

School embarks on Erasmusplus environmental project

De La Salle's junior school begins two-year project

Education

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De La Salle College Junior School is currently involved on a fifth Erasmusplus project together with partners from the Czech Republic, Finland, Bulgaria, Latvia and Portugal.

The new two-year project, called ‘It’s Time To Care’ (ITTC) aims to continue to deepen and extend the outputs and results of a previous successful international project on an environmental theme called ‘It’s Time to Help’ (ITTH).

The ITTC is dealing with problems related to water, energy, school environment, biodiversity, waste and eco-consumers, defined as key challenges in the former project. The aim is to concentrate on deeper analyses of the respective topics and bring forth new ideas and solutions. The topics are:

- Sustainable use of water – availability of drinking water, its quantity and quality, life in water;
- Sustainable energy – approach to affordably priced, secure, sustainable and modern power sources;
- Sustainable towns – availability of quality and safe living and of essential services
- Sustainable society – responsible consumption and production, industry, innovation and infrastructure;
- Climate change – combating and adapting to changes in the climate;
- Sustainable use of land – life on land, land management and biodiversity decrease

These topics are of interest not only for students and teachers but also the public, specialists in various fields, science centres, enterprises, companies and leisure centres with whom the partners are seeking to exchange experience and ideas to learn about other countries and lifestyles.

During the ITTC project 20 students will be visiting the partner countries to discuss different aspects of sustainability and share successful projects run in the various schools. An integral part of the project will be teachers’ training to develop their personal and professional competences, such as in constructivist teaching methods, collaborative teaching and learning or methods of leading students to develop a conceptual framework and problem-solving skills.

The project will use the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Maths (STEAM) concept for research education with the prospect to interconnect other school subjects such as ICT, geography, languages and history. By combining work on science experiments with the foreign language learning, it is hoped the project will also improve the participating students’ communicative competences and contribute to further their career orientation and help them decide on their possible further study in technical fields.

The partners’ aim is to help each other to intertwine formal and informal education, increase students’ and teachers’ motivation to further their studies and compare their moves, exchange methodology of science and language teaching, share their work with it and how it influences students’ occupational choice.

The ITTC project will use the seven-step methodology of the Eco School programme – analyse, plan, monitor, evaluate, inform, involve and disseminate – in line with the European 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The partners are from different parts of Europe so they will have different experiences, possibilities and opportunities on how to elaborate the SDGs further in education.