



## **REPORT LEARNING TEACHING AND TRAINING ACTIVITY**

**" Water in Our World", Bulgaria  
20.03.2017 - 24.03.2017**

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#### **I. Team**

The learning event at "Letets Hristo Toprakchiev" Secondary school concerning the project "Water in our World" was organized and prepared by the informal team of the project. The team developed a plan and distributed the tasks for the preparation and implementation of the activities related to the organization. Each of the members was responsible for specific tasks, their deadlines, timetables. The team defined responsible people for each of the tasks. During the period 01.02.2017 - 17.03.2017, the schedule for team meetings was changed from one workshop weekly into two per week. Good coordination among members has made it possible to plan and prepare in detail all aspects of the preparation of the learning event from the project plan.

Team members:

1. Maya Karamfilova – Head teacher
2. Tatiana Mladenova-Dimitrova - Coordinator
3. Venelina Todorova - Deputy Head teacher
4. Teodora Taneva - Deputy Head teacher
5. Vesela Mancheva - Music teacher
6. Kamelia Kostova - IT teacher
7. Stanislava Potokka – IT teacher
8. Assya Venelinova - IT teacher
9. Sylvia Shoseva – Art teacher
10. Stanislava Evlogieva - Accountant

## **II. Goals**

1. Presentation of products and activities in stages Water and tourism, Idioms related to water, Water and art
2. Presentation of Bozhurishte
3. Dissemination of the project activities in the school community
4. Organizing photo trips to create IT products
5. Developing students' critical thinking skills
6. Creating a cultural heritage through new technologies
7. Formation of a positive attitude towards problems of the aquatic environment
8. Developing entrepreneurial skills
9. Promoting the World Water Day
10. Enhancement of communication skills in English
11. Presentation of the Bulgarian culture and tradition
12. Sharing cultural values

## **III. Preparation**

### **1. Accommodation of the participants**

There are no hotels or ways of accommodation in Bozhurishte. For this reason, the project coordinator researched hotels whose location was close by and convenient transportation to our city. Inquiries were made to provide bargains. According to the received offers, the team stopped at Bankya Palace Hotel in Bankya, where all the teachers participating in the training event were accommodated.

The students participating in the mobility were accommodated in the families of children from the "Letets Hristo Toprakchiev" Secondary School. Meetings were held with class managers from the high school stage. They aimed to explore families who have the opportunity, conditions and consent to accept students. After interviews with parents where they were aware of the responsibilities and accommodation requirements, the project team addressed the families of:

1. Petya Slavkova 10th grade - two children Italy
2. Mikaela Spassova 10th grade - child Italy
3. Petya Georgieva 7th grade - child Italy
4. Joanna-Victoria Lozanova -10 grade - two children Portugal
5. Bianca Marinova 10th grade - child Portugal
6. Veneta Petkova 9 grade - child Lithuania
7. Ekaterina Atanasova 7th grade - child Lithuania
8. Stefani Tsenkova 9th grade - child Poland
9. Rada Pavlova 5th grade - child Poland
10. Rumen Lozanov 8th grade - child Poland
11. Anna Filipova 7th grade - child Turkey
12. Nikola Sachkov 4th grade - child Turkey

### **2. Visiting of water objects and places**

In line with the objectives of the project - to visit water and water-based tourist sites, take photographs from which to develop electronic resources, as well as present the Bulgarian cultural tradition and share values among the partners were organized:

- a tour of the central part of Sofia
- visit to Velingrad
- Visit to a water treatment plant

- visiting the cascade wall of Iskar Dam
- Visit of the mineral water bottling plant in Bankya

Tatyana Dimitrova was responsible for organizing the tour in Sofia. She contacted the Information Center of Sofia Municipality to study the tourist services that are offered. An official letter was sent with a request to take advantage of their free service - a tour of five sites with a tour guide in English and the provision of tourist materials - a map of the capital, information brochures, flyers, flyers. A visit and acquaintance was provided with:

- St. Nedelya Church, the Catholic Temple, the synagogue and the mosque in the central part of the capital
- The Presidency and the Parliament of the Republic of Bulgaria
- The Ivan Vazov National Theater and the Art Gallery
- The Alexander Nevsky Cathedral
- Sofia University

Vessela Mancheva was responsible for organizing the visit to Velingrad. She contacted the information center of Velingrad and provided information materials. From the information provided, the team decided to visit the following tourist sites:

- Historical Museum of Velingrad
- Hot mineral spring with natural egg flavor attraction
- Holy Trinity Church
- Kleptuza Lake

A contract with a transport company was signed. The team decided to use the services of the transport company "Mario 95" based in the town of Kostinbrod. The responsibility for the transport was taken by Vessela Mancheva.

### **3. Producing materials promoting project activities**

After reviewing the project budget and consulting with the school accountant, the team decided to allocate 2800 leva for organizing the training event in our school. It is planned to produce:

- Pens with the project logo and school name
- Cups with the project logo and the name of the school
- T-shirts with the logo of the project
- Brochures presenting Bozhurishte
- Dashboards with materials from the project activities
- Badges for the legitimation of the participants
- Materials for handmade products / martenitsas / for memory from Bulgaria and familiarization with the Bulgarian traditions
- Official dinner
- Coffee breaks during the activities
- Participation of students and teachers in travel

### **4. Selection of a team of students from "Lesets Hristo Toprakchiev" Secondary School to participate in the main activities during the learning event**

The project team consisted of 21 pupils from the 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 grade of the school. They had to prepare the presentation of the stages, take part and support the activities planned during the learning event.

## **IV. Program**

## **19 March 2017**

Teachers and students from partner schools arrived on Sunday, the day before the official start of the visit. Tatiana Dimitrova and Teodora Taneva welcomed the partners at Sofia Airport and organized the placement of the students in the Bulgarian families.

## **20 March 2017**

- Opening of the learning event in Bulgaria

The official opening of the visit was held by the principal of the school Maya Karamfilova and the project coordinator Tatiana Dimitrova.

- Presentation of the town of Bozhurishte

With a pre-prepared presentation, the principal Maya Karamfilova introduced the guests to the history, geography, sights, economy and education in the town of Bozhurishte.

- Presentation of idioms related to the word water

Stefani Tsenkova from 9th grade presented a combined product of the students from Bulgaria. In the presentation, Stephanie had combined the most commonly used idioms containing the word water, accompanied by a description of English and an idiom image. The images were prepared by the art teacher Silvia Shoseva. During the presentation, the participants discussed the importance of the idioms of the individual native languages in order to create a common vocabulary.

- Module - A workshop related to idioms containing the word water

In the module, the students separated in groups according their nationality and supported by the Bulgarian participants dealt with interactive tasks for assembling and creating a poster of idioms containing the word water.

- Photo excursion to Sofia - the capital of Bulgaria

Goals

Photos for photo competition

- Sightseeing in Sofia
- Understanding the history, geography and cultural features of Sofia
- Sharing cultural values
- Enhancement of communication skills in English

For the photo trip to the capital Tatyana Dimitrova organized a tour in partnership with the Sofia Tourist Information Center. As a result of the cooperation, advertising materials were provided with information about the capital city, as well as a map of the city. The group was divided into two, each with a free guided tour in English.

The students took a variety of pictures to make a video about one of the activities planned in the training event in Bulgaria.

The partners met the capital, where the world's main religions are uniquely living within half a square kilometer. In the heart of Sofia you can see the Saint Nedelya Eastern Orthodox Church, the Banya Bashi Mosque, the Catholic Church of St. Joseph and the Sofia Synagogue. Within a few square metres, Christians - Eastern Orthodox and Catholic, Muslim and Jewish - are gathering in their temples. The tour included the visit of the Presidency of the Republic of Bulgaria, the building of Parliament and the monument of Tsar Osvoboditel, the Rotunda "St. Georgi Pobedonosets ", Ivan Vazov National Theater, Russian Church " St. Nicholas Chudotvoretz", "St. Sofia, Temple-Memorial "St. Alexander Nevsky ", Sofia University" St. Kliment Ohridski".

## **21 March 2017**

Visit to the town of Velingrad - a spa capital on the Balkan Peninsula

Goals

- Presentation of Bulgaria

Photos for photo competition

- Enhancing digital competence
- Examination of water resources in the town of Velingrad
- Familiar with the history, geography and cultural features of Velingrad

- Sharing cultural values
- Communicating and enhancing foreign language competencies

During the visit of Velingrad, the participants in the training event could see and visit:

1. The Historical Museum of Velingrad
2. Hot mineral springs
3. Protected natural area and Kleptuza karst spring
4. Christian Trinity Church
5. Tourist Information Center
6. Attraction - cooking of eggs under natural conditions in a hot mineral spring
7. Talks - presentation of brief information, prepared by students from Bulgaria in English, concerning water resources, landmarks of historical and cultural value.

During the visit the partners had to take pictures to participate in the activities included in the training program. Upon completion of the tour, the participants had free time to learn and explore the city independently, as well as to taste the traditional Bulgarian cuisine in their chosen dining place.

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### **20 March 2017**

- IT competition

Teams of students and teachers with a captain a student from Bulgaria took part in an IT competition. The electronic test included questions from a variety of areas - water and water resources, lifestyle, traditions, culture, folk costumes and folk music instruments, celebrities, athletes from the participating countries, as well as issues related to the European Union and the Waters in our World ".

The test was created with the Easy Quizzy program and was specially developed for the purpose of the "Water in Our World" project by the Information Technology teachers in the School. Information Technology Tests in the School have been developed with this program.

The test contains multiple-choice questions and questions about a combination of photos and text. Questions are in English.

- Meeting with representatives of the local government

In order to popularize the project local among the local community and disseminate the project activities for the partners, a meeting with the Deputy Mayor of Bozhurishte Municipality, Vladislava Simeonova was organized. Vladislava Simeonova welcomed the guests in the building of the town community center, where she welcomed them and talked about the municipality and the development of the educational structures in it. At the end of the meeting, partners were given the opportunity to ask questions.

- Visiting the "Hristo Botev 1934" Community center

The visit was organized through preliminary talks for the preparation of a lecture and a tour about the function and activities in the Community center. The students and teachers were welcomed by Vanya Arizanova – the secretary of "Hristo Botev 1934" Community center. She presented the specific mission of the Community center to preserve and develop the traditional values of the Bulgarian nation as well as the deep connection with the past traditions and culture, which are the basis of the functioning of the Community center and its social role. The participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with the library's eighty-year history and its modern mission - a place to develop the interests of local people according to their preferences in the field of music, dance, crafts, literature.

- Exhibition "Water in Art"

During the learning event in Bulgaria was arranged an exhibition of the products of students from activity 2 - "Water in Art". The exhibition, as well as the preparation of the exhibits, were organized and directed by the art teacher, Silvia Shoseva. With her support, students were motivated to take part in the production of the products for the exhibition - posters, pictures, drawings and paintings with an explanation in English, including a description of used techniques, images and ideas.

- Presentation of World Water Day - 22 March

In order to create sustainable activities, the World Water Day was celebrated. The aim of the project is to mark this day as a traditional annual event in partner schools. Bianka Marinova and Yoanna-Victoria Lozanova presented information and key messages related to water and global water resources. The participants were acquainted with interesting facts as well as with important moments for the preservation and conservation of the water resources. Water related issues were described and presented in an interactive way.

- Presentation of the products from the activities in the period October 2016 - March 2017

One of the activities of the program was the presentation of the products produced by students for activity 2 - posters, drawings, graphics on "Water in Art", activity 3 - searching for idioms containing the word "water" activity 4 - Water and tourism. Children presented presentations to their classmates' work. As a result, different perspectives and aspects were presented, a variety of photos and materials expressing the feelings and attitudes of students on the themes of the project activities. All countries presented their products, showing a variety of children's views. We can conclude that the stages were interesting and pleasant to work because the students had studied and processed information and brought together a lot of pictures to present to all participants during the visit to Bulgaria.

Students with interest listened to the stories of their friends from other countries about popular tourist sites related to water resources.

During coffee breaks, guests had the opportunity to interact with other students and teachers from the school, share experiences, play basketball, football and volleyball, share photos, contacts, telephones, and social networking addresses.

- Create a video from all teams by nationality

The participants created a video using their own photos taken during the tours. The video was "Bulgaria through my eyes". Each national team was supported by a student from Bulgaria who had the skills to work with the program to help with the technical implementation and use of the MOMENTO ESPRESSO program that had to be produced. As a result, four videos were created, expressing the emotion and positive impressions of the students.

### **March 23, 2017**

- Learning event - visit to Pancharevo water treatment plant

In order to create a positive attitude and solve situations and cases related to water resources, the treatment plant was visited. Participants gained information about this industrial facility that is used for potable water treatment, or facilities and processing sequences are designed to treat sewage domestic septic or industrial water from industry or settlements. The use of sewage treatment plants is of paramount importance for restoring natural resources, protecting the environment and ecological balance, especially in densely populated areas or large industrial plants.

The Pancharevo wastewater treatment plant cleans water quantities up to 4.5m<sup>3</sup> / s, entering the station from three independent alternative directions.

Historically, the Pancharevo water treatment plant was built in two stages. The first one - in 1966, and the second one - in 1968. During the last few years, Sofiyska Voda modernized the plant in stages, realizing major improvements on the building itself and the facilities inside it. Large-scale sequential reconstructions lead to a lasting improvement in service - optimizing the water purification process itself, ensuring quality tracking and optimizing operating costs.

The station operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as one of the important and significant steps in the purification is the two-stage purification system, which allows the purification of even lower water from lower water sources.

In 2015, the treatment of the wastewater from the plant itself, which will shut down the entire production cycle, will have a positive effect on the environment and will in the past send local people complaints about the operation of the station.

- Learning event - visiting the cascade wall of Iskar Dam

The cascade wall of Iskar dam is a site of strategic importance and national security. The visit to the site was of great interest to the participants in the project. The lecture held the partners with:

The location of the cascade wall

The technical parameters of the cascade wall

Geographic features affecting water resources

Waterfowl of rivers

### **March 24, 2017**

- Learning event - visit of Bankya mineral water bottling plant

The project theme and activities enabled the project team to organize a visit to a bottling plant for mineral water. After detailed consideration of the different possibilities, the project team decided to stop at the bottling plant in Bankya. The participants met the mission and history of the company, the manufacturing process, the main technologies, machinery and equipment, safety and hygiene rules. They have received extensive and detailed information on mineral

water and water resources of this type.

Natural mineral water Bankya is extracted from a well of TK 1 "Ivanyane" in the town of Bankya. It is characterized by an exceptional natural purity, a stable physico-chemical composition and a low mineral salt content. The Bankya water owes its natural purity to the fact that it is extracted from a depth of 740 meters. Due to the low salt content and pleasant freshness it is suitable for everyday use. Natural mineral water Bankya meets the requirements of the Bulgarian and European legislation for natural mineral waters and bottles according to the highest quality standards.

As a result of the training event the participants:

- They got information on the mineral springs
- They are acquainted with the production process when bottling mineral water
- Increased critical thinking skills on topics related to water resources and their conservation
- They have acquired skills to conserve water as a natural resource
- Acquired skills for safe working environment and environment

#### • Art Club "WOW"

In the afternoon program of the training event in Bulgaria was organized a salon of arts and traditions of Bulgaria - "Art Club Water in Our World". The participants had the opportunity to touch the magic of the Bulgarian folk songs and dances and led by their Bulgarian friends from VII b learned to dance Thracian Horo Law and with the help of vocal formation Musical Hearts and under the guidance of Vesela Mancheva - to sing the popular folk song "Dilmano Delbero". Later, a presentation was presented with a legend about the martenitsa and the traditions of Easter. Consequently, the Portuguese, the Turks, the Poles, the Lithuanians and the Italians received a white and red thread and were led by Vesela Mancheva, Sylvia Shoseva and the children from Bulgaria. They all made a martenitsa for themselves, which they took as a memorial from this Art afternoon and from Bulgaria. While everyone worked and tried to fulfill their perfectly assigned tasks, they received musical greetings from the children from the vocal formation Musical Hearts. Nikola Sachkov told the participants about the traditional Bulgarian folk lifestyle, as well as fun stories from Shopp's humor.

At the end of this festive afternoon, the final sweet surprise arrived. The Bulgarian team and the children of "Lesetz Hristo Toprakchiev" gave their new friends from Turkey, Portugal, Lithuania, Italy and Poland a great cake with the logo of the project and the flag of each of the participating countries.

#### • Receiving Youthpass certificates

The students in the learning event in Bulgaria received their first Youthpass certificates, with which they can certify the competences and skills acquired through their participation in the project Water in our world.

- Civil skills for topics related to water resources in nature
- Skills for teamwork, collaboration and entrepreneurship
- Sharing cultural values
- Competence on environmental issues
- Presentation of results and products
- Develop Critical Thinking

As a result of the program our team has achieved the following goals:

- Dissemination of project activities in the school community
- Presentation of products and activities in stages Water and tourism, Idioms related to water, Water and art
- Organizing learning events to create IT products
- Developing students' critical thinking skills
- Creation of cultural heritage through new technologies



- Formation of a positive attitude towards problems of the aquatic environment
- Developing entrepreneurial skills
- Promoting the World Water Day
- Increasing foreign language skills
- Improving presentation skills
- Sharing experiences between students and teachers
- Sharing the values of the European Union
- Sharing good practices
- Raising teamwork skills
- Increasing ICT skills
- Familiarization with Bulgarian holidays and customs
- Promotion of national and cultural traditions
- Skills for handmade traditional Bulgarian symbols
- Official dinner and closing of "Training event Bulgaria"
- Filling in questions for feedback and handing over to the hosts. The project team produced a feedback poll in order to study the views of the participants from the partner countries and summarize the results.
- Summary of results
- Assessment of the visit Bulgaria

## **VI. Results**

- An online-based test with questions related to the project "Water in our World", schools, cities and partner countries, as well as topics related to the European Union, water and water resources.
- Video clips containing photos from the training events "Bulgaria through my eyes"
- Presentation of the town of Bozhurishte
- Presentation of Sofia University "Lesets Hristo Toprakchiev"
- Posters with idioms containing the word water
- A presentation compiling the most popular idioms and phrases containing the word water
- Presentation presenting the World Water Day
- Products representing Bulgarian customs and traditions - martenitsa
- Understanding the Bulgarian folklore and mastering a Bulgarian horo
- Brochure in English presenting the school and town of Bozhurishte
- Mugs and T-shirts with the project logo and school name
- Dissemination of the project activities in the school community
- Communication in English and enhanced communicative skills
- Participant Certificates
- Feedback questionnaires to monitor and evaluate the project
- Youthpass Certificates

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