

Report about the Erasmus visit to „Friedrich-Elvers-school at Heide (Germany)

from 25th to 29th of March 2019

This time, the meeting of the Erasmus project “Communicate with us” took place at Heide (Germany). Several teachers from Austria (Vienna), Northern Ireland (Belfast) and Germany (Heide) took part in this project regarding communication and development. They are all teaching pupils in Special Educational Needs schools. The purpose of getting together was, to learn from each other’s experience and knowledge, especially in teaching students/pupils with difficulties in social behaviours and with immigration background.

Therefore the FES¹ concept (classes’ inclusion) has been shown by the teachers to their Austrian and North Irish guests. For this reason the project members/teachers could choose different classes at FES or at dislocated schools in the district of Heide.

At St. Georg school two different lessons of DAZ² have been shown to the Erasmus project members. Most of the pupils have intensive German lessons in special/separated classes with two teachers to learn and to improve their speaking and reading skills to join the regular classes.

AT FES a special “communication program” known as “Makaton” has been introduced to the Austrian and Northern Irish teachers by their German guests. Makaton³ is a language programme designed to provide a mean of communication to individuals who cannot communicate efficiently by speaking. The Makaton language program has been used with individuals who have cognitive impairments, autism, Down syndrome, specific language impairment, multisensory impairment or acquired neurological disorders that have negatively affected the ability to communicate, including stroke patients. This was a very interesting lecture and a main part of the meeting “Communicate with us” project at Heide this March.

At least a music lesson with pupils who have different levels of attention deficits has shown the power and health of music by helping them to concentrate and to learn German by singing easy German songs and lyrics.

A visit to the mayor of Heide in the town hall and an educational visit to the west coast of Schleswig-Holstein and the Viking museum at Haithabu completed the project week at Heide.

¹ FES: short form for Friedrich Elvers school

² DAZ: means that most of the pupils are immigrants and have to learn „German as a second language” in school

³ MAKATON: Makaton is a language programme