



Let's First Understand Our National Heritage in order to Define and Build Our European Identity (2013-2015)

FINAL EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES, PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

This final evaluation was conducted in order to assess the activities, process and results of the whole project. The questionnaire was applied to each project team and there were 201 students and teachers who answered the questions, as follows:

- 1. Which aspects do you consider most valuable for you as a member of the project team? You may tick as many options as you consider necessary.**

	Aspects which are considered most valuable for the members of our project teams	Number of respondents
1	Doing research	84
2	Preparing presentations, posters, charts a.s.o	114
3	Delivering presentations	49
4	Organising activities	81
5	Practising and improving your knowledge of English	169
6	Improving your knowledge of the other cultures	180
7	Making your country's culture and civilisation be known by the other partners	164
8	Going abroad as members of your country's project team	151
9	Working with your partners	91
10	Doing surveys	43
11	Making evaluations	36

2. Were the project activities throughout the unfolding of the project well-devised for achieving its goals?

Yes	Quite a lot	Slightly	No
154	45	1	1

3. What are the final products that you think that helped the participants define their national heritage and thus define and build the European identity?

Please tick as many as you consider necessary.

	Our project final products during the 1st year of the project	Number of respondents
1	PPT on customs and beliefs when human beings are born, get married , have children or die	131
2	Video on the traditions that people have at key moments in their existence	124
3	Our project brand	59
4	Our project tourist guide	83
5	Video collection on folk music and dances	105
6	Photo exhibition on crafts and modern sculptures which have traditions as source of inspiration	88
7	Calendar : Tradition-craft	63
8	Our booklet on the novels which have traditions as a source of inspiration	67
9	Our collection of films based on novels with traditions as a source of inspiration	106
10	PPT with the results of the questionnaire on family's influence regarding personal achievement, healthy living and future expectations	67
11	Video: interview on the importance of traditions	134
12	Compositions and essays on the importance of education students receive at school	63
13	PPT with the survey on the education students receive at	62

	school and its importance on building their future	
14	Our project letters to the Council of Europe	72
15	Our project time machine	99

4. What were the parts of the project activities that you liked?

	Project activities	Number of respondents
1	participation in researching for the final products	76
2	group work for devising the final products	48
3	cultural activities	110
4	project trips	165
5	Dissemination of the activities and results	44
6	the time spent with the other partners	163
7	the time spent with the family hosts	96

5. Did the participation in this project help you to improve your English skills?

Yes	Quite a lot	Slightly	No
164	19	16	2

6. Did the participation in this project help you to practise and improve your skills of using the computer?

Yes	Quite a lot	Slightly	No
105	44	31	21

7. The participation in this project raised my cultural awareness as now I have developed my knowledge of

	I improved my knowledge of	Number of respondents
1	how people from other countries live	113
2	what family life in another country means	85
3	my own country's culture and civilisation	81
4	our partner countries' traditions and customs	134

5	our partner countries' folk music and dances	78
6	our partner countries' educational system	79

8. The participation in this project helped me to improve:

	I improved	Number of respondents
1	my social skills	143
2	my general knowledge of the world	153
3	my respect to and understanding of other cultures	158
4	my motivation and enthusiasm	133
5	my self-confidence	134
6	both my teamwork and leader skills	130

9. What are the advantages for your school / community as a result of participating in this project? Explain.

The Romanian team: I have selected a few comments that some members of the Romanian team made when they were asked question 9 for the final evaluation of the project.

Andreea Stroe, student: 'Our school benefited in a manner that teachers' and students' motivation and levels of interest and scholar achievement have risen considerably. The knowledge of different practices in European schools and several assets of foreign culture also stimulates a broader understanding of the world. Both or school and community have acquired a deeper cultural awareness and opening to customs which depict either national traditions and mentalities or cultural elements from abroad.'

Beatrice Joița, student: 'The advantages for my school as a result of participating in this project are: improving the knowledge of the educational system from another country, discovering the behaviour of people from some foreign countries and finding the improvements they can be made for our school and educational system. Because, going in another country, which can be clearly different from your country can make someone see the world differently and have many ideas to improve what she/he has in her/his country.'

Mirabela Soare, student: 'The advantages for my school or my community are that the students learn about new type of cultures and they can present to their schoolmates the new things which have impressed them.'

Răzvan Dinescu, student: ‘We could interact with other people and also we could make ourselves known.’

Adriana Cocoș, student: ‘Improving the cultural awareness of the community by finding out about other people’s habits and about their countries, having a lot of fun during the project, meeting new people with different thoughts and visiting a lot of new places, I think these are the advantages for my school/community as a result of participating in this project.’

Cristina Săndulescu, teacher: Every participant at this project has developed his/her knowledge, cultural awareness and experience. I have shared information about culture, learning and teaching methods, the lifestyle of the partner countries with my colleagues and I presented what I had learnt to my colleagues and students in my highschool, as well as in other schools in my city.

Doina Crăcănel, teacher: ‘It seems to me a great opportunity to get in contact with people representing other cultures and civilizations, to share knowledge and our teaching / training experience, according to the current trends regarding the developing of the European dimension in education and professional development. It is also a chance to promote the European values and intercultural aspects.’

Rodica Răcășanu, teacher: ‘Students improved their English communication skills in an environment that is not controlled by teachers and grades. Our students’ involvement in project activities through teamwork led to their understanding of the existence and true value of multiculturalism, giving them the opportunity to assert themselves at European level. I learned that to be successful we need initiative and active involvement in such types of projects.

The knowledge gained by the students, the friendships they made with youth from our partner countries will make them reject stereotypes among different nations and it will prompt them to be more tolerant and sensitive to people's needs. The project activities will help young people acquire the basic skills and competencies that are needed for their personal development, for future employment and for an active European citizenship. There can be noticed at the participants in project meetings the fact that they strengthen the intercultural education and its contribution to social integration.’

Mirandolina Matei, teacher: ‘The members of our community have enriched their comprehension of other countries’ national heritage through the activities that were carried

out by the members of our team, as on one hand, there were the ones who participated in the project meetings and then came back home and told their families, friends, classmates and colleagues about what they had learnt, and on the other hand, there were the dissemination activities which informed our community about the results that we had obtained and the goals we had achieved through our project meetings and activities.'

The Estonian team: We had a first-hand experience with other countries and people, we saw new countries, we had lot of interesting project work, we made new friends, we found out lot of new information which cannot be got from internet and last but not least, our school got more good reputation in our community.

The Greek team: Most of the teachers answered that it was interesting to see how the educational system works in the participant countries and that some of them tried to apply some things that they have seen to their own lesson. Moreover, they felt lucky that they had the chance to meet teachers from other countries and socialise with them while it was very important to them the fact that they were taken on tours by locals.

As for the students, most of them feel lucky they attend in our school, which gave them the opportunity to travel, meet new people and new places and make new friends. Some of them mentioned that they felt very proud when they hosted students from other countries and they showed them aspects of their culture.

The Latvian team: Some of the Latvian teachers expressed their views, as follows:

'For our school it was the first Comenius project ever therefore we got a lot of new experience. We have learnt how to work as a part of an international team as well as how to organise our work. Our students were offered fantastic opportunity to interact with their fellow students from partner schools. They improved their usage of English. Students also learned how to organise their time in order to finish with their tasks. Moreover, our students also have seen what kind of life their fellows have in their families as they have lived with the host families during the visit times.'

'School professional development and there are analyzed the needs of school education.'

'To take part in the international project means learning much from other cultures, motivating students learn foreign languages and using them in practice.'

'Better understanding of what makes our European identity - diversity of cultures, respect to each other's traditions, friendship, cooperation among participant countries and teams, international experience.'

‘School professional development/develop the education sector or subject specific area/analyze the needs of school education.’

‘My school is now known in many other countries in the world, children from our school have had an opportunity to communicate to children from other countries and learn more about European culture’

Latvian Students: ‘Partnership with other countries that can be continued in the future for organising new projects or trips to strengthen the friendship between students and raising their awareness of different countries and culture.’

‘As I think, the advantages for my school as a result of participating in this project are establishing connection between each community and improving socialising.’

The Norwegian team: To give students the opportunity to travel and get to know other cultures, to make our students see the similarities between the countries in Europe.

The Polish team: We had the opportunity to visit our partners’ countries where we met their culture and traditions. At the same time, we made a lot of friends and we improved our English skills.

The Spanish team: We received our guests in our community and everybody became friends. We proved our hospitality and we showed the beauty of our places. At the same time, we became more aware of cultural diversity.

The Turkish team: International friendships / Improvement of our English skills/ Have a more tolerant point of view / First abroad experience/Have a week away from one’s family.

10. Will you take part, if possible, in another international project? Explain.

The Romanian team: A few of the answers given by some members of the Romanian project team are, as follows:

Andreea Stroe, student: ‘I surely will, as I find them crucial in personal development and thinking outside the box precisely thanks to the fact that you are faced to different cultures and situations you can only learn from.’

Adriana Cocoş, student: ‘Yes, I will surely take part in another international project because I can improve my language skills, I meet new people, I find out about other people’s habits, about other countries and by those things I’m improving my cultural awareness and it’s perfect!’

Beatrice Joita, student: ‘I wish I could take part in another international project because I can meet new people, perhaps some new mentalities so that I could improve my knowledge of how people in a foreign country live. Also, I can develop my skills in English, working in groups. I can tell somebody about my country and perhaps I can make them believe that it is worth coming here.’

Radu Marinescu, student: ‘Yes, I would like to take part in another international project because I can improve my general knowledge of the world and meet new people’.

Razvan Dinescu, student: ‘Yes, I will! Because I think such projects can improve your skills and also show people’s good characters. Moreover, you can meet people with the same tastes as you.’

Mirabela Soare, student: ‘Yes, I would like to take part in another international project because in this type of project I would meet new people exactly as it happened in this one that I participated in and now I have many friends that I wouldn’t have had otherwise.’

Cristina Săndulescu, teacher: ‘Of course that I would like to take part in other international projects, if possible, in order to enhance my cultural knowledge, my foreign languages skills, to find out and learn about the culture, civilisation and history of other countries.’

Mirandolina Matei, teacher: ‘Yes, I will. The reason is simple: international projects promote peace, respect and cooperation between nations.’

The Estonian team: Yes, as it is both very interesting and useful.

The Greek team: Both teachers and students were asked if they would take part in another international project. Not surprisingly at all, they were all positive, teachers saying that it was a great experience spending time with teachers from other countries, whereas students were even more enthusiastic, saying that through such projects they learn without having to study. Of course, most of them mentioned the new friendships that they have created and that they plan to travel on their own too.

Last but not least, they were asked if they would take part in another international project. Not surprisingly at all, they were all positive, justifying their answer by saying that the tasks they were given were interesting and they helped them find out a lot about other people and other countries, as well as learn about their own culture. All of them mentioned the chance they were given to make new friends and travel abroad and mingle with the locals.

The Latvian team: Some opinions of the Latvian teachers and students are, as follows:

‘Yes. It is a real opportunity to learn about other nations’ cultures and education.’

‘Yes, I would like to take part in another international project as I would gain a lot of benefits. One of them would be the skill of coordinating the project as this skill is very useful for my career.’

‘Yes, to see the world, meet new people, know many new things, understand other cultures and people.’

‘Yes, if possible. It is broadening of my mental horizon, acquiring novel impressions, learning.’

‘I will take part in another international project, because it will develop me as a person and give me a possibility to communicate to many interesting and good people.’

‘Yes, because it is a new experience, a good possibility to raise my language skills and to get to know other cultures, professional development.’

Latvian students: ‘I really would like to take part in another international project to continue improving my knowledge of other countries and to improve my language skills in languages.’

‘I definitely will because it’s a great experience. It’s not easy to meet people from other countries but this project gave me such an opportunity and some of the people will be my friends for life. Not only visiting other countries and exploring their traditions were fun but also hosting people in our country and introducing them our culture.’

‘Yes, to continue improving my knowledge of other countries and to improve my language skills in languages I can get know to (not only English). I’m really thankful for experience I’ve gained so far and looking forward to a next one.’

The Norwegian team: Yes. We have already applied for two new projects.

The Polish team: Yes, because it is useful and we can work time with people from other countries and spend time with them and get to know other civilizations.

The Spanish team and the Turkish one: All the respondents said ‘Yes’ as it is a pleasant and useful experience.

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