

Luckily I had the opportunity again to participate also this year in the IP in Barcelona. Already on the journey to the preparatory meeting in January everything turned out to be far easier than in the previous year and the pleasant anticipation to meet my dear colleagues again with whom I had worked so well together last year, took away all tension. The work – and that was a lot! – went so well, smoothly and productively, which surprised me again and again! The reason: now we know each other and many of us stayed in touch all year round. Even some visits of the respective Partner Universities took place with Erasmus. Not such an easy task was: to get to know a foreign city, to find suitable places for workshops with the students, to gather ideas for the lessons and to develop a program for two weeks – and all this at the same time! This was only possible with the good preparations of our colleagues of Henallux Champion/Namur who had already explored the city especially for the project and found in the monastery Marti Kodolar a very suitable and nice accommodation for all of us.

Also the actual project went as smoothly and positively. Our close collaboration worked out excellent and we even organized our workshops transnationally! It impressed me that while working together, the language barrier suddenly became irrelevant and the understanding worked so well on another level, as if we were a team having worked close together for many years. A great experience!

Our collaboration was facilitated by the wonderful international student group we had to guide this year. Without exception they were very interested, open-minded and motivated young people. There was never a problem when lessons were longer than planned; no one watched the time and all kept to the point. Most of all I was delighted of the students' creativity their enthusiasm and their joy of singing. So, for example, a flash-mob in Park Güell with a German canon could become a successful and collaborative experience. These preconditions also often yielded results of a very high quality at the end of the workshops.

The professional aspect of the collaboration as a German teacher in the project gives me a lot of security for my aims and visions within my lessons in the Early Childhood Education, which has only become an academic discipline for several years in my country. With the work in the IP I became acquainted with kindergartens in Belgium, Spain and Lithuania – a privilege that you would never get as a tourist! I also thought that the presentation of the early childhood institutions of the different countries by the students and the following discussion were extremely interesting.

This year I have got the impression that us Germans already belong to the project despite of our short academic history of Early Education and can also contribute a lot. Therefore, I think, Germany is on a good way to catch up on our European neighbours in this regard. It was a great pleasure for me to work with my German students, who were a powerful and motivated team.

And last but not least I would like to say a big “thank you” to the organizers and to the contributors!