



GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ERASMUS MINUS BULLYING

The idea of EMB, “Erasmus Minus Bullying” project was inspired by the need to face bullying as a phenomenon in our European schools, with the intention of creating a big group of partners from the north, south, east and west of Europe. One of the main goals of EMB was to create intellectual outputs, like the one you are now holding, that is, teaching materials and resources for European teachers, with the active participation and contribution of students.

Background of the book

Bullying as a phenomenon has always been present at our schools and we observed with sadness that in some communities bullying was regarded as a natural part of school routine, passed down from generation to generation. In recent years, teachers from all across Europe have witnessed an increase in aggressive behaviour and social exclusion among students, partly due to the financial crisis in Europe. That is why ten schools across Europe joined forces to fight against this disharmony that is spreading in our schools. Our objective is to build up school communities that enhance the values of safety, respect and inclusion.

Main objectives of the project

The aim and need of our joint project was to develop good practices for the prevention of bullying and clear strategies for dealing with bullying cases. In order to achieve this, we needed new, student-centered approaches. Student involvement in anti-bullying work was considered an effective way of bullying prevention. By encouraging our students to take initiative, we believe we are taking serious action towards the formation of actively and effectively functioning citizens for the Europe we are dreaming of.

Description of project activities

We divided our activities into 7 modules which included 7 project meetings. The planning and the collaboration of the project activities was organised with the help of the e-Twinning portal. The TwinSpace tools were used both by teachers and students for project planning, communication and publishing of project products which include questionnaires, lesson plans, Quizlet files, logos, songs, films, scripts, short stories, comics, a basic bullying dictionary with activities in our ten languages and English, regulations, etc. We also made use of a variety of ICT tools like Survey



Monkey, Quizlet, Blogger, Pixton and Storybird in order to publish the results of the project activities on

- <http://ourerasmus.blogspot.com>
- <https://erasmusminusbullying.wikispaces.com>
- ERASMUS MINUS BULLYING channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfKrPFufp4M5AQUh1xzSe9w>
- TwinSpace (Educational platforms for members)

Both teachers and students participated in all the 7 project meetings, which offered training sessions/workshops both for teachers and students, planning of project activities and production of materials for our end products: the ERASMUS MINUS BULLYING Book you are holding, a song CD and DVDs (students' films as well as documentation of the short-term training sessions) and the ERASMUS MINUS BULLYING Anti-bullying Guide. Two of the project activities were visits to the European Parliament in Strasbourg and Brussels, where we addressed international audiences with information about the EMB project and drew the attention of politicians from many countries to the importance of school violence questions.

Methodology

Our central approaches were PBL (Project Based Learning), learning by doing, cooperative learning and peer education. With the help of creative teaching methods (drama, music, art, film, ICT), the project activities aimed at helping students to understand the nature of bullying, to get a better self-esteem and to become more active citizens both locally and globally.

Content and aims of the book

The book presents a wide part of the literary and artistic works of our students. The whole of the intellectual outputs of EMB including materials not published here (short films, songs, visual stories, legal aspects, lesson plans, conclusions and proposals, among others) appear in an electronic guide (in CD form) and has also been uploaded in the Erasmus+ European Treasure Platform. We hope that this publication will inspire and motivate a lot of people in the field of education.