



Shared identity: how to build a stronger Europe beyond prejudice

Exchange in Lithuania

The second meeting was held in Mazeikiai Ventos progymnasium, from the 6th of May to the 11th of May. The project partners from five countries met together in Lithuania to discover distinctive features of the country, to feel its unique traditions and customs and to define values. The program was aimed to introduce the guests to authentic traditions - one of them - bread baking. The project teams introduced bread baking traditions in their countries preparing comprehensive PP presentations. The exhibition of bread samples was organized therefore all the participants could try and enjoy not only Lithuanian bread but also the Dutch, Greek, Romanian Turkish, Latvian, Finnish and even Icelandic. The educational program of Bread Road included traditional Lithuanian customs and Pagan rituals. The participants played games, danced and were involved in making their own loaves of bread. The guests were treated to traditional Samogitian dishes and drinks. As warming up activities for getting to know one another better three events were organized: a quiz about countries, a volleyball match and a disco. All of them were very welcomed by pupils and helped to make friends in different ways. Teachers and pupils were given an opportunity to get acquainted with the educational system in Lithuania so the teachers visited a kindergarten Bitute and Gymnasium. Sharing traditions of cooking most popular dishes from different countries was a great challenge to all the participants though everybody enjoyed and mastered their cooking skills preparing salads, cookies, soups and even pies. All the participants to Master Chef contests were nominated in different categories: the thriftiest, the most creative, the fastest, the most inventive, etc. To get in touch with Lithuanian folk music, instruments, to learn some steps of traditional dances the participants were able in the international party. On the other hand the teams from Romania, Holland, Greece and Turkey performed their national songs, dances and music which was greatly appreciated by all the partners and everybody joined the performers with great enthusiasm. The students worked in international groups painting the puzzle symbolizing the places of interest in their countries, symbols or the most distinctive folk elements. Each country is unique in its crafts so the students had two educational lessons in the local museum working with birch bark (which is one of the oldest traditional crafts) and ancient musical instruments. The teachers were introduced to the history of Lithuania, arts and crafts especially to the ones listed on Unesco heritage list such as Cross-crafting and chapel post.