reason it is more complicated to keep record of the activities they perform on a regular basis.

## **Mobilità**

### **Indicare le mobilità già effettuate ad oggi:**

#### **Mobilities - Indicate the mobilities already made to date:**

*Tipologia:*

*Paese di partenza:*

*Paese di destinazione:*

*Numero partecipanti:*

*Durata attività (escluso giorni di viaggio):*

*Data Partenza:*

*Città di partenza:*

*Città di destinazione:*

*Data Ritorno:*

### **First Transnational Project Mobility (M1)**

for Coordinators

**Sintra, Portugal** – 28<sup>th</sup> November - 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016

Tipologia: Transnational Project Meeting

Paese di partenza: Italy

Paese di destinazione: Portugal

Numero partecipanti: 2

Durata attività (escluso giorni di viaggio): 5

Data Partenza: 28th November 2016

Città di partenza: Novara

Città di destinazione: Sintra

Data Ritorno: 2nd December 2016

### **Second Transnational Project Mobility (M2)**

for Coordinators and teachers

**Bollène, France** - 28<sup>th</sup> February - 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Tipologia: Transnational Project Meeting

Paese di partenza: Italy

Paese di destinazione: France

Numero partecipanti: 2

Durata attività (escluso giorni di viaggio): 5

Data Partenza: 28th February 2017

Città di partenza: Novara

Città di destinazione: Bollène

Data Ritorno: 4th March 2017

### **First BLENDED Mobility (C1)**

= Project Transnational Meeting for Learning/Teaching/Training Activities

for teacher and students

**Loja, Spain** - 23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Tipologia: Transnational Project Meeting

Paese di partenza: Italy

Paese di destinazione: Spain

Numero partecipanti: 8

Durata attività (escluso giorni di viaggio): 5

Data Partenza: 23rd April 2017

Città di partenza: Novara

Città di destinazione: Loja

Data Ritorno: 28th April 2017

### **Third Transnational Project Mobility (M3)**

for Coordinators and teachers

**Vilnius, Lithuania** - 27<sup>th</sup> May - 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017

Tipologia: Transnational Project Meeting

Paese di partenza: Italy

Paese di destinazione: Lithuania

Numero partecipanti: 1

Durata attività (escluso giorni di viaggio): 5

Data Partenza: 27th May 2017

Città di partenza: Novara

Città di destinazione: Vilnius

Data Ritorno: 1st June 2017

## **M1 - First Transnational Project Mobility**

**Sintra, Portugal** – 28<sup>th</sup> November - 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016

Introductory tour of the school, then partners started to report on activities carried out in schools: creation of Erasmus+ Clubs, creation of coordinating Teams, documentation and other administrative tasks. First of all each partner introduced himself/herself and his/her school (see presentations on project website).

Then all partners analyzed the Contracts received from their National Agencies in order to set a common ground of knowledge about this KA2 type of project. At the end of the meeting, contact details were collected.

The Portuguese team organised a Training Session about geocaching and the use of GPSs devices has been conducted by an expert working for a local tourist company. Workshops on Cache design and creation, and an on-the-spot training in three different locations have also been conducted by the expert. Feedbacks and discussions about the experience have been collected. Two geocaching expeditions were organized in Sintra and Quinta da Regaleira. We designed samples for documents such as an evaluation card, certificate of attendance; all these docs were suggested by the coordinator; these official documents have been shared among all partners in a common Google Drive Folder. The folder was enriched with files for internal use only as “Participants Contact Details” and “Introducing Schools presentations”. All partners checked the list of actions and responsibilities stated in the Application Form and confirmed their commitment. Some changes were made to the initial plan, such as the Sport trail (given to Poland) and the Food trail transformed into a gastronomy and tourism trail. In order to familiarize teachers with Geocaching, the potentials of Geocaching, the Caches types, GC Keywords etc, the French teacher Guillame Raffin who is already an experienced geocacher, conducted a structured conversation. An overview of Geocaching platform and apps – [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com), c:geo. A video tutorial was published after the meeting.

The [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) website was explored and better understood thank to the French partner overview. Keywords were explained and sample activities were investigated. Due to the high technical requirements of the application and the fact that not all teachers, nor students are so familiar with geocaching, we agreed on switching C1 and M2 meetings: we decided the TPM in France should take place before the Blended Mobility to Spain. All the partners agreed on that.

The partners also agree on how to complete the Logo Contest voting phases: the logos selected in Portugal would be voted in each country: the first logo would get 3 points, the second 2 points and the third 1 point. The Portuguese partner would collect results and make them available to other partners. The Italian partner provided guideline for the creation of common WEBSITE by using Weebly, [geocachingerasmus.weebly.com](http://geocachingerasmus.weebly.com). The Greek partner explains how to use ETWINNING and GOOGLE DRIVE and all partners tried to upload and modify documents. At the end of the meeting all partners undersigned the DECLARATION OF HONOUR and the Portuguese Host gave each participant the ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE.

## **M2 - Second Transnational Project Mobility**

**Bollène, France** - 28<sup>th</sup> February - 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017

In France we experienced and validated a Trail on **History and World Heritage Sites** in Orange ([https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC70Z6H\\_orange-a-multi-layered-history?guid=1c7493c4-a411-4afd-a0d1-65451fde7791](https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC70Z6H_orange-a-multi-layered-history?guid=1c7493c4-a411-4afd-a0d1-65451fde7791)) and one on **Food and Tourism** in Bollène

([https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC70TNE\\_1-a-traditional-sweet-from-provence?guid=5923fa86-ecc8-4120-b537-3e1b476e4b79](https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC70TNE_1-a-traditional-sweet-from-provence?guid=5923fa86-ecc8-4120-b537-3e1b476e4b79) and following), also learning how to create an interactive questionnaire with the use of a tool like Certitudes. Partners participated to training sessions about how to use [geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) proficiently and the potential of both traditional and virtual caches. They learnt how to create a multi-cache trail using enigmas to go from one point to the other (to trigger students’ motivation). Lots of questions were made and answered to.

During the working sessions the Spanish partner distributes a draft Agenda and partners agreed on it. Detailed comments were sent in the following days. It was agreed that information about travelling students should be sent as soon as possible (Sample Forms on Google Drive could be used). Some rules were set up for mobilities and hosting pupils. Budget-related issues were tackled (hosting v. non hosting, see text above).

A Meeting with the Local Authorities was organised at the Town Council “Communauté de Communes” to support the French Team by taking care of translations into different languages and by publishing leaflets and brochures at the council expenses.

The biggest outcome of the meeting in France (and also the following ones), was the consolidation of the bonds among the participants: teachers, like students, need to meet face to face and work close to each other in order to put their best talents into a project.

### **M3 - Third Transnational Project Mobility**

**Vilnius, Lithuania** - 27<sup>th</sup> May - 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017

The meeting in Vilnius was important to better understand the Lithuanian partners, their working environment and the challenges they have to face.

The days we spent at the school were very educational. We all witnessed how much was done with little financial support. The Lithuanian students proved they are very committed to the project philosophy and are doing their best to produce interesting learning units. They showed us their original caches they had produced (<http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/vilnius.html>) and they guided us through some very interesting tourist caches in town.

Vilnius itself is a very interesting destination for geocachers and we teachers learnt a lot by simply searching around in the city center.

A meeting was held to check that the websites were implemented in each country with a link to the main page. Something still needs to be done with respect to this. The Portuguese team confirmed its role as website administrator.

The timetable and the dates for the mobilities were reasserted, as well as the main objectives in term of trails creation and the necessity to design a set of common guidelines and lesson plans, which had so far been left on the side due to the need to tackle technical difficulties during the previous meetings.

Partners shared their ideas about the impact of the project at several levels (school/pupils/parents/teachers) and about the added value of international cooperation, and how to make everything more efficient for the next mobilities. The importance of sharing geocaching experiences was reasserted.

Part of the working sessions was also devoted to new technical problem solving (ex: some issues with the Mobility Tool for Italy, and some difficulties in the use of E-twinning for Lithuania).

During the meetings we devoted some time to confirm the 7 contests on the Twinspace by adding rules and guidelines to follow.

### **First BLENDED Mobility (C1)**

**Loja, Spain** - 23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017

see <https://moraimaerasmus.wordpress.com/2017/07/03/first-year-outputs/>

## Altre informazioni rilevanti

Fornire eventuali altre informazioni utili a fornire un quadro sullo stato di implementazione del progetto

## Other relevant information

Provide any other useful information to provide a picture of the state of implementation of the project

### PROJECT MONITORING and EVALUATION

To monitor progress, we have used the following quantitative indicators:

- Number of Geocaches tested: 155 by the Italian team + the trails during the Transnational Meetings (2 in France, 2 in Spain, 1 in Lithuania + several individual caches)
- Number of Geocaches produced locally : 7 traditional caches produced on geocaching, 11 caches tested and made available for the Stresa Music Festival, other trails will be issued by October (The Battle of Novara and the Risorgimento, Spanish Novara, Art Trails in Town, "Food and Countryside", Treasure Hunt in Milan Duomo)
- Number of Geocaches validated and shared by the partnership: 2 Trails in France, 2 Trails in Spain, 1 Trail in Lithuania
- Attendance to National Teams' meetings by students: regular, far better motivation after the Spanish mobility
- Number of teachers involved in the project: in Italy there are about 10 teachers at work plus others who are involved depending on the activities to be performed (45 teachers attended the training sessions)
- Number of classes participating to the Geocaching activities: 8 classes and various pupils from different classes – students in the Erasmus Team are 23, they belong to different classes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year (from all the different courses)
- Number of visitors to the Website (273 pagine visitate a settimana, dato recente)
- Website content: see published information at [erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com](http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com)
- Articles on school newsletters and/or papers, local newspapers, other media: 4 articles in France, at least 1 in Spain and 1 video; 4 articles in Italy
- Bigger number of students involved in the Travelling Teams

Qualitative evaluation of the activities:

Forms to students to evaluate the activities; forms to teachers to feedback after activities; Project Evaluation Forms (submitted to National teams, coordinators, teachers, students, families, project beneficiaries, Couchsurfing service participants...). Evaluation questionnaires were filled up by participant teachers after each TPM and the results were presented in written form and the file was added to the common Google Drive Folder and discussed in the next mobility.

At school level:

- The monitoring is carried out by the head of the school, who has access to the documentation confirming the project in terms of both technical and financial issues.
- The project co-ordinator reports on the degree of implementation of project activities in the form of short reports presenting them to the "Staff di Dirigenza" (team of project coordinators), sends info to be published on the school website, supervise the e-twinning space and personally update the Italian website.
- The school accountant and the school project coordinator plan and supervise the ongoing expenses for project.
- 4. The school coordinator monitors the pace and scope of the project activities undertaken in the school; supervises teachers actions and plans the training sessions

At partnership level:

- The project coordinator, Barbara Bianchi (from "Ravizza" Novara, Italy), is contacted by telephone, e-mail and whatsapp, on a weekly basis. She gives the impulsion before and after each mobility of what documents / results/ outputs each team needs to bring, and brings to the partners' attention the missing papers or files if necessary. After each mobility she collects evaluation forms and drafts minutes of the meetings to be shared in the google drive.
- A Google Drive was created with documents and files that allows for continuous mutual interaction and to monitor others' work and show your own.

- We decided to abandon the dropbox in favour of googledrive because it is more user friendly and allows to share a bigger quantity of information
- Portugal monitors the common website
- France monitors the contest « the cache of memory » by reading or studying and classifying the pupils' productions in advance
- The Greek team works to enhance the use of etwinning throughout the year, signalling every time a partner creates a trail or a video, also checking that whatever students post is in the right section.

The Project received a Twinning Label

[http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/uploads/5/9/8/8/59886631/etw\\_certificate\\_135056\\_en.pdf](http://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/uploads/5/9/8/8/59886631/etw_certificate_135056_en.pdf)  
its title on Etwinning is “Geocaching-Minds on the Move (acronym: MoM)”

## PROJECT IMPACT

For the participants and participating organisations:

Motivation of students working together with different age groups at home and during the mobility to Spain (Portuguese pupils were much younger but the challenges of searching the caches erased the age difference).

Motivation of the teachers in each school as they see the projects results, the Lithuanian partner is also happy to be able to promote itself throughout Europe, as they feel isolated from the rest of the countries.

Participating to this project to produce trails that are published online, publicised in the newspaper and in the local tourist board have given students and teachers a sense of empowerment. Some students with disabilities have been involved in the project at different levels and future trails will take into consideration accessibility as a priority. Actually the Portuguese team is working at a separate project whose results might be used for the purpose to identify immediately “Accessible Caches”. This will be explored in the future months.

In France a student has created her own cache using recycling material to make it a "Hotel" for travel bugs (see for more information : <http://www.podcacher.com/travel-bug-hotels/>)

Students have become aware of their environment, and some teachers too: they have discovered the city where they live paying more attention to the different landmarks, geographical features and attractions and they are considering the potential of the world around us.

Students working on the project have been improving their presentation skills since at different stages of the project they literally toured the school to inform and involve their peers. They also improved in communicating with people from different countries who speak different languages; of course their English level increased (or their motivation to learn more during the lessons).

In Spain, the Physical Education teacher has used one of the trails designed by the national team to go hiking up the mountain with the students.

In Italy, Spain and France, after the end of the school year teachers have met and gone on geocaching expeditions in small groups. Students have done the same with their families and friends. These spontaneous activities are helping to maintain the cooperative spirit alive and make participants committed to the project for the future months.

So far there are already a lot of indirect beneficiaries and contributors:

Parents got more involved in the school life since students need them to go and hide caches (nearly all the students do not drive), but also because it has become a nice way to spend some free time together. Also teachers, especially those with young children, are involving their families and friends.

Portugal was the first country to associate private or public bodies to the project by suggesting an association with a company that uses geocaching as a tool for tourists to discover the area.

Other partners created a connection with the local authorities, for example in France and in Spain the local tourist board decided to promote the project outcomes. In France the local council committed to financing the printing of leaflets that the pupils from the team with the help of a management and marketing class to advertise the trails created and to attract people in Bollène, which is a city that suffers from being only a night-stop on the way to the Southern Provence.

In Spain the city has a history of cooperation with the school and both local authorities and private companies are ready to support the students' action (some companies have already offered free gadgets). Also in Poland the school has lots of connections with the local authorities.

In Italy, the team has made an agreement with the Tourist Boards in order to use the existing literature on the art trails and share expertise with the local guides. The Town Council has asked the team to participate to an event on "Urban Trekking" late in October. The Stresa Music Festival is running a geocaching contest that we prepared for them. Contacts were made with the CAI (Club Alpino Italiano = Italian Mountain Association) in order to promote their trails using the geocaching platform.

#### PROJECT DISSEMINATION

The project activities are being registered on the **project webpage** ([geocachingerasmus.weebly.com/](http://geocachingerasmus.weebly.com/)) which is linked to the national teams' webpages and the schools' websites. Some interviews were given to local papers and articles appeared on the local press.

We had meetings with the local authorities to show the potential of the project in terms of tourism.

In France the press was invited to follow the test of the trails and to the presentation of the project to the local Tourist Board.

In Spain the international team was interviewed on television at the town hall to promote the project and its impact on tourism (link :[https://video.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t42.1790-2/18223552\\_821453084674642\\_5096465222009356288\\_n.mp4?efg=eyJ2ZW5jb2R1X3RhZyI6InN2ZV9zZCJ9&oh=850c68c231692092ed94163a9ddee911&oe=594179C7](https://video.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t42.1790-2/18223552_821453084674642_5096465222009356288_n.mp4?efg=eyJ2ZW5jb2R1X3RhZyI6InN2ZV9zZCJ9&oh=850c68c231692092ed94163a9ddee911&oe=594179C7) +

<http://loja.ideal.es/loja/noticias/201705/11/estudiantes-seis-paises-conocen-20170511173429.html>)

In order to publicise the project to the teaching community and also for safety reasons we promoted the use of the E-twinning space. This can certainly be enhanced and encouraged – students find it more complicated than using other social media and we still need to prove its importance and potential (more than we already tried).

Open door days at school: some schools used the open days to promote the project. For Italy this came too early and we did not have much to share. Next year we will certainly exploit these moments.

During the summer holidays, the pupils (but also teachers and families) have been asked to share on social media their geocaching experiences by posting photos and stories.

**Prevedete di riuscire a portare a termine tutte le attività previste? SI**

**Prevedete di riuscire a portare a termine tutte le mobilità previste in candidatura, se del caso SI**

**Will you be able to complete all planned activities? YES**

**Will you be able to carry out all the mobilities? YES**