

SUMMARY IN ENGLISH *RICHESSSES DE LA DIVERSITÉ*

Richesses de la diversité. Richness of Diversity. Bohatství různorodosti. Learn who you are through learning about the countryside. By exploring and understanding the genius loci and the uniqueness of places, we can learn a lot about ourselves. The aim of our project is to develop partnerships between Gymnázium Zlín - Lesní čtvrť, Zlín (CZ) and Collège Emilien Adam de Villiers, Saint-Pierre (FR) via working on the topics of environmental issues, sustainable development, specifics and diversity of natural species in participating countries and cities. Through applying the methods of practical ecology and realization of volunteer activities by approximately 20 pupils age 12-15 (lower grammar school – "gymnázium", elementary school, including the special needs students), we want to contribute to increasing of knowledge and interest in their own backgrounds (biological, geographic, environmental, cultural, social...) as well as of their peers. The target group is, besides the pupils of partner schools, their parents and family members, educators, managers and other staff of both schools, also local authorities (representatives of both city councils and affected regions) as well as the general public of the regions. During the implementation of the two-year ERASMUS + KA2 project (2019-21), we will together create Powerpoint presentations documenting the diversification of the natural wealth of the landscapes, we will also publish on websites of both participating schools and also on Twinspace Vlogs (short videos) describing the progress of the project activities, write Project Diaries. We believe that the final exhibition of Project Diaries in public space, as well as the realization of planned student press conferences open to general public, will have a positive impact on dissemination of the outcomes of our common effort. One of our concrete goals is to create, through the trilingual EN-FR-CZ IT communication (videoconference, skype, mails...) interactive materials of participating cities/regions/countries usable in the future not only by the participating institutions but also for other organizations within the regions. The main objective of our project is to show young people the opportunity how to affect the environment directly and properly. Adolescents are often convinced that "hard skills" are enough for them and they will suffice in their lives, and we would like to change their way of thinking in the most appropriate way for teenagers: to attract and engage them! As today's Europe has many different faces it could be difficult for a young European to find his or her way in it and well comprehend its diversity and at the same time its desire for unity. However this should not be seen as an obstacle but as a possibility to enrich oneself. So thanks to the project activities such as ours the young people will get to experience personally the usage of foreign languages in real situations, they will see the options of how to protect the environment, the richness of cultural heritage, they will apply their IT abilities, enjoy the taste of multiculturalism and all that may help their personal and social development with a consecutive influence on their life at school, in their family, town, region, country or even Europe. And what we consider the most important is that they will figure out their own potential and their own active role in the society. On the practical level, via their bilingual project diary, the participants will record the individual tasks and phases of the preparation and implementation of the topics, mobilities, describe their contribution and record their development in the field. The "secondary" output for the project participants is to support the improvement of social competence (reliability, responsibility, ability to establish the contact and to maintain it), communication skills in a foreign language,

development of empathy, decision making skills, ability to solve potential conflicts, support of creative and critical thinking and, last but not least, boosting self-confidence. Over two years of the project work, we will organize in cooperation with various institutions Day of Water / Flavours and Fragrances, organize a charity collection "1 Euro Happiness", the revenue of which will be used to support the project budget. Participating pupils will also engage in volunteer work at the Animal Shelter in Zlín Vršava (CZ) or at Kélonia Rescue Station in Saint-Leu (FR). Within the planned activities C1, C2 we will visit the ecological village of Hostětín (CZ) and Botanical Gardens of the Conservatoire Botanique des Mascarin (FR), we will discuss the content of their activities and gain inspiration from the results of their work. From a long-term perspective, it is an undeniable benefit of the project to deepen the cooperation of two European educational institutions, cities and their citizens, to learn about practical ecology and active participation in favour of harmonious multi-coloured coexistence.