

PROJECTE ERASMUS + 2019-1-ES01-KA104-061738

Integració europea a través de la mediació cultural i lingüística en la EOI de Castelló

During the academic year 2021-2022 I had the opportunity of enjoying one of the mobility grants that my school, the EOI Castelló de la Plana, was assigned with as part of the Erasmus+ project "European integration through cultural and linguistic mediation at the EOI of Castelló". One of the key objectives of the European Erasmus+ programme is to improve the professional and personal development of teachers, so that we can update our knowledge and offer teaching methodologies in accordance with the sociocultural reality of our students.

In my case, I decided to complete a teacher training course in Dublin (Ireland) called "Advanced English Language Teaching (ELT) Certificate Course for Already Practising ESL, EFL, ESOL Teachers" and organised by the school Europass Teacher Academy. Originally, my mobility was meant for the academic year 2019-2020, but, unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic postponed it for two years and, finally, it took place from Monday 16th May to Saturday 21st May 2022. This course was aimed at experienced teachers of English as a foreign language who wanted to update their teaching methodology and connect and share experiences with other European teachers.

The first session of the course was devoted to several icebreakers and individual presentations in which we presented our school, explained where we came from, what we teach and our background in the Erasmus+ project. From this very first moment, the multiculturalism and multilingualism that characterises the European project became evident, since the teachers who participated in the course came from various countries such as Germany, the Czech Republic, Italy, Estonia, Portugal, France and Spain.

Throughout the other sessions of the course, we worked on essential aspects of the English teaching-learning process. One of those aspects was how to put the emphasis on the students, making the tasks interesting and increasing their motivation. Moreover, we reviewed theories and concepts such as Bloom's taxonomy, Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), Task Based Learning (TBL), Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), and Content Based Instruction (CBI). On top of that, we learnt how we could introduce authentic materials when working on written and oral comprehension and production,



and pronunciation. Finally, we stressed the need to create a cooperative and positive learning environment, where mistakes are dealt with from a constructive point of view.



The academy also organised three activities outside the school. The first one was a guided tour of the incredible city of Dublin given by an Irish local, which allowed us to get to know the city better. The second activity had to do with the contents of the course and helped us to put into practice research strategies seen in class at the National Gallery of Ireland. Lastly, on Saturday we made a day trip to the wonderful cliffs of Moher, where the breathtaking views and

landscape left us speechless. In this last activity, we also had the chance to discover the city of Galway.

In addition to that, the group of teachers who participated in the training activity did cultural activities and organised meetings outside class. We toured Dublin from top to bottom and visited iconic places like Phoenix Park, Kilmainham Gaol, Trinity College, or the fishing village of Howth. During these social meetings, we took the opportunity to exchange ideas, experiences and strategies that can be applied in the classroom and, of course, taste the typical dishes of the Irish gastronomy accompanied by a refreshing pint of Guinness.

As a conclusion, I would like to highlight that being able to take part in the Erasmus+ programme for teachers has been a very enriching experience, which has allowed me to create links between teachers from different European countries, soak up the Irish culture, and grow both as a person and as a teacher. In short, I cannot wait until the next time I go on Erasmus+!