

# **GEOCACHING in and out the classroom - MINDS ON THE MOVE**

Project Code:

**2016-1-IT02-KA219-024443**

Action: **Strategic Partnerships** for **Schools Only**

Call: **2016**

## **Transnational Project Meetings**

There were 6 transnational meetings and all the partners participated in them.

The purpose of the meetings was the transfer of knowledge and fastening good and respectful partnership. Partners shared duties and solved all the problems that appeared during the project.

Teachers taking part in the transnational meetings discussed all the activities performed as well as documentation. These meetings allowed partners to share knowledge about the realization of the tasks, exchanging best practices. Seeing the way each National team was progressing was very motivating and inspiring.

## **M1 - Sintra, Portugal 28<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016**

This was the first transnational meeting during which partners started to report on activities carried out in their schools, creation of Erasmus + Clubs, creation of coordinating Teams, documentation and other administrative tasks. First of all each partner introduced themselves and their school. All partners analyzed the Contracts received from their National Agencies in order to set a common ground of knowledge about this new type of project (KA2) and contact details were collected.

The Portuguese team organised a TRAINING SESSION about Geocaching and the use of GPSs devices held by an expert working for a local tourist company, plus a workshop on Cache design and creation, and an on-the-spot training in three different locations. Feedbacks and discussions about the experience were collected.

Two Geocaching expeditions were organized in Sintra and Quinta da Regaleira. We designed samples for documents such as evaluation card, certificate of attendance; all these documents were suggested by the coordinator; these official documents were shared among all partners in a common Google Drive Folder. The folder was enriched with files for internal use 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 was done. A video tutorial was published after the meeting. The [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) website was explored and better understood thanks 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 were so familiar with Geocaching, C2 and M2 meeting were switched, so the second TPM in France took place before the Blended mobility in Spain.

The partners agreed on how to complete the LOGO CONTEST voting phases: the logos selected in Portugal was voted in each country. The Portuguese partner collected results and made them available to other partners. The Italian partner provided guidelines for the creation of a common WEBSITE by using Weebly ([www.geocachingerasmus.weebly.com](http://www.geocachingerasmus.weebly.com)). The Greek partner explained how to use GOOGLE DRIVE and all partners tried to upload and modify documents. At the end of

the meeting all partners signed the DECLARATION OF HONOUR and the Portuguese Host gave each participant the ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE.

### **M2 - Bollene, France 28<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

In France there was a training session about how to use geocaching.com and the potential of both traditional and virtual caches and the creation of a multi-cache trail using enigmas to go from one point to the other (to trigger students' motivation).

A trail was tested and validated both by the French Erasmus team and by the partners in Orange around the UNESCO heritage sites (Roman theatre and Triumph Arch).

During the meeting the Spanish partner distributes a draft Agenda and partners agreed on it.

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.

### **M3 - Vilnius, Lithuania 27<sup>th</sup> May-1<sup>st</sup> June 2017**

The meeting was held to check that the national websites are implemented in each country with a link to the main page. 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 terms of trails creation and the design of a guideline 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 of the impact of the project at several levels

(school/pupils/parents/teachers) and about the added value of international cooperation, and how to make it more efficient for the next mobilities. The importance of sharing Geocaching experiences was reasserted.

Part of the meeting was also devoted to technical problem solving and to the setting up of the 9 Cache of Memory CONTESTS to foster the use of E-twinning: rules and guidelines to follow, objectives, deadlines. Partners went on Geocaching trips in the city of Vilnius and discovered clever caches.

### **M4 - Novara, Italy 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

The winners of the Cache of Memory contests were discussed and decided, awards were given away under the form of vouchers.

The calendar was discussed again and confirmed. The Greek partner accepted to host more students than the initial number agreed on in the coming mobility, as well as the Polish one.

A training session was organised to introduce the new tool by our Italian partner: learning apps.org to design activities and add quiz of different kinds to make the caches more interactive.

The evaluations were done in order to validate the trails, examine the inconveniences and the advantages, as the Italian partner innovated by putting its trails directly onto their webpage, thus making them more user friendly and avoiding all the inconvenience of the geocaching platform.

Advantages and disadvantages of this solution became clearer: visualisation of content is much better, but you lose all the interactive part connected to the players' feedbacks, which is a great part of the geocaching platform.

### **M5 - Kielce, 24<sup>th</sup> September – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

During the TPM meetings (M5) coordinators discussed past and future activities, in particular prepared for the national Dissemination Days (D-Days) to be held in each country.

Partners validated geocaching trails in Kielce and held prototype international dissemination events to be replicated in the partner's schools/cities.

on Wednesday 26 we met the press, radio and television to present the project outcomes (on the occasion of the European Day of Languages – the project coordinator spoke on the local radio; students held workshops in the city museums). On the following day in Kielce there was Flashmob, when journalists followed the groups through the city centre and interviewed a few of them ( <https://erasmusgeocaching.weebly.com/kielce.html> ).

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> there was a Meeting with the Board of Teachers and Experts in order to disseminate the most meaningful results and products - teachers and students from the partners' schools presented project outcomes by showing the trails that had been made and tested and their positive effects on students' motivation. A Meeting at the town hall was also made to highlight the educational opportunity of using Geocaching in classes. On this occasion the mayor of the city congratulated participants about the goodness of the initiatives for the sake of a better future. In addition to this, two students from the Italian Erasmus+ Team spent the whole month of September in Kielce on a work placement at the hosting school, meeting hundreds of students from the local community, and teaching them about Italy and about the project.

The Polish experts helped the partners planning the Geocaching Dissemination Days (D-Days), and the Italian and French teachers helped partners during a session on Thursday morning to create the Geocaching event on 12th October, on the occasion of the official ERASMUS DAYS promoted by the French National Agency – both on the EU platform (see <https://www.generation-erasmus.fr/erasmusdays2018/> ) and on [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

Video shooting of main activities for final project video by the Lithuanian and Polish team - to be revealed in the film in Italy. Website implemented.

#### **M6 - Novara, Italy 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Final management meeting - checking and updating the common website, filling in the Final Reports and checking all the official documents.

For this final Mobility we decided to rent a house and live together while working at the Final Report. The Italian Assistant to the Coordinator took care of the meals and all the participants prepared their draft documents. On 13<sup>th</sup> November all participated to the **Erasmus+ Geocaching Dissemination Day (D-Day)** at Ravizza, to present the main outcomes of the project and potential use of Geocaching for educational purposes. The event was attended by more than 100 people.