

ERASMUS+ PROJECT

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION (RE) ACTION

January-May 2020



INTRODUCTION NOTE

Written by Mika Haapalainen

Our project continued this spring. Many activities took place according to the project plan. In March however the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic made some changes with the mobilities and other activities.

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in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

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THE DESIGN THINKING METHOD

Text by Manuela Farinha

Design thinking refers to the cognitive, strategic and practical processes by which design concepts (proposals for new products, buildings, machines, etc.) are developed. Many of the key concepts and aspects of design thinking have been identified through studies, across different design domains, of design cognition and design activity in both laboratory and natural contexts. (definition in Wikipedia). Bearing in mind the big themes we'll deal within this Project the idea to associate a new and innovative method was necessary to motivate students towards different and creative solutions. Taking these principles into consideration and also the different steps within this method the idea is to motivate students to go through different concepts and ways of working:

- 1 st Step - empathize
- 2 nd Step - define
- 3 rd Step - ideate
- 4 th Step - prototype
- 5 th Step - test
- 6 th Step - implement

At the end of this Project our students will have thought on practical and real solutions to make the refugees, the minorities and the migrant people life more manageable within our society. They will have found ways to promote and boost a social integration of those who need it into our schools and communities. By doing that they will work in groups, think critically upon how to solve problems, to find creative solutions and even to create those solutions, to test and implement them.

DIVERSITY EXHIBITION & DIVERSITY POSTCARDS / NOVEMBER 2019 – JANUARY 2020

Text and photos by Giannis Agathos

Last November, the students were involved in discussing about diversity issues in their school community but also in the societies in general. They realized that differentiating people from one another, can empower them by respecting and appreciating what makes us all different, in terms of ethnicity, religion, national origin etc. and how society can utilize its members' diversity to work towards a common goal.

The result was a Diversity exhibition on the Erasmus corner of each partner, presenting cultural items from the countries participating in CSI Project and using them to decorate the Christmas trees. On January 2020, the students created and exchanged postcards for the New Year, which were also inspired by cultural and social Diversity.



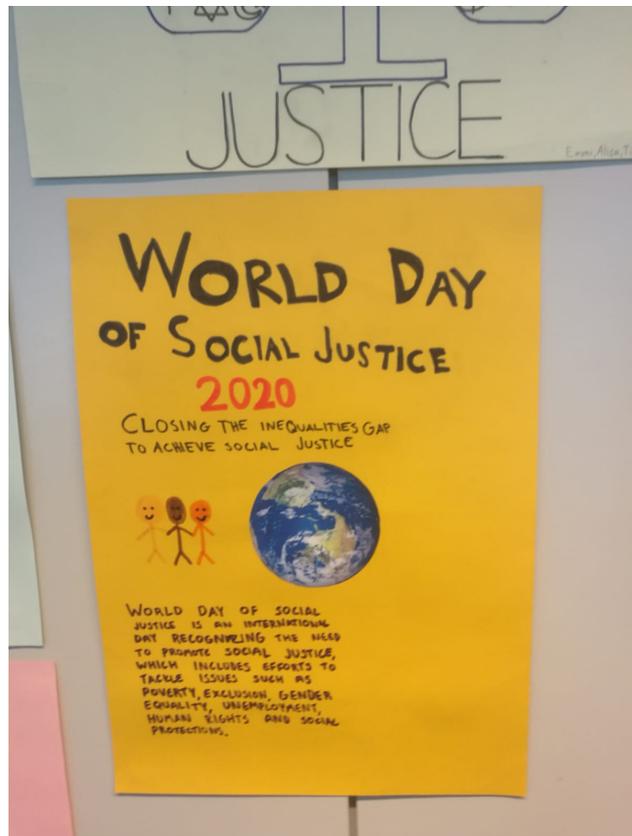
THE WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Text and photos by Mika Haapalainen

The 20th of February was the United Nations' World Day of Social Justice. The annual day's purpose is to teach people about equality and the fact that the human rights are not present everywhere. Poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, unemployment, the lack of human rights are reality widely in the world. Social development is necessary in order to achieve and maintain peace and safety. It is crucial to remove inequality caused by gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture and disability in order to ensure social rights for all mankind.

These kinds of international days are possibilities to educate people about previously mentioned issues. And education makes a difference whether things will eventually change globally.

Project students and teachers in our project countries celebrated the World Day of Social Justice by studying relevant matters and making videos and different presentations about them. For example the project students in Pohjankartano School got acquainted with the themes of the day and produced posters on the topic.



COVID19 AND CSI (RE)ACTION

Text and photos by Maria Luisa Tonali

The outbreak of COVID19 in our countries has meant an incredible change in our lives, a forced stop in our daily routine and future plans. First we had to cancel the mobility to Italy and then to Poland. We had to stop going to school and to experience distance learning. We had to leave out of the door projects, friends, relatives. We had to stay home. Our CSI project was one of the things left floating. What about refugees? What are the effects on them? What has COVID to do with migrations? How has it affected our project? Feel free to speak about your own experience and your thoughts on facts connected to COVID and CSI, freedom of movement, school, migrations.

#STAYHOME In December 2019, the coronavirus, a virus originated in China began to be widely talked about due to its ease of contamination and due to the danger it causes to humans. But despite that, I continued to live a normal life, full of contact with other people... Because I never thought that this virus would reach Europe, or even Portugal. But unfortunately it arrived and in March 2020, everyone was in a pandemic state, which forced people to stay in quarantine and thus some had to change their lives a lot. For example in my case, my parents and brother and I used to have many dinners with the rest of my family, we used to travel around our country ... But now, with the quarantine, we no longer can do these things. We have to avoid social contact as much as possible and, therefore, schools also had to be closed. And that for me was the biggest change that the coronavirus caused.



We started taking classes at home through video calls using Microsoft Teams. This is not possible for everyone, as not all families are able to buy a computer or mobile phone where they can have video calls. And so not everyone can have an equal education. But fortunately, I have these conditions and my opinion is that these classes turn out to be innovative and an experience that may well become a habit in the future. But I continue to like face-to-face classes more because I leave my house and I am with people, which is one of the things I like the most to do. And if we want to have a normal life again, we cannot leave the house for unnecessary reasons because if so, there will be a second wave of this virus and so we will have to stay at home, away from the people and places we like, for a long time. Tomás Silva, Portugal

I think covid-19 is causing inconvenience to many people and states. I think that to resolve this situation people must respect the rules that have been given to us and must work together because, even if at a distance, union is strength. WE'LL MAKE IT! Cesare Valerio, Italy

Being stuck at home has been a little bit hard, but I'm actually enjoying this quarantine. I almost don't have classes per day and that's AMAZING, because now I have more time for reading, playing videogames and watch series, but my teachers always give me a LOT of homework. I don't even know how to manage the time. My grandmother came to my house at the beginning of the quarantine and she's always telling us that she wants to return to her house and open her store, just because someone that has a store near hers opened it! Summarizing, I will end this quarantine completely crazy. Well, remember to stay at home if you can! Constança Santos, Portugal

I think that right now we are lucky compared to people get away from the war. We spend more time with our family and we learn new things. Instead they in addition to having to protect themselves from the disease must also protect themselves from attacks. Irene d'Onofrio, Italy

I think that this experience with COVID19 is dangerous for a lot of people, especially the poor and weak ones. It's very hard for doctors, nurses, policemen and their families. Even if it's difficult for us to respect this extraordinary rules, is essential and we all must do our part. I hope this period will help us to understand the importance of small things, we often take for granted (for example visit grandparents or play with friends). Caterina Biavaschi, Italy