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Programma di apprendimento permanente



MPI

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**Ufficio Scolastico Regionale
per la Basilicata
Direzione Generale**

Agenzia Nazionale per lo Sviluppo
dell'Autonomia Scolastica
indire



Developing the European Dimension

Group No. 61

Soclink No. 07009,14

12th – 16th May 2008

Theme: Strengthening the European Co-operation

Hosting Organization: USR Basilicata

National Liason Officer: Marialuisa Sabino

School Deputy: Maria Gabriella LaRocca





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Extract from the Group Final Report

The programme was scheduled in morning and afternoon sessions and also included briefings every evening thus providing useful opportunities for all participants to talk, give opinions about the study sessions and discuss better ways of involving their institutions in eTwinning programmes.

The visit included:

- explanations on the Italian school system
- eTwinning in the Basilicata region of Italy as a new approach to teaching.
- information on historical and cultural events
- meetings with municipalities, inspectors, school Principals, and teachers in the schools seen,
- presentations by the group delegates,
- sightseeing tours of the area.

Most of the participants found the content of the programme both relevant and interesting. The theoretical presentation of eTwinning projects by an expert from the Italian National Agency, Alexandra Tosi, as well as the presentation made by Marialuisa Sabino on eTwinning projects generally in the Basilicata region encouraged the group to recommend or start the eTwinning projects on their return.

The eTwinning projects presented which involved more than one teacher and almost 30- 40 students and the places visited in order to get additional topics for the future eTwinning projects were found particularly useful by most of the participants.

Many participants did not expect to spend so much time visiting local authorities and were more interested in getting information on the positive and negative things which occurred in such projects, in finding out what works and what does not work from their experience in eTwinning projects. They wanted to have a clearer picture of the teachers' tasks in such projects and the practical way they work, how much energy and time they take participants, why some schools give them up, etc.

Some participants commented on how they would have liked the projects in the last two days to be presented by the students involved. However, some of the projects presented earlier in the week viz. the European catwalk, Maths to Play, Our common newspaper on-line, and the Food project were introduced by students. This demonstrated their enjoyment of them and delegates were given the opportunity to discuss the projects with the students.

Participants appreciated how most teachers explained the way in which their projects work. It would have been helpful to present such projects earlier in the programme in order to get familiar with the steps of such projects.

Several different places were visited. The de to visit different places. All of these including schools, cultural associations, town halls and famous historic sights gave the participants the opportunity to ask the guides, teachers and the students a lot of questions about actual and potential projects. On one hand this provided participants with the opportunity to discuss joining existing or new eTwinning projects with some of the schools visited while on the other hand it opened delegates to the opportunities of twinning not only schools, but also government institutions, libraries, choirs and cultural associations. The sights visited both in Matera and in the Basilicata region provided ideas of starting eTwinning projects on cultural issues, historical ones or linguistic ones.



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The programme was packed with information and opportunities to hear from those involved in such VE sectors. Participants received a lot of background information in advance so that they could prepare for the visit. They were also offered books, booklets and leaflets at the end of the visit. Participants felt cared for. The organisers were extremely friendly and helpful: they guided the participants everywhere, gave them useful clues on sights to visit, places to meet, people to get acquainted with. They were hospitable and arranged transport from one school to another, from hotels to places to visit in Matera, from Matera to Avigliano.

Participants appreciated the use of powerpoint presentations, slides on overhead projectors and handouts with presentations. The excellent **use of English** of the speakers or the translations into English, although more than half of the delegates could understand Italian was appreciated.

Participants were surprised at the number of **schools** in the Basilicata region currently **engaged** in eTwinning projects and agreed it was a result of the excellent advice and support provided by the NLO Marialuisa Sabino and her colleagues.

Delegates felt that the study visit programme was not entirely determined by the NLO. The impression of the group was that the opportunity was taken by the education authorities to 'show-case' some chosen schools and this determined a large section of the programme rather than the priority being to look at the most useful, interesting projects in the region.

Participants commented on how great possibilities for students across Europe to work together on the **platform** and without great costs eTwinning projects may provide.

Another content of the Study Visit was to get together and **meet people from all over Europe**. The link to the theme of the visit is that through these new connections it will be much easier to contact someone else from the group and help schools in the delegates' municipalities to get started with an eTwinning project.





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