

LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME
COMENIUS/LEONARDO DA VINCI/GRUNDTVIG
Progress report form 2013 -2014

GENERAL INFORMATION

Title of the Partnership	Building Bridges and Extending Horizons.
Working language of the partnership	English
Name of your institution / organisation	St. Ita's and St. Joseph's Primary and Post-Primary Special School
Role of your institution / organisation	A partner
Other participating institutions / organisations (name and country)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Karl-Barthold-Schule, Germany. 2. Zentrum für Förderpädagogik Eupen, Belgium. 3. Meram Mehmet Kadir Ozguzar, Turkey. 4. IES Cruz Santa, Tenerife, Spain. 5. Szkoła Podstawowa nr 27 im. Dzieci Zjednoczonej Europy, Poland. 6. Hubertus-Radar-Förderzentrum, Germany.

INSTITUTION/ORGANISATION DATA

Full Legal Name	St. Ita's and St. Joseph's Primary and Post-Primary Special School				
Type of Organisation	St. Ita's and St. Joseph's Primary and Post-Primary Special School				
Legal Status	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public	Size 75 pupils and 47 staff		
Commercial Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non profit			
Address	Balloonagh,				
Postcode	n/a	City	Tralee	Region	Co. Kerry
Country			Scope		
Organisation's national ID (if applicable)	19376D				
Organisation's website (if applicable)	www.stitasandstjosephs.com		Organisation's e-mail (if applicable)	stita@eircom.net	

CONTACT PERSON

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PARTNERSHIP CONTENT

1. Please describe briefly the Partnership activities undertaken and the results achieved so far:

Four staff from our school as well as representatives from each school partaking in the project visited the Karl-Barthold Schule in Germany from the 9th to the 12th of October 2013. The school is a school for pupils with special needs. We were given the opportunity to visit classes for pupils with ASD; Challenging Behaviour as well as pupils who use assistive technology. As part of our visit we also got the opportunity to dine at the school and eat the food which was prepared by some of the pupils. The pupils from the Challenging Behaviour classes complete cookery and baking and we were served homemade produce by these pupils for lunch. They also have a school shop which is run by staff and pupils. As part of the project we attended a presentation on assistive technology given by two teachers/speech and language therapists who hold a dual qualification. Many speakers came to the opening ceremony of the project including a local teaching inspector and politicians. As part of the adventure pedagogy we were asked to travel from one side of the car park to the other walking on plastic crates, where each staff member from all the European schools were asked to support each other as we moved across the car park on the plastic crates. We were also asked to build a wooden bridge with wooden planks that humans could walk across. A picture of the wooden structure was given to us the day before and we were asked to plan how it could be build. This tied in with the theme of 'Building Bridges and Extending Horizons'. A picture of the bridge that was built will now become part of the emblem that we are designing as part of the project. While in Germany we decided as a group that we should complete two further objectives prior to our visit to Turkey. These included each school sending each other a parcel of symbols; foods; maps and literature etc to each other. While our school sent a parcel to all six school we also received parcels from each country. Once the parcels arrived, our Student Council prepared a presentation on each country which was delivered to each class. All of the contents of the parcels were used to construct a visual bill board of our project in the centre of our school. The second objective was for each school to complete a short video to introduce our school which is now posted on the etwinning site as part of our project.

During our visit to Turkey which took place from the 10th to the 15th of February 2014 we visited the Merem Mehmet Kadir Ozguzar Public Secondary School which is a mainstream school also have special classes for pupils with special needs. We were given a presentation by the Principal of the school to commence proceedings officially on the 13th of February. The presentation gave us a background on all of the cultural aspects of Turkey and the region of Konya where the school is situated. During our school visits we had the opportunity to visit classes and watch teachers teach using assistive technology as well as watch them teaching with concrete materials. What we observed is that there was one to one tuition for the most part for children with special needs. Parents also volunteer as classroom assistants in this school. The school arranged many cultural activities and visits to cultural restaurants

and historic sites to give us a better understanding of the cultural influences on education in Konya. We also had the opportunity to visit a local private school which is in complete contrast to the public school in so far as the provision of resources and equipment. As part of an activity, which linked in with our theme of 'Building Bridges and Extending Horizons' we were asked as a group to build a giant jigsaw of a bridge. The bridge in question, is a bridge in Istanbul where Eastern culture meets western culture. We were given a photo of the bridge in digital format before being asked to construct it as a team. We also decided that our pupils from across all the schools would write to each other and give an account of the different activities that we engage in during Spring time in our school and local communities. These two objectives were to be completed before our visit to Szkoła Podstawowa nr 27 im, Dzieci Zjednoczonej Europy, Poland to which took place on the 7th to the 10th of May 2015.

During our visit to Poland we collaborated in teams from a mix of countries using fun team building activities (photographs of which are available on our section of the e-twinning website). This was followed by a presentation on the Polish Education System. A range of professionals from our partner school and the local special school gave input on the varying aspects of special education. We also had an opportunity to observe in several classes. We also attended a presentation in the local special school where we had an opportunity to observe pupils working and training in local industries as well as pupils receiving individual professional support as well as observing in a range of classes. While in Gdansk we had a detailed and interesting city-walk-tour. All colleagues attended the Croatian Day performance in our partner's school which is a celebration of the Croatian Culture. Each year the school celebrates the culture of an alternative country. Our objectives before our visit to Hubertus-Radar-Forderzentrum Goresstein on September 24th to 27th 2014 in Germany will be to make a short video clip of a lesson being taught by a teacher in their school. We chose the teaching of Mathematics to a Leaving Certificate class. Each school was to choose their own subject area. It was felt that the video footage would be an affective learning tool regarding the pedagogy of pupils with special needs in our school. These videos will be available on our e-twinning site.

Our trip to, IES Santa Cruz in Los Realejos, Tenerife will take place from the 11th to 14th of February 2015. The trip to our school will take place in May 13th to the 16th 2015 and the project will culminate in Belgium in Forderpädagogik Eupen, Elsenborn, from June 8th to Friday June 12th 2015 where a Festival and Exhibition will take place. We hope to bring a number of students and parents to represent the schools to this festival if funds allow.

2. What problems/obstacles have you met in the implementation of the Partnership, if any? How have these problems been they solved?

I am very happy with the Project to date. We have already started to implement some of the ideas of effective pedagogy from other schools in our school. This project has been very beneficial to the pupils; staff as well as the whole school community. We feel very privileged to be part of such an exciting project.

3. Mobility activities initially planned

Minimum number of mobilities planned (<i>please tick as appropriate</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 12 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 24 +
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Mobility description	Nr of participating staff ¹
Four of our staff have visited Karl-Barthold-Schule, Germany from 9 th to the 12 th of October 2013.	4
Five of our staff visited Meram Mehmet Kadir Ozguzar School in Konya, Turkey from the 11 th to the 15 th of February 2014.	5
Five of our staff visited Szkoła Podstawowa nr 27 im. DzieciZjednoczonej Europy School in Poland from the 7 th to the 10 th of May 2014.	5
Total number of mobilities to date:	14

Léargas, the Irish National Agency, also requests you to fill in the grid below in respect of planned local activities that will be carried out at your school in the academic year 2014-2015. These activities could include for example: inward mobilities to your school, project exhibitions/dissemination events, project related celebrations/activities involving the local community etc.

Activity/mobility description (locally at Irish school only)	Dates (From-To)	Partners/Participants involved
Our school will receive up to 30 guests to our school, where they will be invited to observe in all of our classes. We have two Post-Primary ASD classes as well as two primary special classes. The remaining classes are post-primary classes for pupils with		

¹ Including any persons accompanying participants with special needs

varying disabilities. The teachers will have an opportunity to compare and contrast teaching methodologies in our state exam classes with more practical FETAC and Learning Programme Level 2 classes. They will also observe how adventure pedagogy is implemented in our school through horse riding lessons; surfing; swimming and a range of other sports. Central to the theme of our Project is 'Building Bridges and Extending Horizons'. Each school has to complete an activity which supports this concept. This activity will be planned once our staff have experienced the activities prepared by other schools in our next two mobilities. 13- 16th of May 2015. Up to 30 teachers from the six European Schools will be involved.

All other activities are set up collaboratively between each mobility where we decide as a group our targets prior to the next mobility. This has worked very well to date.