



ProSocialValues Training Courses



ProSocial Values Project (2017-1-IT02-KA201-036860) addresses the challenge of social inclusion and education by helping children from 5 to 15 years old to learn the prosocial skills, develop positive interpersonal relationships and therefore foster social coexistence and individual empowerment.

This second newsletter is focused on the training courses for teachers implemented in the framework of the project. The training activities provide the possibility to directly involve the teachers not only in their local environment, but to let them feel active actors in the project and in the development of the community. The training course has given them the theoretical knowledge on the prosocial values and the practical tools to implement their teaching the daily educative work.

The first training course took place in Uşak (Turkey) from the 25th February to the 1st March 2019, for 25 teachers of secondary school. The trainers from the partner's organisations conducted active workshops on the use of each others' differences as a mean to promote proactive behaviour, decreasing the number of conflicts, how to use the digital simulation games to foster global empathy, examples on how to accommodate the use of games in the real classroom, introduction on the use of prosocial robotics.

The second training course took place in Panevėžis (Lithuania) from the 8th to the 13th October 2019, for teachers of primary school. 24 teachers participated actively in the practical workshop proposed on different topics: storytelling and layers method, serious games and use of the gamification in the lessons.

The training material produced can be found in the online training platform of the project on the website: www.prosocialvalues.org

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www.prosocialvalues.org



Uşak İl Milli Eğitim Müdürlüğü

Turkey

The first training course has been hosted by Uşak İl Milli Eğitim Müdürlüğü the 25th February to the 1st March 2019, for the teachers of secondary school. It was a great experience for the institution to host many people from different countries. The content of the training was so satisfying and everyone participated in the training had an enjoyable time.



As part of the training and to provide participants with an important practical experience, Uşak MEM organized a visit to the local ambassador schools of ProSocial Values. One of them was Bireylül Primary School. In the school there is a special class dedicated to prosocial values and the responsible teacher has explained the activities that they implement with the children. It was an interesting experience for the participants. The second school visited was Borsa İstanbul Secondary School. In that school the participants have practised prosocial games with the students and they have had a practical experience on how the games might be useful in the classes.

To the second training course in Lithuania Uşak MEM has sent four participants. The contents of the training were very interesting for the teachers who participated actively and appreciated the engaging innovative techniques presented by the trainers. The visiting of the school has been an important occasion for the participants to get to know the colleagues' work. A special moment for the participants has been the intercultural evening where the partners' countries presented their traditions and the host organized a traditional dances show.



Panevėžio Rajono Švietimo Centras

Lithuania

Panevezys Region Education Centre hosted the second session of training for primary school teachers from the 8th to the 12 October 2019 with 25 participants Bulgaria, Spain, Lithuania, Macedonia and Turkey. All the teachers successfully integrated into an international team and participated in discussions, lectures and creative workshops.

Italian representatives organized a highly valued practical activity "Prosociality is a game". It was devoted to critical thinking, teamwork, creativity, positive memories of learning, active engagement and sustained attention. The trainers gave examples on how to create inclusive class and socialization contest for all the students. The trainers organized a practical activity using educational robots, encouraging cooperation and working in groups, problem solving, finding solutions and verifying results.

Project participants enthusiastically got engaged in a practical activity "Great opening of the Educational museum" organized by the Spanish representatives. The teachers from different countries were put into intercultural teams. They had to complete some tasks on the history of art and find a solution how to save a museum. Escape room tasks were oriented towards team building and development of prosocial values (cooperation). Escape room methodology fascinated each and everybody.

The teachers from Lithuania planned to adjust the method to the development of contents and used it in lessons as well as during prosocial week events in their schools.

Project partners visited a few of Panevezys region educational institutions: Naujamiestis, Smilgiai and Velzys gymnasiums and Velzys kindergarten "Šypsėnėlė". All the hosts offered unforgettable receptions. The project participants had an opportunity to observe lessons, oriented towards prosocial values and other activities.



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All the teachers formed a great international team, actively participated in creative activities. We hope that the gained experience and new methods will be helpful in developing tolerance, cooperation, empathy and other prosocial values.

International training sessions are much more than presentation of teaching tools and methods. They are creative partnerships of European educational institutions.

Jurgita Vaitiekuniene



Polo Europeo Della Conoscenza

Italy

During the training courses of the ProSocial Values project, the lessons promoted by Polo Europeo della Conoscenza were mainly based on prosocial educational robotics. In the two workshops held in Turkey and Lithuania ("Prosocial Robotics" and "Prosociality is a game") the protagonist was the small educational robot Clementoni Doc. This robot proved to be a very useful tool to promote prosocial values in a playful and enjoyable way for pupils of all ages... and for adults. In fact, participants in the courses did not shrink from putting themselves in a circle in small groups and trying out the proposed activities together. The teachers were able to experience how a tool considered only as a toy can become a vehicle for many teachings, to put prosocial skills into practice and to include all students beyond their difficulties.

All the Italian participants were fully satisfied with the experience of the training courses in many aspects: the contributions of experts, the visit to the local schools, the experiences of other European colleagues, the climate of mutual openness.



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Having participated in a training course linked to an Erasmus+ project, I already had an idea of how the week in Turkey would take place (getting to know the participants, sharing experiences, visiting the host institutions). However, I was pleasantly surprised by the serene, proactive and collaborative atmosphere among all participants. The presence of people from different countries and institutions (school, education, welfare) enriched the range of experiences presented and brought to light the universality of prosocial values, even if they were interpreted in a peculiar way in different contexts. There were many and multifaceted ideas for reflection and discussion, but the distinctive feature of this experience was the concrete perception of being part of a single idea of education and civic commitment, which goes beyond systems, cultures and politics.

Silvia Blanchetto

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Multicultural dialogue has been very important, allowing us to compare our experiences, to reflect both on commonalities and diversities, to be amazed at each other's strengths and share the weaknesses of our realities. At the end of the training week, we shared the reflection of having lived an important experience, both from a human and professional point of view. We left with the intention of returning soon for another international training opportunity like this one and with the aim of sharing what we learned with our colleagues in their respective schools. Not only that, the most important aspect is that we have brought home tools that we can immediately use with our children in the classroom, with playful and engaging activities that will lead them not only to learn educational content but also to implement fundamental values for the citizens of tomorrow such as respect, solidarity, mutual aid, tolerance, citizenship.

Vanessa Agosti



Trakia University DITT Stara Zagora

Bulgaria

The team of the Thracian University - DITT - took part as a partner in both international trainings under the project: In Uşak - Turkey (2018) and in Panevezys - Lithuania (2019).

Colleagues from the Department - presented short workshops at both training and teachers from Bulgaria actively participated in all activities. The team of DITT - Bulgaria started its participation in the PSV project with 3 cities in Bulgaria - Stara Zagora, Sofia and Kyustendil - and in the training as been involved one representative from each School and Kindergarten of the cities.

After the first training in Uşak the teachers voluntarily held workshops and days of "Open Doors", where they shared their experiences and the lessons learned, thanks to Denitsa Draganova from 66 DG "Elitsa" Pancharevo, who actively worked on ProSocial values, involving their colleagues from the village of German, as well as DG from the districts "Nadezhda" and "Studentski".

The project gained popularity and found supporters after the training in Panevezys, Lithuania. The young "Head Teachers" - Krassimira and Petya - creatively tested and developed what they have learned with workshops, meetings on exchange of experience, but also in the format "Innovative and ProSocial School". They sincerely shared that the project *"Prosocial Values works on hot issues, offers many opportunities and gives the right guidelines for additional work with children."*

The topic of the project was recognized as significant and two more cities, Vidin and Haskovo, joined it with their activities, and in Kyustendil, 2 Daskal Dimitri Primary School entered as partner schools.

The cultural programs and the visits to the Schools and Kindergartens during the two training gave the additional feelings: joy of the cooperation, the smiles of the children during the meetings, closeness. The trainings were a prerequisite to compare the pace, approaches, emphasis in working with children, to make sense of diversity and multiculturalism. During the weeks of Pro Social Learning in Bulgaria, the project activities turned out to be especially useful! The teachers helped the children, supported the vulnerable, gave the parents the joy of cooperation, teamwork, kindness and beauty of friendship!



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ProSocial values are my favorite topic! As a Methodist and teacher, it was important to me that teacher development be an observable, visible and measurable process.

I think that the partners gave their best in both trainings. I didn't miss the dialogue for a minute!

The organization was wonderful, and the fact that we had different approaches - made the topic visible. Now I am I am sure that the teachers will be able to work with increased quality!

Iglika Angelova





Trakia University DITT Stara Zagora

Bulgaria

PARTICIPANT'S FEEDBACK FROM TRAINING IN UŞAK AND PANEVĒŽYS

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The training gave me a lot: I saw new and different things compared to our activities, I learned more about ProSociality, I made a parallel between our practices and those of the partner countries. I have found the project very necessary. Kyustendil is a town on the border with Macedonia and Serbia. We have never been closed to neighboring countries, but the situation in migration is now such that we have to take care of and accept the differences of people from all over the world (not just our neighbors!)

Krassimira Stoyanova

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The training was interesting, enriching, provoking. The feeling that I have the opportunity to better my knowledge, thanks to a real working environment and thanks to highly competent professionals, allowed me the opportunity to rethink and enrich my practice. I would like to use this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude toward our hosts, who took care so that our stay there could be very interesting and pleasant.

Denica Draganova

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My participation in the training in Uşak helped me realize the need for teaching values from a very early age to all children. Since then I was able to change my work as a teacher, and now as a headmaster of a kindergarten, being able to share my experience and knowledge from the training to all the staff.

The training was very intensive and well structured; it was consistent and had a practical part in each module which was very useful. It was

interesting and meaningful to see “how others do it” and while in this training we were able to step outside of the frame which we are too familiar as teachers in Bulgaria.

Other than all of the above, I was able to make lasting friendships.

Rosica Aleksya

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It was very interesting to learn how to train soft skills in students. The meeting with teachers from other countries was very meaningful to me. I was especially impressed by the games which were used to establish us as a team and the escape-room activity which was presented by our colleagues from Spain.

Petya Dimitrova



Friends of Education

North Macedonia

The Friends of Education team participated in creative workshops in Lithuania and Turkey as a partner of the Prosocial Values project. During the meeting, several creative workshops were conducted with practical content, tested by all participants and evaluated as excellent models that enable practical work on improving prosocial skills and inspiration for new ideas.

At the same time, by visiting several schools and kindergartens in rural and urban areas, the participants had the opportunity to follow the practical and direct application of created models for prosocial learning by their colleagues. Concurrently, the participants took practical classes with their colleagues from Lithuania and their students in order to feel the value of the created activities.

The final evening of culture and traditions was an event that managed to make a unique and impressive fusion of cultures and traditions from different countries, as well as a fusion of several generations in the same place and for the same purpose.

The workshops were dynamic. They enabled the adoption of new information and the inspiration for new ideas about the theory and practice of advancing prosocial skills. The presentations were well-conceived, combined with theoretical data, information and data from research and practice, a solid time for constructive discussion and practical verification of ideas through games and simulations.

The visit to the local schools enabled a comparison of the conditions, the approach and the building of strategies for future creative activities aimed at promoting prosocial goals from the youngest age of students and up. The prosocial classroom created at the Uşak and Panevėžis Schools was a good example of directing and inspiring the creation of a prosocial environment. The activities presented by the educators and their students completed the picture of the success of the approach and work of these values in the past period. The educators had several opportunities for informal socializing in order to exchange experiences, practical ideas and networking with each other.





Consejería de Educación Junta de Castilla y León

Spain



Spanish participants of the training courses held in Turkey and Lithuania highly valued the positive impact of the intercultural environment of the training courses and the possibility of meeting and sharing experiences and knowledge with experts, teachers and stakeholders from different countries in Europe. The enrichment of this experience has developed on the establishment of further collaborations initiated with some of the schools they could visit on the country of the venue.

After the training in Turkey children from the school where participant teacher belong, learn a Turkish song, this shows how music facilitates intercultural connections between countries. Right after the Lithuanian training course, schools where worked the teachers that participated on that training had some online meetings within the teachers and later shared Christmas postcards with the Lithuanian schools which is an added value for little children to improve English language skills and an approach to culturally different realities.

The training course promoted by Consejería de Educación was held in Lithuania and it included a fully practical, engaging and dynamic live experience made by performing a real Breakout EDU (a kind of an escape room but with educational purposes). The participants experienced by themselves how getting involved in a narrative generates an emotional positive environment in the group, how cooperating for solving challenging (but feasible) tasks increase motivation on the student. Afterwards, all participants get deeper on the initial a theoretical approach to gamification concepts, tools and strategies to apply it in educational environments and with prosocial purposes, together with a real experience of an school that included gamified prosocial values as a school Project, involving all the community.

The innovation on the training approaches, the intercultural background from participants, the possibility of meeting other countries' colleagues to which start further cooperation, the expertise of the trainers and the opportunity of visiting different schools in the countries of the venue have been some of the most valued aspects, described as “fresh air” that made them turn back to school renewed after an international training week.

