

PLAY

THE OFFICIAL ERASMUS+PAGTL NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 3



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ERASMUS PROJECT THROUGH PANDEMIC TIMES

Editorial

These last times have been difficult: too many changes in our daily life and in our projects too.

Concerning this particular Erasmus Project the strategies and the planning had to be adjusted to this new reality. Nevertheless we still "see" each other and we know that all the partners are there and willing to do something special. For now we had the idea to share what our lives have been over this past months and to try to bring us close together.

Let's hope everything will be OK soon and we'll be able to learn and play together at the same place!



BELGIUM



Don Boscocollege Kortrijk

By the Belgian Team

When we reached Finland mid-February, we already knew about the Corona virus. We also saw Asian people with mouth masks. We said to each other that we felt like being on the big market-place in beautiful Bruges.

One month later: March 13, to be precise, schools were closed for the first time.

The radio, the TV, all the news programs spit figures and graphs about infections, hospital numbers and intensive care. Dilemmas such as who do we give a hospital bed and who not, were presented to the population and the doctors begged us to keep to the lockdown.

At school we found new ways to see the class: distance learning through assignments, the occasional Google Meet. At that time, we still thought that we would come back to school after the Easter holidays. Eventually the students of the first grade came together once more; to end the school year. Where the young people are otherwise so happy to have a holiday, I heard more and more voices about loneliness, boredom, being exhausted ...

It is easier to sit on a mountain than on a needle.

Sometimes something very small things can be more annoying than something very big.

In Belgium we didn't have mouth masks at that time. Ironically, the army had destroyed a stock some time before.

We had to reserve all available face masks for the nursing and caring staff. People talked about mortality, quarantine, social distance. We applauded in the streets for the people at the front. War language. Belgians can suddenly show solidarity. We started sewing masks en masse. For each other.



During the summer we could take a breath. It was as if after a deep dive in a lake, you were happy to have reached the surface of the water and push a deep breath of oxygen into your lungs. Cafés and restaurants opened their doors, people rediscovered how beautiful our country is. The local nature was overrun and the call to pay more attention to sufficient green space close to home is now louder than ever.





I am already longing for next school year. Without mask. A dream? Great things always happen with a dream. Hopefully we can see each other again next year. We have learned a lot about motivation thanks to the crisis. Let our project focus on this: intrinsic motivation and "natural learning". Playfully.

Missing you all.



Numbers:

About 45% of the school population went in quarantine since September.

About 4% was ill.

I know students who lost grandparents or other family members.

Let us just hope and love each other.

September. The first schoolday. The rules were quickly changing: first we were allowed to take off our mouth masks on the playground, later not anymore. Wear a mask every day, disinfect hands, disinfect seats and tables, clean computers and keep your distance.

For the 12-14 year olds these are the rules up to today.

In October, the numbers started to rise again. Belgium started its second wave. A new concept was launched: cuddly-contact. You had to decide who to cuddle with and who not. 1 contact per person, 1 contact per family... It became the word of the year (every year a language committee chooses the word of the year).

At the beginning of November we were back at home. Normally we had a week's vacation, but the government turned it into two. No distance learning this time.

We went back to school in mid-November to the end of December. The figures of contamination did not work in our favor, but we were allowed to organize exams. Then the Christmas holidays started. Meanwhile, the numbers fell again.

To control the contaminations, it was decided to organize a cooling-off-week. Everyone was taught through Microsoft Teams. Fortunately, we have digital resources.

Last year I drove around with old computers helping students who couldn't afford a computer. Now this was already better.

By the way, we could take the cooling-off-week literally. It started to snow and freeze that week. It was our coldest winter week.

Some students wanted to work at school. We organized a classroom as well as possible so that each had a desk to sit at and work.

We are now at the end of March. A year of Corona passed by.

The first grade students have been able to go to school a lot.

The older students are at school for a week and at home for a week. The numbers are again slightly declining (after a third wave). Soon the schools will open their doors again.

Soon I will see another twenty pairs of eyes staring at me when I'm teaching. I'll try to smile at them, to give them confidence. It will not go to them. Hopefully they'll see my smile in my eyes, because I'll be wearing a piece of clothing in front of my mouth. I'll try to clarify: "I'm laughing, can't you see?" It'll remain painfully quiet in the classroom.



PORTUGAL

Alexandre Herculano School



By the Portuguese Team

This school year began on the 18th September and lessons were taught at school.

It was not easy to adapt to the masks neither to some strict rules about hanging around in the schoolyard (each class has its specific spot where they must remain) but we managed to keep working and learning at school until January.

By then the the numbers of infected people increased in such a way that the Government was forced to lockdown the country and we were back to the online lessons.

From the beginning of February until the end of March we had our lessons through Teams platform and we somehow managed to keep on working in our Erasmus project even though it's not the same thing.

Now we were allowed to return to school again but still having to respect the established rules: we need to wear masks all time, we need to only sit in our desk at the classroom, we need to stay at a specific spot for our class in the playground and avoid physical contact and physical proximity. Well, sometimes it's quite annoying but let's hope everything gets better now that the vaccination period has started.



Our opinion upon Distance Learning

Online classes were a little bit difficult but at the same time interesting and they went well. At the beginning we were a bit sad because we missed our friends but after a while we adapted and did a lot of facetimes!

Sofia Farinha and Mafalda Martins

The online classes are very bad because there are children that don't have any suitable conditions.

Vasco Penedo



Our opinion upon Distance Learning

The online classes were very good but we couldn't be with our friends.

Madalena Rosa and Duarte Ventura

I enjoyed home learning because I improved my grades.

Diana Madaleno

I enjoyed online learning but I prefer face-to-face classes.

Carolina Tonet



This year has been really really different in Portugal.

Our classes got started on 18th of September 2020, during the 1stTerm, some classes needed to go home because one of the students or teachers were infected with the virus.

My class has never went home in the 1st term and for now, but in the beginning of January, all the schools closed because we were having a lot of deaths and new cases of infected per day.

Then, on 22nd of January, everything closed like the first time on March 2020, during 2 weeks, we had vacation, but we could not leave our house. Later, the online lessons began.

On 26th of March was our last day of home learning, then our Easter vacation started. This time, our vacation was just 1 week to compensate the 2 weeks extra we had in the beginning of the 2nd Term.

While we were having vacations, the number of deaths and the new cases of infected per day went down a lot, that's why we are having classes at school again.

By **Pedro Ferreira**



FINLAND

Liminka Comprehensive School



By the Finnish Team

This is the introduction of our school in Liminka, Finland, and a little bit about how it is during the pandemic! :)

Grades 0-6

This school is the one some of you guys have already seen and it's actually quite new. The other school is way older and was built a long time ago.

Here are a few pictures to throw you back to last spring before covid got out of control:

The school has three floors. The most important things on the first floor are the special needs classroom, cafeteria and the arts & crafts classrooms.

The second floor in the younger kids school has three sections with 4 classrooms in each. All the sections have their own colours that are blue, green and yellow. The third floor also has one of these colors in each section.

To simply explain, you can walk from a classroom to another classroom without going through the hall, because inside the classrooms there are these doors to other rooms, and if needed, you can connect the two rooms as one by pulling the whole wall on the side. It's quite hard to explain but we hope you understood the point.



During Covid the school for grades 0-6 doesn't have as strict rules compared to the older kids, but obviously you need to wash your hands more and be careful with the safety gaps.



GRADES 6-9 // Hannu Krankka

The school has three floors. On the first floor we have the cafeteria, the music and computer classroom, the arts and crafts hall, the home economics classrooms and lots of other stuff.

The second floor has the teachers lounge and normal classrooms like history, maths and biology/ geography.

The third floor has the physics and chemistry classrooms as well as a few regular classrooms.



During Covid all the seats are separated from each other and we are recommended to wear masks, but nobody actually has to. You simply don't have to if you don't want to. Washing your hands before every class and lunch is also really important.



ESTONIA



Tartu Raatuse School

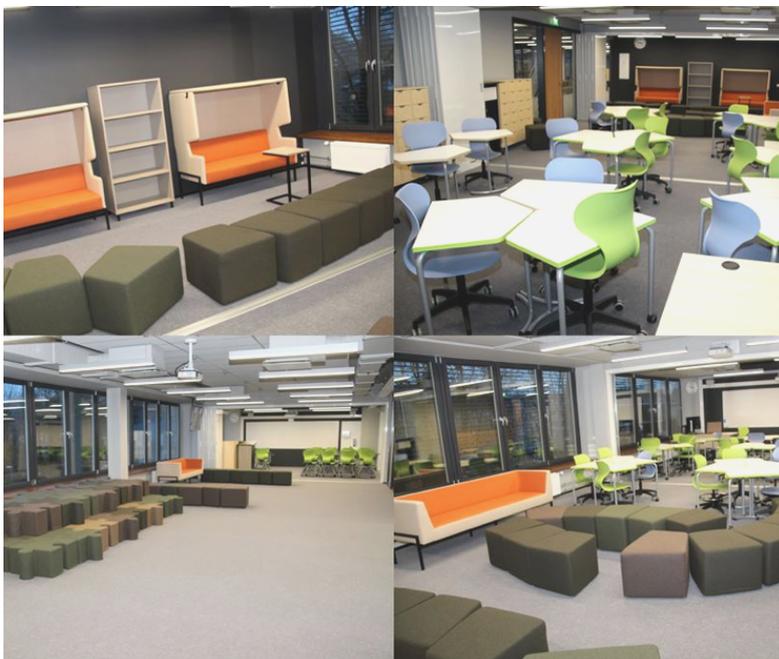
By the Estonian Team

During distance learning I have found my days becoming a lot shorter. I usually have finished most of my schoolwork by 8:30, which is the time my school day started when we still went to school. I have started to listen to a lot more music and I dislike doing something without listening to it in the background. I like distant learning because I can create my schedule by myself, but I also find it harder to talk to people and like to be alone. I have also started reading more and because the weather is now getting warmer I go reading outside quite often.

Kertu L.

I kind of like distance learning, but at the same time I don`t like it. Sometimes schoolwork is hard, takes lots of time, is very tiring and I dont have the time to relax. I like that I can spend more time alone. My sleeping schedule is not really good. Also waking up early is not my favorite thing. I enjoy listening to music, especially at night when everything is calm and quiet. At least once a week I cook something, I think it is fun.

Laura T



I'm quite happy that we can learn from home. My days are a lot shorter and I can do my assignments whenever I want, as long as they get done in time. There's no yelling and loud noises like there was in school. I don't get headaches as often anymore. Sometimes we don't get much done in classes, because some people have internet problems and some just won't answer teachers questions. That's one and only problem I have with distance learning. Otherwise I totally love it!

Saara V.



I like distance learning. I can choose in which order I do my work, the main thing is that they need to be done. Sometimes if I don't understand something, it's a little hard to ask for help. The biggest problem is finding motivation, because I am at home and there are many distractions that keep me away from studying. Overall It's nice to study at home, but I still prefer to do it at school!

Kristin.K

I really like distance learning. It allows me to make my own schedule and decide when I will do certain assignments. I usually finish my school day pretty quickly and can relax for the rest of the day. I also enjoy sleeping longer. The bad side of learning from home is that I can't see my friends so often and I get really bored all by myself. To help that I have started reading, cooking and watching more films and series. So overall I think it's great.

Miina.S

During distance learning I have started taking long strolls about 1 and a half hours at a time. Almost every month I reorganize my room because I am getting sick of my home. I have started eating unhealthy food. i want to go back to school. I do not like distance learning.

Indrek K.

I don't really like distance learning because it's harder to understand things at home. During distance learning I have started walking in the evenings. One good thing about distance learning is that I can plan my time myself. I don't like zoom lessons because I spend so much time with them and I can't get things done, because there is usually someone who doesn't want to answer and someone who has problems with the internet. Another good thing about distance learning is that I get my stuff done earlier than the school day ends. But I still don't like distance learning.

Johanna.P

