

Erasmus+ Report May 2015

In March Fiona Davis and I took part in a transnational planning meeting with our Erasmus+ partners in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. We arrived on Wednesday 11th March and returned home on 15th March.

Before our visit to Romania I ensured that all partners were prepared fully by circulating clear aims of our visit. These were to:

1. To develop a team working relationship.
2. Partners will gain a full understanding of the action plan.
3. Evaluation of activities from January to March 2015 and planning of further activities for the rest of Year 1.
4. Understanding of baseline assessments.
5. Understanding of the facilities and education of those with SEN in Romania.
6. Sharing good practice of existing WRL in our schools/institutions.
7. Production of a draft plan of the work related curriculum.
8. A clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of partners and how they will develop specific areas of the work related curriculum.
9. Progression of our e-Twinning page.
10. Understanding Romanian culture.

On our first night we were met at the airport and taken out for dinner with a number of the staff from our partner school. We had a traditional Romanian meal which consisted of polenta dumplings, pork and smoked sausage stew, fried egg, cheese balls, red cabbage and a side order of pickles and sliced peppers. This was followed by a traditional dessert which was similar to a doughnut and was served with soured cream and mixed berries.



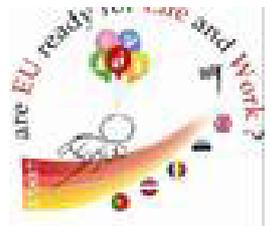


The following day we were taken to Cluj University which is a centre of excellence in medicine and education. We met a representative from the university and visited a 'virtual learning environment' where research and treatment is available for a variety of mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. We then had our first meeting of the visit.



As a part of the meeting we judged our Erasmus+ logo competition. Each partner hosted a logo competition and took their schools winning entry to Romania where we could decide upon the winning logo which we will all use on our documentation and on our Erasmus+ newsletter. The voting went to two rounds and the Romanian entry was the winner.

After lunch we were met by a local guide who took us for a walking tour of Cluj- Napoca in the rain! We visited many churches on our route as well as finding out the history of the city. Later that evening we were again taken out for dinner with school staff and their families.



The next morning we walked to a centre for the education of adults with learning disabilities. We were greeted with a performance of song and dance and then taken for a tour of their facilities. The centre caters for adults up to 60 years of age and all attend full time. The centre offers opportunities to develop their life skills as well as providing them with 'workplace' activities and experiences. They had a small workshop where artefacts are made from wood including pictures, fridge magnets, religious artefacts as well as a sewing room where they make aprons, tapestries, rugs, hats, bags, scarves etc. which are all sold in their shop in Cluj.



We were then taken to our partner school and met more of the staff including the Headteacher. We received a warm welcome and after lunch took part in our second planning meeting of the visit and an international seminar the focus being 'Sharing good practice in WRL'.



Julia O'Neill May 2015

