



OUTSIDE THE BOX



MOBILITY OF YOUTH WORKERS

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



ABOUT THE PROJECT

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Think outside the box! This famous phrase brought us to an idea to create an international project in which we would deal with possibilities of using our knowledge and skills from youth work in school activities. For pupils and students nonformal activities are quite often more interesting and more attractive than everyday school lessons, so why not to use it and why not to offer teachers our proven methods of work? Is it possible to use some of them effectively and successfully?

The **"Outside the box"** project obviously did not intend to change radically all the used and proven methods of formal education, the aim was to exchange experience with used methods and search for their successful use in formal education. Most non-governmental organizations cooperate at higher or lower level with schools and this project could support such cooperation.

The aims of our project were:

- to increase competences of participants in the area of non-formal education.
- to develop creative skills of the participants
- to learn about non-traditional or rarer methods used by the partner organizations
- to share experience with using various methods of work and try to offer how to implement proven methods of non-formal education into formal education.
- to support cooperation of youth workers with youngsters in the area of non-formal education with institutions working in the area of formal education.
- to support abilities to initiate changes regarding modernization of work in the partner organizations as well as formal education institutions that cooperate with the non-governmental organizations.
- to increase the quality of work in favour of young people
- to develop motivation of participants and give them an opportunity for further professional and career growth.

Through our project we tried to deal with the issue of increasing key competences connected with youth work and developing organizational and creative skills, abilities to think outside a common frame, think about less common and non-traditional methods, simply to think "outside the box". **We hope we succeeded and the ideas that the participants exchanged and developed will find a place in some schools and methods of non-formal education will get a green light there!**

OUR PARTNERS



EUROTEAM CZECH REPUBLIC, z.s.

S.E.A.L. CYPRUS

ASOCIACION P.O.D.

MONOPATIA ALLILEGIIS

HIDAK IFJÚSÁGI ALAPÍTVÁNY

PRONI Centar za socijalno podučavanje

SOPRO - Solidariedade e Promoção ONGD

EDUFONS - Centar za celoživotno obrazovanje

Choosing good partners for a project is always quite difficult and the covid time made it even more complicated. Our long-term experience shows us that while in the past we used to meet teams that had project work and interesting activities in their hearts, recently there appeared many touristy focused (much more than project focused) people and project „managers“ (or rather businessmen). Some names of organizations are already well known as „Erasmus tourists“. Fortunately there are more and more opportunities where to find new, reliable and hardworking partners – social networks, various facebook groups and pages, so beside Otlas it is possible to inform potential partners also this way. Quite often it is necessary to meet possible partners online and discuss all phases of the project and thus also find out if they are a suitable partner or not. And how did we find our partners?

For our project "Outside the box" we turned to some partners we have been cooperating with for some time already, and though their participants change obviously, we know, that we can rely on them and trust them and they bring an added value to our project. On the other hand we were also interested to meet teams we have not hosted so far and we have not met in other projects yet. This way we chose our partners from Serbia or Portugal. One of the partners is missing on our list – the organization from the Caribbean island of Sint Maarten, but due to covid related issues and travel difficulties we could not welcome them to our project. Additionally, one of the Hungarian girls cancelled her participation at the very last moment, but she was replaced by a Croatian participant. So, in the end there were 20 of us in the project!

PREPARATIONS

Our preparations for the project in Hrádek started several months before the meeting itself, but epidemic situation in Europe forced us to change our plans and thus we had a lot of time for preparations. And though covid wave was not getting calmer we believed we would manage to organize the meeting at the end of October. We also went to Hrádek to agree on all details of our project. Our organizational team got bigger, Anna, who successfully led a team of youngsters in Sardegna just few weeks before, joined our team. The project was ready and we could start!



BACK TO HRÁDEK

We returned to Hrádek for our projects again after two years. In autumn 2019 we organized there a project called „Young leaders“ and after two postponings of the „Outside the box“ project due to covid situation we could come back again at the end of October 2021. Like two years ago we found a nice environment and great people there so our foreign guests could enjoy the project as much as possible! Mountain air, comfortable place, possibility to walk to Filipka or just to relax in the surroundings without any doubt helped to create warm atmosphere.



"OUTSIDE THE BOX" AKTIVITY

The main motive of the „**Outside the box**“ project was to exchange experience and put together ideas how to use methods of non-formal education in formal education. After presentations of participating teams five working groups were created and the participants presented and shared their ideas and created project posters that described their suggestions. There were also six teachers among the participants who knew school life quite well. In each group there was one participant with experience in formal education so it was possible to discuss proposed activities and possibilities of their implementation at schools. **Examples of our project work** are then published on the project webpage: www.outside-the-box-2020.webnode.cz.

ENERGIZERS

"Energizers" in our projects – each team prepared some of their popular energizers and we could play them in fresh mountain air! We had so much fun every day!



PRESENTATIONS

In the first part of the project partner teams shared their experience with using non-formal methods in their organizations, their projects and events for youth. The activity was called "Watch, learn, practise!"



PROJECT WORK

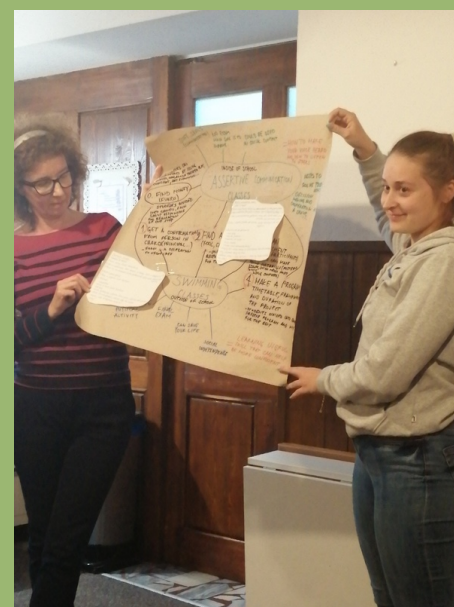
BREAKING STEREOTYPES

Christos, Andela, Mariana Silva and Vasileia worked on ideas and activities focused on cooperation with a group coming from minority "Breaking Stereotypes" as well as on debate activities at school and an outdoor activity for pupils and students which was called "Comfort zone".



ASSERTIVE COMMUNICATION

One of the outputs of the Czech-Croatian-Serbian group was called "Assertive communication classes". This group discussed and presented suitable methods and activities for a workshop focused on media literacy „A course of basic life situations“ and an interesting course of swimming for children.



The first idea for a topic of a workshop quite often comes very fast, now we needed to work on details, aims and activities to support it and on how to organize everything. It is also necessary to decide about the type and age group of the participants, about the programme of the event as well as particular activities and find out what we need for our plan and what the budget of the whole event would be. Once this all is done, discussed and prepared we also need to think about strong and weak parts of our plan, about opportunities it brings and threads we have to be aware of. And these were the points our work in project teams was based on.

PROJECT WORK

LIVING LIBRARY

The main topics of the third team composed of participants from Portugal, Spain, Serbia and Croatia were cooperation of schools with NGOs and activities such as Living libraries, cooking workshops, children art week or a Christmas activity connected with exchange of books.



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

The fourth, Croatian-Cypriot-Spanish-Czech team was dealing with activities for outdoor skills (orientation in nature, practical skills etc.) or activities for professional skills, such as writing CVs and described the steps how to implement such activities.



The last, fifth working group was composed of participants from Spain, Hungary, Greece and Cyprus and developed their ideas about how to implement „Activity clubs“ that would deal with topics such as theatre, cultural or sport clubs. They also discussed activities focused on development of practical skills.



ACTIVITY CLUBS

NATIONAL CULTURE EVENINGS

For four evenings we could enjoy the programme prepared by all the teams within the activity called "Evenings of National culture". All partners prepared presentations of their countries and towns, their traditions and culture, some games, quizzes, dances and of course a taste of their typical food. During these evenings we could not only learn about partner countries but we also had a lot of fun! After all, intercultural activities in such international projects are one of the most popular activities!



YOUTHPASS

The week passed very quickly and our work was finished, tasks completed and there was the time to close everything and evaluate. Our last „project“ point of the programme is always a Farewell evening with handing over the Youthpasses. We worked on our own self-evaluation from the very beginning and we put down gained or developed skills, knowledge and competences. The last day we put everything together and filled in our Youthpasses. Eight basic key competences. What we learned, what we improved in during the project meeting. In our Youthpasses we will have it mirrored and we will be able to use it in the future. Each of us also brought home many great experiences and met new, interesting people. And the future is up to us. All in all, our project was really successful and we will keep our good memories forever!

DISSEMINATION



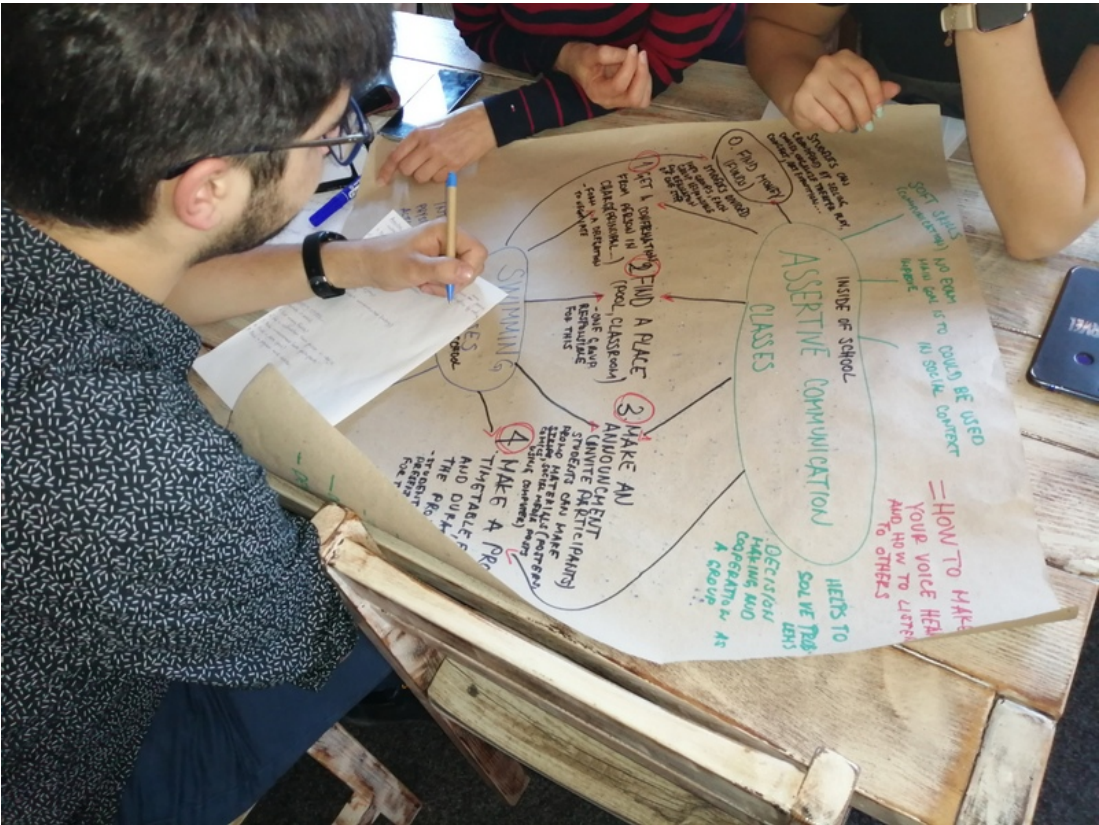
a secondary school and the final event in Czech Republic was a meeting with teachers from several primary and secondary schools where we presented our outputs. Other dissemination activities were done by our partners then.

And before final photogallery here is a little example of our dissemination activities. We made a project photobook, organized a photo-exhibition with discussion for students of



PHOTOGALLERY







YOUTHPASS CEREMONY





The **"Outside the box"** project took place in October 25-30, 2021 in Hrádek. Twenty youth workers from 8 countries took part in it.

The project was organized by Euroteam Czech Republic, z.s., its partners were NGOs from Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Portugal, Serbia and Canary Islands.

The project was supported by a grant from EU.



We thank all participants for their cooperation on the project, involvement in project activities for their ideas and enthusiasm in teamwork, kind and friendly attitude and we will be looking forward to future meetings!

Our big thanks belong also to all people who helped us implement the project, particularly the owners and staff from Chata Hrádek who created wonderful atmosphere for our project activities!



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