

# JOB REPORT

## TURKEY: THE FIRST VISIT OF COMENIUS PARTNERS

Between the dates 17th- 20th October, 2011 the Comenius partners met in Kocaeli, Turkey to talk about Earthquake and Pollution Risks. In our application form, we had decided to include “migration” but left it to our Portugal meeting since wouldn’t have enough time.

On Friday and Saturday our French and English partners arrived in the town, Gebze and we spend Saturday with all students and on Sunday the English, French and Turkish teachers went to Istanbul for a cultural experience

On Monday, the Turkish team welcomed the English and French teams at school. In the morning session, the students met each other. They played ice-breaker games which is a part of “get to know each other.” Also the participant students had prepared short PowerPoint presentations about themselves. Each of them introduced themselves. The Turkish students talked about their family lives, ages, likes, dislikes and favorites and one of the Turkish teachers showed a video about their city and country. The French students did the same presentations and they introduced their hometown and school to other students. They had prepared a movie and a big poster of their school which they left at school as a present for the Turkish school. And then, English students introduced themselves and they showed us a video about their city and school.

After the icebreakers and students’ presentations, we were ready to project work. In the afternoon session, our Portuguese partners joined us. They had spent a lot of time on their way to Turkey. Firstly, the Portuguese team introduced themselves, their city and country. After that we started the presentations about earthquakes. The French students had developed earthquake models with the help of their teachers. They showed us how the earthquake waves spread, what is the importance of constructing proper buildings for an earthquake and also they presented the results of the “earthquake questionnaire” that the Turkish team had send them before.

Secondly, the English team showed us a map of the world fault lines and explained us about their earthquake experiences but we understood that they don’t have damaging earthquakes but just slight ones compared to the ones we experienced in Turkey.

Then, we finished “project presentations” and visited the classes in the school. Visitors met the students and teachers at school.

On the second day, our Polish partners joined us at school and continued project work about earthquakes and pollution. Firstly, the Portuguese team gave information about their special “geographical location” and we learnt that they experience damaging earthquakes in their country. Secondly, the Turkish teacher presented the fault lines in Turkey and showed a video about the latest most damaging earthquake happened in Turkey. The presentation focused on being prepared for an earthquake and knowing what to do during an earthquake hit. Then, the

Polish team explained that they don't live in an earthquake risk area showed a map of their country.

After that, we started our second subject: pollution. Firstly, the Polish students made a presentation about the types of pollution and explained what we can do diminish pollution. Secondly, the French team shared the results of the "pollution survey" that the Turkish team had sent them before. Lastly, the Turkish team explained the pollution types they face in their city, the reasons and the precautions that are taken at schools and in public. In the end, all the students prepared slogans and posters about pollution. Their teachers guided them in this activity. They made a short exhibition hanging their posters on the walls.

After we finished the project work, we visited "Gebze Directorate of National Education." The students and teachers met the director of the institution and he was briefly introduced about the project and shared ideas about the education systems of each participant country.

Following the visit, we went a shopping mall for the bowling activity. The students formed mixed groups and enjoyed playing bowling. Then they had some time for shopping and resting.

The third day of the visit was the "cultural day." The students and teachers had a real experience of Istanbul and city life. We used many transportation vehicles: train, ferry and tram to reach the European side of Istanbul. We visited many historical places which are the landmarks of the city. The Comenius partners strengthened their relations and enjoyed a lot during the visit.

On the last day, the teachers met early in the morning. We had a -four-hour-meeting and evaluated what is done so far and decided the calendar for the next visits. After lunch, we got on the school bus and started our journey to "Sakarya Earthquake Museum" which is dedicated to the victims of the big 1999 Sakarya Earthquake. This museum is also used to educate students about earthquakes. All the students "experienced" the earthquake with the simulator. They had a short interview with one of the witnesses of this big earthquake.

Finally, we had a farewell dinner with all the students and teachers. The attendance certificates are given and presents are exchanged after the dinner.

As a result, during this visit we believe that we reached our goals, such as:

- increasing students 'motivation, intercultural skills and self confidence
- getting more open minded
- improving their English
- learning about earthquakes, pollution and city life
- increasing family relations and communication