

The project is funded by
Erasmus+
2014-1-NL01-KA202-001229



Project consortium:



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Project is running with mobilities, project meetings and conferences

The year 2016 started with new 16- and 10-weeks' periods in Ireland and in Finland. Students are facing Blended Learning with the most effective way, by taking part to language and theory lessons, and executing part of their studies in work places.

Carlow has a deep experience in arranging such a long internship with many activities, but for Sataedu the Blended Programme-period arrangements were quite new experience. Luckily we have had Tiia Tiirikainen, who's contribution has been incredible. e.g. in Happy Finnish courses!

Here's some Tiia's thoughts of her cooperation with NL interns: *My spring with these amazing Dutch students has been really nice and a lot of fun! We have been through together ups and downs, mostly ups. I have given some Happy Finnish courses, and proudly watched them using it in their everyday life here. Together we have studied in classrooms, taken part in different action days, got to know different sides of working life and done some small trips too. This is the most interesting job, I've ever had. I'm looking forward to spend these four more weeks with them.*

-Tiia

On next pages you can find some stories from our interns.

Also teachers have been very active in travelling between NL-FI-IE. Finland sent Outi and Leena-Kaisa to Carlow with a help Erasmus+ KA1, to explore more possibilities for high quality internships in the future. In addition, Margriet has visited Sataedu with her 3 colleagues, in order to get familiar with new possible practice places.

A dissemination conference took place in Raalte on February 2016. Topic of the conference was our logo: experience, adapt and adopt study and culture away from home. The guests who were present were international, national, regional and local target groups of our project BP. Read more about the conference on page 2.

4th Partnership meeting and dissemination conference in Raalte

A dissemination conference took place in Raalte/NL on 16 February 2016

Topic of the conference was our logo: experience, adapt and adopt study and culture away from home.

After months of organization the big day was finally there. All partners and most of our Dutch ambassadors were present, welcoming guests.

The guests who were present were international, national, regional and local target groups of our project BP.

The head executive of Landstede, Mr. Theo Rietkerk, opened the conference informing on the importance of internationalization in vocational education in general but also what he wants to achieve for students at Landstede. He emphasizes the importance of going abroad for students and that BP is a good example of how to structure an international experience for them. Our second key note speaker, Mr Robert Coelen lecture internationalization of higher education, stated and called the attention to hidden competences students are enriched with after a stay abroad. In the presentation done by our ambassadors these hidden competences were their main focus. They guided the audience through their BP experience, their adaptation and adoption of study and culture away from home.

Our Irish partner, Danny, briefed on BP, the project itself from the pre-departure programme till and including after return, on the organization behind the screens and the preparation as to accommodate the participants. This latter happens securely so that the students feel safe from the moment of arrival so that they can further engage themselves instantly to the demands of Blended Programme.

At the end there was an interactive moment where the public could ask question to all speakers. Many questions were received by the ambassadors. Finally there were networking possibility followed by dinner based on Dutch 'stampot', a winter dish.

NL visit to Finland between 21st to 23rd of March 2016

The delegation with 4 members visited Sataedu and some recent and future work practice places. In the future there's a possibility to place students e.g. to Harjavalta primary school (teaching assistants) and day care center Joenranta.



Visit us at:

<http://blendedprogramme.net/>

Contact:

mleest@landstede.nl

NL students' feelings from the FI period

- We really (we 3 girls) appreciate the support we get and we like the place we are staying. It is easy to go to everywhere from Ulvila.
- We heard a bit later that we were going to Finland, so we didn't follow the whole programme. We did as much as possible. If the future participants go here, they are going to follow the whole programme.

In Finland we have two days of school in a week. The first five days we learned the basics of the Finnish language. After that we went to some classes. Unfortunately, it was all in Finnish so we didn't understand it. The practical lessons were very nice, although we already did those things.

We are nursing students, but in Finland there are two different kind of nurses. This makes it very hard to find the right work placements.

- The apartment is very nice and we have enough space. There is an option to pay for the apartment and food together. This is very nice, but there isn't a concrete list of the things we can order and we can't order. This makes it very difficult to understand.

- Our tips for the future participants are:
 - Save some money. Finland is a bit more expensive.
 - Take more shoes, because you can't work in the shoes you use outside.
 - Try to be open when you want to meet some people, because Finnish people are a little shy.
 - Take some warm clothes. Finland can be very cold ☺

In addition, here's some thoughts from Ruben:

My preparation programme was quit short because I had just returned from my Ireland BP experience. The girls had a more thorough preparation programme. Since my arrival in Finland I have been positively surprised with the help and guidance I have received from Tiia especially but also Outi and Leena. They are doing such a good job in organising our transportation, school, workplaces and so on. If I have any questions I can always ask them for help which is really nice. The accommodation is good although I have to say that it would be better if the kitchen had more possibilities, especially if you have to live with 8 people in the house. Other than that it is perfectly in order! It is nice to do the day trips with the teachers and to work during schooldays with the Finnish students. Overall I am experiencing Finland as more challenging than Ireland because I do not master the Language which makes it more difficult to communicate.

Tops:

- Happy Finnish classes;
- Tiia as our supervisor, teacher and friend;
- The co-operation day;
- Living together with students from different nationalities;
- My workplace at Pappilanlampi;

Tips:

- When we are participating in Finnish classes, please make English hand-outs or make sure that the teacher can speak English so that I know what the lesson is about. This is really important to improve!!
- The kitchen should be bigger in order to prepare a good meal;
- Try to keep Tiia on board! she is really outstanding;
- Make the Happy Finnish lessons longer;

Overall I am really happy with the experience I am getting from these 10 weeks! I am truly grateful for all the effect everybody puts in to this project and I hope that I am not offending anybody with my feedback.

This is all to improve the project and make it better and better!



FI students' period in IE 20.01 -30.3.2016



Before we left in Ireland we had English course and we did paper work with Outi and she helped us. In Ireland we had two times a week school and three times a week internship. We study in IT Carlow and CIELS. We had English for nurses course, English course, work experience course and Human Growth and Development course. We had a lot of task to do. We did two case studies (over 20 pages), work experience book and last school day we had exam.

Our tutor and teachers in Ireland was really nice. You could call or but message when ever you want and they always answered and helped you. I had feel in Ireland that there was someone who taked care of you and convey you.

This has been absolutely the best experience to my life. I'm glad that I came here. Our group was the best. (We are family!!!!) We had three Dutch and three Finnish. It was good that wasn't only Finnish people because then you have o spoke English also at home. We lived at the same house all together.

I love Irish people they are the friendliest people that I know. Words what you here 1000 times a day are Sorry, Thanks a million and please. In Ireland you can feel that everyone take care of each other.

My internship place was St. Catherine's Community Services Centre. It's fifteen minutes by bike from our house. So it was really near. I worked there at pre-school and after school. I loved that place because I love work with children. And it was excited to learn differenced between Finland and Ireland kindergarten. The hardest thing was speaked English with local people beause they speak really fast and they use difficult words. But I learn a lot of speak, write and listen English because you had to use that all the time.

I went at free-time three times to Kilkenny, one time to Waterford and four times to Dublin and Belfast (United Kingdom). Belfast was the best trip in Ireland. We went to Titanic museum, Causeway, drive around countryside and walk around to Belfast. St.Patrick we went together (with this family in Ireland) to Dublin. There was a big parade on O'Connell street.

- Erika 24.03.2016

