

# Protecting the environment is an opportunity! Not a burden we must bear (Helmut Sihler)

## *River Magazin*



### Benefits of international projects

International collaboration opens up development opportunities to students and teachers alike. We can develop culturally and improve our communication capacity in general and foreign language capacity in particular.

Benefits of introducing students to higher education and employment opportunities beyond their national contexts.

Personal benefits of making us more tolerant of each other and bring us closer to one another despite the differences in our origins.

By working together with partners from a variety of countries, our students not only learn new subjects but also experience many joyful moments, adventures and find new friends.

### About project

Erasmus+ Project entitled "Protecting the environment is an opportunity! And not a burden we must bear." (Helmut Sihler) brings together five European schools from Germany, Finland, Lithuania, Spain and Turkey.

The main objective of the project is to make students aware of the responsibility they bear for the conservation of natural environmental resources, using the specific example of water. They acquire specific knowledge on specific environmental problems. By using the English language as the lingua franca, the participants improve their foreign language skills.

Following a five-step - program, the students identify and analyze one of five local environmental problems that also occur in the other countries in workshops at each Transnational Meeting.

## Water test

In the frame of Erasmus+ KA2 project in spring of 2016 the students of 5i class carried out water research at Kaunas Versvu Secondary School.

Students took water samples from a spring in Kacergine, a village around 10 km away from Kaunas, from a well in Lampedziai, which is around 5 km away from the school, and from Versvu creek near the school, from Lampedziai lagoon and the longest river in Lithuania the Nemunas. The research was carried out during science lessons.



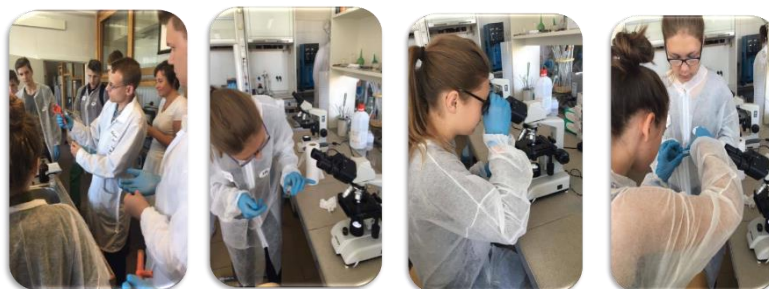
The students tested water alkalinity, amount of chromium, iron, nitrate, copper ions, water hardness. Students used test strips and colour table.



In spring students of 10th grades together with the teachers Giedre Juškevičienė and Asta Jakutiene took water samples from Plytupis creek in Romainiai which is near our school.



Water analysis were done in the lab of Kaunas Technology University together with the students from 7 more Kaunas schools that brought water samples from the water bodies near their schools.



Working together with the university lectures the students of 8 Kaunas Secondary Schools found out that the longest river the Nemunas is the cleanest while smaller bodies of water are much more polluted. It was a kind of surprise as most people think that the Nemunas is the most polluted.

<http://www.delfi.lt/grynas/aplinka/istirti-kauno-vandens-telkiniai-keliose-vietose-padetis-labai-bloga.d?id=71442942>



# The 4<sup>th</sup> Transnational Teaching Learning Activities in Lithuania

Project Partners visited our country 2017 04 02 – 08. In the meeting in Lithuania we had our partners of the Transnational project „Protecting the environment is an opportunity! And not a burden we must bear“: The team from Germany



Pestalozzischeule  
Radeberg Oberschule,



team from Catalonia La Miquela school, Bescano, team from Finland VeikkolaSchool,



Veikkola, and team from Turkey Mimar Sinan Ortaokulu, Kumluca. We had guests as well: Finnish Ambassador in Lithuania Mr. Christer

Michelsson, Mrs. Annabelle Winterhagen is a representative of the German Embassy Cultural and Press Department, Mrs. Kristina Dėdelienė is a Chief Specialist of Kaunas municipality the Environment Department.



Together we had a lot of activities at school in Kaunas and educational programs in Vilnius, Trakai and Anykščiai as well.



All participants enjoyed being in Lithuania. They found out a lot of about our school, city and country. The whole school



community at the meeting gained invaluable experience in cooperation with foreign partners and



strengthened cooperation with local organization. Every member of the team knew better, got new experiences and friends, improved the ICT and English communication skills.



## Ecological Soap

On Tuesday all the students and their teachers gathered at school. Together with the Chemistry teacher Asta Jakutiene they learned how to make ecological soap from the ecological, environmental friendly ingredients. Everybody made a piece of a such soap for him/herself which they brought back home. The most important that the soap they made was not only environment friendly but also healthy.



## Eco cosmetic

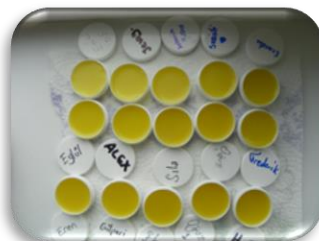


Friday was devoted for body beauty. Teenagers, especially girls use quite a lot of cosmetics nowadays. But

cosmetic bought in the various stores isn't very healthy as it contains a lot



of preservatives and ingredients that are harmful



for humans and environment. To avoid this Chemistry teacher Asta Jakutiene taught the students how to make



ecological face cream and lip balm by themselves. Everybody was happy with the results of their hard work.

## Workshop "Making Whey"

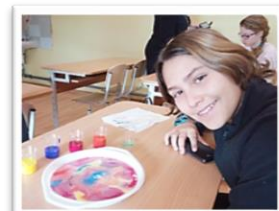
Together with teacher Nijole Vosyliene students make way from ecological farm milk. Whey was used in making ecological soap.



## Chemistry workshops

At School we had some chemistry workshops. And during them students had some experiments.

They enjoyed drawing



pictures on milk and making lava lamp.

## Tap water tests



## Painting Easter eggs

Painting Easter eggs in an environmental friendly way, using bees wax and onion shells. Painted Easter

Eggs are considered to be one of the most fragile kind of Lithuanian folk art. In written sources painted eggs were in



1549. Like all over the world, in Lithuania painted eggs symbolize life, fertility, awakening of nature. Until 20<sup>th</sup>



century the eggs were painted using natural means, such as onion peel, birch leaves, oak leaves and black alder leaves various plants and flowers.



## Variety of colours

**Chocolate** – 4 spoons of ground coffee, 1 teaspoon of vinegar, water.

**Brown**– 12 bags of black tea, 1 teaspoon of vinegar, water.

**Orange**– 4 cups of red onion shells, 1 teaspoon of vinegar, water.

**Yellow**– 1 cup of chamomile, 1 teaspoon of vinegar, water.

**Green**– 2 cups of spinach, 1 teaspoon of vinegar, water.

**Rose** – red beet juice, 1 teaspoon of vinegar.

**Levande**– violet flowers, 1 teaspoon of vinegar, water.

**Golden**– 2-3 teaspoons of curry or yellow ginger 1 teaspoon of vinegar, water.

**Blue**– 2 red cabbages (chopped), 2 liters of water 6 spoons of vinegar.



## Ecological chocolate

Everybody likes chocolates. So we decided to find out how to make healthy ecological chocolate by ourselves.



Moreover, we packed it



into handmade boxes. It appeared to be the most delicious workshop.



## That's interesting

**Amber**, nicknamed "Lithuanian gold", has been harvested from the shores of the Baltic Sea since prehistoric times. The Palanga Amber Museum holds thousands of amber specimens and artifacts. Most women in Lithuania are believed to possess some item of amber jewelry.



**Clogs** are a type of footwear made of wood. The clogs are thought to be a symbol of the Lithuanian folk and are often mentioned in tales and also worn by the folk dance groups.



The White Stork was declared the national bird of Lithuania in 1973. Lithuanians believe that storks bring harmony to the families on whose property they nest; they have also kept up the tradition of telling their children that storks bring babies. Stork Day is celebrated on March 25.



The zither (the rankles) is a traditional musical string instrument. It is played by plucking the strings while it lies flat on a table.



## 1st TTLA in Catalonia, Bescano



In 2016, in April 18-22 we were going to the meeting

in Catalonia, Bescano.

There the students presented their prepared video about the school, their city and Lithuania. Our students told about our school and place of residence and famous people in our city and country. There are many attractions, various Lithuanian natural sights, lots of greenery. We, Lithuanians can be proud of our country.



We had a lot of activities in La Miquela school. We had many excursions, classes together, got to

know about the history and culture of partner country. The students and teachers were very well prepared: they organized concerts, delighted folk dances and songs, during lessons and excursions they provided good



foreign language skills and knowledge of the specific vocabulary.

## 2nd TTLA in Germany, Radeberg

In 2016 September 26-30 the project meeting took place in Germany, Radeberg. The students and teachers from Turkey, Finland, Spain and Lithuania



attended there and had a lot of various activities. In Dresden on the Elbe River there pupils

learned to build a sand barrier, took water samples and studied the river water pollution.

Later they found out fish species live in the river Elbe, learned to measure the water level and river flow speed, calculate the amount of water, participated in different classes



at school, did experiments on electricity, had a tour of Dresden.



The students and teachers visited Saxon Switzerland and a coal mine, the lake appeared in the former coal mine site. At the end of coal mining work the environment has been restored. Now it is a great place to rest there.





## Activities in our gymnasium

Our students made cards from recycled materials with great enthusiasm. They were extremely inventive and creative.



After nicety work we held the cards' exhibition in the hall of school, where the school had a Christmas event. Students and their parents were able to enjoy the students' crafts.



The most amazing cards were sent to our foreign partners.

At Kaunas Versvu Gymnasium students have a possibility to attend ecodesign workshop conducted by Art teacher Laneda Jatuleviciene on the regular basis.



**Eco houses.** Made from used boxes and natural materials: dried leaves, chestnuts, cones, decoupage napkins.



**Puppies, kennels.** Puppies from toilet paper rolls, kennels of used cardboard boxes, painted with acrylic paint.



**Bottles.** Used glass bottles, painted with acrylic paint, decorated with protective cloth shells, dried herbs, string, felted wool balls.



Gabija Riaubaitė is a student from Versvu gymnasium (form 11c) and she has never attended the school because she has a serious disability. She learns at home. The girl is



interested in nature and especially in insects. She has three stick-bugs in the glass terrarium, the beautiful butterflies come into life from the small cocoons in the glass jar which stands on the



table. The girl takes photos of these small creatures because she has no possibility to go out to see nature. The whole world of this amazing girl is in her room, in her photos of the butterflies, stick-bugs... Gabija



explores the plants and insects through the microscope and makes photo of these views. It is really hard for Gabija to hold the camera, to press the button, but she is so patient and persistent so she tries to beat all the difficulties and not to surrender to her disability.

## Activities in our gymnasium

In spring 2017 Kaunas Environmental Centre organized drawings and posters exhibition-contest "Protect the environment". 6 Kaunas Versvu Gymnasium students became winners in various age groups. (Art teacher – Nele Jurgelioniene).



**Earth day.** Students of 5-6 grades organized an exhibition of their work from natural and used materials.



**Exhibition of posters "Nature in Lithuanian literature" made by 7-8 graders**



Every year our students take part in a birdhouse contest in Kaunas city and for several years in a row, they have become the winners of the contest. This year was not an exception as well. (Craft teacher – Sigita Venys)

