

A total of 20 teachers from 6 different countries; Italy, Romania, Lithuania, Latvia, Turkey and Greece got together in İstanbul Erkek Lisesi/İstanbul/ Turkey where Erasmus+ Project (K229) entitled “ Storytellers Across Europe” staff mobility took place between 17-21 October 2022.

This Project brought together teachers of various ages , gender, religion and beliefs to promote a comprehensive approach to teaching and learning, and improving teachers’ English skills, digital competences and social skills. Participant teachers from each country had the opportunity to learn about Turkey’s local stories, myths, legends and they also experienced some techniques and tools on “how to use drama effectively in the classes” . Storytelling using some digital tools, using puppets as teaching materials, and learning some games, methods and activities to use in different subjects like ; Maths, geography and literature were the topics they went through during their stay in İstanbul.

They also witnessed a “ Hacivat and Karagöz” puppet show, which is a Turkish literary treasure, and afterwards made their own puppets using socks and additional materials to dramatize their national stories and poems.

It was clear that using drama techniques while learning, definitely let the participants have fun together, and tighten the bonds of friendship, as well as building up their teaching skills.

Being at the crossroads of culture and religion in İstanbul, project partners also had the chance to visit and see cultural and historical sites such as; Topkapı Palace, Hagia Sofia, Blue Mosque, Galata Tower and the world’s first big shopping centre “Grand Bazaar”. They also had the special permission to visit the oldest and the most prestigious Greek Orthodox school and Patriarch. While having a boat trip down the Bosphorous not only they were able to see the both Asian and European sides, but also to practice each countries’ folk dances and songs.

So finally, while they were leaving İstanbul, apart from having new friends, sweet memories and learning about the Turkish culture and history, they were full of new ideas to share with their colleagues and to implement in their own classes.

Long live the Erasmus+ partnerships & Storyteller friendships!!!

Özlem MUTLU