

ÜBACH-PALENBERG, GERMANY

PERIOD: 20 to 24 JANUARY 2020

HOSTING SCHOOL: CAROLUS MAGNUS GYMNASIUM, ÜBACH-PALENBERG, GERMANY

Description of the activity. Describe the content, methodology and the results of this activity.

- **Who were the participants in the activity (including local participants)?**
- **How was this activity related to or integrated with the normal activities**

Participants: 14-15 years old, mixed boys and girls (20 from Spain and 24 from Germany), 2 Spanish teachers and various German. The sports activities were related to PE lessons at school. Although the sports were atypical, the cultural activities might be considered similar to a typical school trip.

The week spent in Germany by Spanish students included sports and cultural visits. The methodology was for students from both schools to interact as much as possible and to reflect on gender inclusion of the different sports. The results were very positive as students worked well together, in pairs and teams, and gained an insight into sports which they knew little about, considering them thoughtfully and maturely. Students were encouraged to consider how they might improve the activities for future participants. A very positive attitude was noted among students and both German and Spanish students also reflected on how gender inclusive sports were, which was thought provoking and involved some interesting debate.

ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED OUTSIDE THE HOSTING SCHOOL

- Orienteering: Spanish and German students. Mixed groups in which good teamwork was essential.

-Day in Laco Glanerbrook in Sittard-Geleen. The four schools included in this project participated together: Charlemagne College Eijkhagen(NL); Carolus-Magnus-Gymnasium (GER); Joyce Frankland Academy Newport (UK) and IES Santa María la Real(SP). Floorball and soccer tournaments in the morning took and after lunch, ice skating lessons.

-Trip to Aachen. Visit to the cathedral. Escape-room in mixed groups.

-Trip to Cologne. Bowling activity.

-Guided visit to Brussels. At the end, all the students went to the airport and there, they said goodbye.

ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED INSIDE THE SCHOOL PREMISES:

The coordinator of the Project in Germany, Ms Jessica Wolf, welcomed the participants and introduced the students to their hosting families

Attendance of the Spanish students to normal lessons in the school.

Ultimate Frisbee.

German and Spanish students worked on assignments in small mixed groups. Evaluation took place.

How did the participation in this activity benefit the involved participants?

Participation in the activities was clearly beneficial to the students as they improved their understanding of cultural differences between the two countries. While there were clearly cultural differences, the two countries had a lot more in common than differences. The team work and communication skills employed during sports and activities were good to see and the fact that the students had to think about sport (gender inclusivity) in a way they might not normally. This focus on gender inclusivity produced occasional differences of opinion between boys and girls which were debated in a mature fashion but the overall sense was that both boys and girls had a better idea about gender inclusivity as a result.. Indeed, a number of meaningful suggestions were made by students in the feedback session at the end of the week about how to make certain sports more accessible for all and thus more gender inclusive. The German host families have warmly welcomed their young guests and dedicated their time and resources to them throughout the stay. Good relationships have been established.