

# news from european classrooms

## Project Coordinator's Message



Dear Readers,

We offer to your attention the fourth issue of the newsletter of the Erasmus+ project "Development and Implementation of Innovative Methods of Teaching in the Multicultural European Classroom to Increase Student Literacy and Prevent Early School Leaving".

In May we had the sixth transnational meeting in Iceland. Information about these events you can get from this newsletter.

Enjoy reading!

**Ludmila Renge, Project Coordinator**

### *Inside this issue:*

Aims and Objectives	2
Tour	4
School Description	11
Municipality	15
Natural History Museum	19
Fab lab	23



# Aim and Objectives of the Project



## Aim

- Exploration of teaching tools and social innovations that will support low achievers, immigrants and multiculturalism in the European classroom and prevent early school leaving.

## Objectives

- To investigate the ethnic composition, students' learning success of partner schools in Portugal, Cyprus, Germany, Iceland, Croatia and Latvia and the problems/difficulties that lead immigrants, Roma and other low achievers to early school leaving.
- To develop, implement and share innovative methods of teaching.
- To encourage students to view language literacy as being useful to all citizens and thus enhance literacy and increase the number of students who acquire compulsory education successfully.
- To elaborate ICT learning and teaching tools: CD-ROMs with virtual excursions, GPRS maps, mobile phone applications for Math, Science and Language lessons.
- Through this project we hope to help students to finish school successfully, to enhance their motivation, tolerance and inter-cultural competences.
- To develop, test and implement innovative approaches in teaching Maths, Science and Foreign and schooling languages.

Important outcomes expected in this project include the availability of lesson plans and resources for other teachers and the increase of teachers' professional competences.

The pedagogical staff of participating schools intends to implement, improve the resources in their everyday practice, disseminate among the colleagues. We believe it is crucially important to work in that direction because it encourages improvement of personal, professional and social competences of all participants.

**For presentations, photos and more, please visit: <http://erasmus.pdps.lv/>**





## LATVIA

**School name:** Rigas Pardaugas Pamatskola  
**Headteacher:** Irena Shinkareva  
**Coordinator:** Ludmila Renge



## CROATIA

**School name:** Osnovna Skola Marjan  
**Headteacher:** Zdenka Barović  
**Coordinator:** Zvonimir Vuković



## GERMANY

**School name:** Stadtische Adolf-Reichwein -  
Gesamtschule  
**Headteacher:** Frank Bisterfeld  
**Coordinator:** Ralph David



## PORTUGAL

**School name:** Agrupamento De Escolas Gaia  
Nascente  
**Headteacher:** Sergio Afonso  
**Coordinators:** Maria Naïr Fontes/Laura Castro Moreira



## ICELAND

**School name:** Grunnskolin a Isafirdi  
**Headteacher:** Sveinfriour Veturlioadottir  
**Coordinator:** Halla Guðbjörg



## CYPRUS

**School name:** Gymnasio Palouriotissas  
**Headteacher:** David David  
**Coordinator:** Christina Chimaridou

# 6th Meeting in Ísafjörður, Iceland, May 2017



*Written by the Portugal Team*

Our visit to Iceland began in Reykjavik. The partners join together early to start our journey of 500km till the North of the island, to Ísafjörður.

We were greeted with a very special gift, gloves and hoods knitted by our colleagues. During the day and the whole week we could realize how important and useful that special gift was.



In our way to Ísafjörður we stopped and visited historical places and got in touch with the roots of this wonderful country.

First we stopped at Þingvellir National Park .







## THE BIRTHPLACE OF A NATION

Situated on the northern shore of lake Þingvallavatn, Þingvellir is the national shrine of Iceland. It is, for one, a key location in Icelandic history as the oldest existing parliament in the world first assembled there in 930 AD. Þingvellir has for this reason been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Besides being a location of historical significance, Þingvellir is also protected as a national park due to its unique geology and natural features. Almannagjá is a canyon formed between two tectonic plates, a visual representation of continental drift.

The waterfall Öxaráfoss (The waterfall in the Ax River) in the ravine Almannagjá at Þingvellir is one of the best-known waterfalls in Iceland, at least among Icelanders. Like everything related to Þingvellir and Almannagjá the waterfall has a sentimental reference and historical value. It is an important place in our most precious and sacred place Þingvellir. It is positioned inside Almannagjá in the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The waterfall is rather small, only about 20 meters high, but is an important part of the overall natural wonders in the Þingvellir National Park. Depending on the season, the waterfall may differ in volume as the source, the river Öxará or Ax river, is quite different from one season to the next.

## PARTICIPANTS

### Iceland

- Guðbjörg Halla Magnadóttir
- Bryndís Bjarnason
- Sveinfríður Olga Veturliðadóttir
- Helga Björt Möller
- Bergljót Halldórsdóttir

### Latvia

- Ludmilla Renge,
- Tatjana Moisejeva

### Portugal

- Maria João Rios
- Maria Nair Fontes
- Sergio Afonso

### Croatia

- Zdenka Barović
- Zvonimir Vuković

### Cyprus

- David David
- Nona Moleski

### Germany

- Ralph David
- Monika Rode
- Markus Ignatzek

# *6th Meeting in Ísafjörður, Iceland, May 2017*









## 6th Meeting in Ísafjörður, Iceland, May 2017



Then we took the mini bus and we travelled up to the North. We stopped to watch the nature around us and even try to make a picnic but, as we were told, in Iceland we can have the four seasons all in one single day.

We insisted and it was worth it...









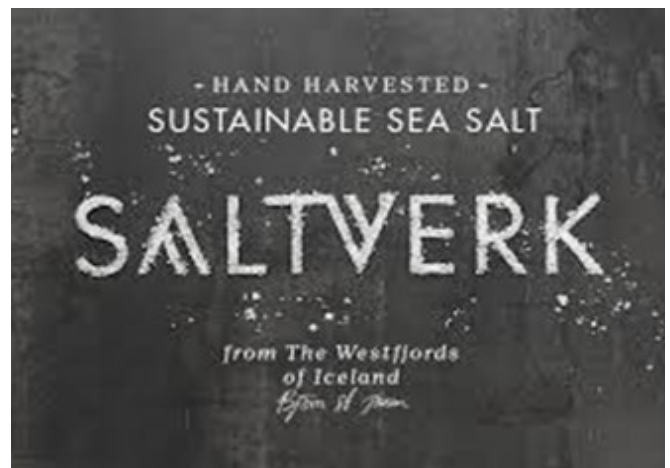
## 6th Meeting in Ísafjörður, Iceland, May 2017



At lunch time we tasted a wonderful meal at Hraunsnef restaurant and then we went straight to Ísafjörður. and before dinner we visited a salt factory at Reykjanes

The Danish king established salt production in the 18th century using geothermal energy to produce salt. The production stopped a few decades later and the tradition of salt making in Iceland came to an end.

But the tradition was not lost forever - in 2011 Saltverk was founded and reestablished salt making in Iceland. Making sustainable, hand harvested products of high quality is the passion that has guided them along the way. Today, Saltverk salt is used in many of the best restaurants and in the homes of food enthusiasts around the world





## Brief description of school

The Iceland school has about 350 students in 1.-10. grade. **Grunnskólinn á Ísafirði** is the only school for children aged 6-16 in a small village in the Westfjords, northwest Iceland. The area is disadvantaged, transportation is difficult and the fishing industry has decreased greatly in the last decades. Five years ago there were over 500 children at school but now they are around 400, because people are moving away and having fewer children (1-2 instead of 3-4).

In the upper classes (8-10) the school is changing the teaching and starting to use Ipads. It makes a great difference and let the kids take more responsibility for their work. It also makes it easier for teachers to meet the needs of each individual.

The school uses Restitution and its motto is Respect, Harmony and Education.

The town is in the Westfjords that is the "head" of Iceland. Ísafjörður and three other little villages have about 4000 people. It is a small community with a beautiful nature all around.

The school has a method to decrease early school leaving by working with the community. Students in danger of dropout get to work one day a week for a company they find interesting, for example: building society, play schools and grocery stores.

The change in teaching methods and more use of IT programs give them more opportunity to work with schools around Europe in diverse ways.

We visited classes.





# 6th Meeting in Ísafjörður, Iceland, May 2017





# 6th Meeting in Ísafjörður, Iceland, May 2017





## 6th Meeting in Ísafjörður, Iceland, May 2017



Then we had a presentation from the students (music and dancing)



It was very interesting to share our lunch time with students in the school canteen, we felt warmly welcomed by the entire educational community. After lunch it was time for the "Family picture".





## Visit to the Municipal Building

In the Municipal Building we were first received by an assistant of the President who showed us the gift gallery and then by the President who talked and became interested in the project and its development.



The town of Ísafjörður was granted municipal status in 1786 as one of the six official trading centres in Iceland. The town stands on a narrow spit of land in the fjord of Skutulsfjörður, which meets the waters of the larger fjord of Ísafjarðardjúp. It is the biggest town in the municipality with just over 2.700 inhabitants. The fishing industry has always been the most important economic activity, but commerce, trading and industry also have firm roots in the town's history. The travel sector has been on a steep rise for the last two decades and its infrastructure has been steadily improving so the town can now receive hundreds if not thousands of guests in one day. Despite its small population, Ísafjörður has an urban atmosphere and is known throughout the country for its flourishing cultural life. This is perhaps down to the fact that the town is the biggest one for hundreds of miles so the people have always had to be culturally self-sufficient. . As the capital of the Westfjords peninsula, Ísafjörður is the centre for services and administration in the area. It has all school levels, including a recently established University centre which allows people to seek higher education without having to move away from home. The town also has a hospital and branches from numerous government institutions.

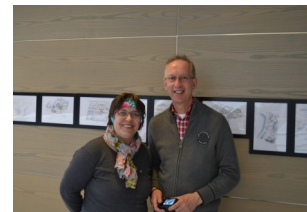
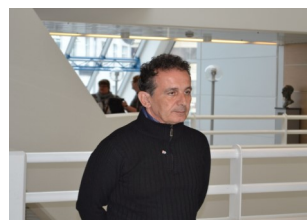


# 5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017





# 5th Meeting in Riga, Latvia, April 2017





## 6th Meeting in Ísafjörður, Iceland, May 2017



### Dinner time – Portuguese Traditional food

The cod from Iceland passed the exam! And with top marks!

It was a Portugal-Iceland partnership with everything to go right. The Erasmus + program brought together teachers from Germany, Latvia, Cyprus, Croatia, Iceland and Portugal.

The Portuguese team has cooked up some good Cods from Iceland, offered by Promote Iceland, the agency that promotes Icelandic products abroad. Just add garlic, onion and olive oil! Unfortunately the photos (still) have no flavor ... But we can guarantee that there was maximum mark of all the participating countries.





A visit was made to Ósvör, an old fisherman's hut, which was restored in 1988. It was previously a harbour for rowing boats. Ósvör is a perfect example of how life was for Icelandic fishermen until the beginning of the 20th century. We took some pictures and had typical Icelandic refreshments including schnapps, dried fish and shark (preserved Icelandic style).



### **Bolungarvík**

The village of Bolungarvík lies at a picturesque bay surrounded by steep mountains. It is a fishing village and the only built-up area in the municipality of Bolungarvíkurkaupstaður in the northwest of Iceland, located on the Westfjords peninsula, approximately 14 kilometres from the town of Ísafjörður and 473 km. from the capital city Reykjavík.

It was one of Iceland's oldest fishing outposts, well positioned close to abundant fishing grounds. The quiet countryside attracts some tourists, mainly in summer. Tourist attractions include a camping site next to an indoor swimming pool with a waterslide as well as a natural history museum where a polar bear specimen and the biggest bird collection in Iceland can be seen.







## **Natural History Museum**

The museum is located in the centre of Bolungarvík and has in display a variety of natural items as stuffed land and sea mammals, over 250 stuffed birds, both icelandic breeders with their eggs and many vagrants.

There are rocks and minerals mainly from the collection of a local geologist Steinn Emilsson and some millions year old pieces of lignite testimonials of the ancient Icelandic forest.

The jaw from the biggest blue whale known to have been caught and thus the biggest animal ever known goes together with a series of poster regarding whale and whaling in Iceland. The display is corporation project between Natural history Museum and Skríður, the botanical garden in Dýrafjörður.





# 6th Meeting in Ísafjörður, Iceland, May 2017



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## History walk around Ísafjörður with a guide

The history of Ísafjörður through the history of the houses and settlers.



## Erasmus Quiz

Using an App we made a quiz about all the countries of the project and some particularities we've learnt during the meetings. It was very funny and enjoyable. The winner was Zvonimir from the Croacia team.



## Fab lab

A fab lab (fabrication laboratory) is a small-scale workshop offering (personal) digital fabrication. A fab lab is generally equipped with an array of flexible computer-controlled tools that cover several different length scales and various materials, with the aim to make "almost anything".







This includes technology-enabled products generally perceived as limited to mass production.

While fab labs have yet to compete with mass production and its associated economies of scale in fabricating widely distributed products, they have already shown the potential to empower individuals to create smart devices for themselves. These devices can be tailored to local or personal needs in ways that are not practical or economical using mass production.

The fab lab movement is closely aligned with the DIY, the open source hardware and the free and open source movement, and shares philosophy as also technology with them.



## 6th Meeting in Ísafjörður, Iceland, May 2017



### Dinner - Tjoruhusid , Isafjordur

Tjörúhúsið is a popular seafood restaurant owned by a couple, Maggi and Ranka. Maggi cooks the fish while Ranka prepares the soup and tends to the guests. The restaurant is nestled inside a 1781 fish warehouse next to the Heritage Museum, and is open during summer only (May to September) as the warehouse is not insulated. We enjoy there our last delicious meal in Isafjordur!







## Icelandic Tradition – Curiosity

For generations, Icelandic babies have napped outside in freezing temperatures

Reykjavík's biggest shopping street fills with babies sleeping in their strollers in summer. They're there in the winter, too, napping in sub-zero temperatures. If they're not on the street, they're on balconies or in the backyard, while their parents huddle over hot tea indoors.



The custom of wheeling your baby outside to sleep is such a big deal in Iceland that Icelanders who live in big apartment buildings sometimes keep a special carriage on the balcony—for napping only.

But why? For a long time, indoor sleeping conditions simply weren't that great. With poor air circulation and overcrowded living conditions, traditional Icelandic homes were muggy and sometimes smoky from cooking.

In the beginning of the 20th century, a tuberculosis epidemic shook the nation. Around the same time, the baby stroller became available in Iceland, finally widely manufactured and globally available after its invention in the UK almost 200 years earlier. In 1926, Dr. David Thorsteinsson published a pedagogy book in Iceland arguing for the benefits of outdoor life and fresh air to strengthen children's immune systems. Thorsteinsson suggested that parents used the trendy portable cradle—the stroller—to let their children sleep outside, and a new tradition suddenly emerged. The second generation of Icelanders in the 20th century napped outside, and so has every generation since then.

**Final Note:** This will be our last newsletter. We want to thank and glorify everyone for the excellent work done, where we all learn and teach something to each other.

Over the last two years we have been a true team in a plural Europe and we have proved that "together we are stronger".

We are very grateful for the experience. See you all in the near future somewhere in Europe.



## **Impressions of the participants**

### **Croatia**

Dear friends,

I would also like to join to all that has already been said about our visit to wonderful Iceland and our partnership. I will never forget the unearthly beauty of Iceland which impressed me more than words can ever express. The only thing that impressed me more is the hospitality of our dear hosts. Thank you Bryndis, Halla, Helga, Olga and all the others that helped us feel welcome in your lovely school.

### **Cyprus**

Dear friends,

We would like to thank you cordially for the unforgettable experience we had during our visit to Ísafjörður.

Everything was organised perfectly. The useful working meetings, the amazing excursions, the wonderful leisure time.

We appreciate a lot what you have done for us. Your hospitality was excellent, your country is beautiful, your friendship is precious.

We hope to meet you again and we are always ready to host you in Cyprus.

### **Germany**

Dear friends

the German Erasmus team wants to thank you for a great week we could spend in your school and town.

Iceland is a rather rough but very exciting country with wonderful and hearty people like you.

We enjoyed every day of our stay, your warmth made up for the freezing temperatures.

We will never forget that picnic on the beach at freezing two degrees, the great views of the countryside, the dinner at Einarshous with the family story and live music, the fantastic fish at our friendship dinner, ... and ... and ...

### **Latvia**

Dear friends,

I would like to join to all words that had been told before and also express my sincere gratitude to all Icelandic team for the unforgettable time we had in Iceland

Thank you very much for the warmth of your hearts and care of us.

The hats and mittens you gave us not only gave us warmth during the trip but will always remind that in a far but beautiful country we have true great friends.

We liked everything you did for us!!!"

### **Portugal**

Dear Friends,

The Portuguese team wants to thank you for this great experience of partnership. It was wonderful the work we developed and the friendship we got all the way.



# 6th Meeting in Ísafjörður, Iceland, May 2017



## *A note from Ludmila Renge*

Our last transnational meeting has finished. The mixed feeling of satisfaction and sadness is in our minds and souls.

In Iceland we had time to look back at the work we had done- we wrote the reports .I would like to say , that everything our big team did was much more that it was written in the application and all project participants turned the written words of it into interesting ,useful activities, that changed the lives of many students, teachers and their schools. Many thanks to everyone!



Erasmus+



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**LATVIA · CROATIA · CYPRUS · GERMANY · ICELAND · PORTUGAL**  
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