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Blended mobility “The old country memories” - 21-25.07.2021 , BULGARIA

From the 21st to the 25th of July 2021, The Second Blended Mobility of the I-TALES project was held in Sevlievo, Bulgaria. The mobility was hosted by the Foundation Art and Culture - Sevlievo.

The mobility was attended by students and accompanying persons from the project partner countries from Italy, Lithuania, Greece, Portugal and Bulgaria. Due to force majeure circumstances related to the fact that two of the partner countries - Spain and Cyprus are in the red zone regarding COVID-19, they were unable to physically attend the mobility in Bulgaria, although they had prepared for the mobility.

All activities were inspired by Shuang Tang's graphic novel, Arrival. The students from the working groups during their local mobility had prepared in advance their parts related to the upcoming activities in mobility in Bulgaria. The activities in mobility in Bulgaria were thematically related to the part of the novel called "The old country memories".

The goals of the mobility were: To make people express emotions, thoughts, and feelings;

To communicate and interact with each other; To speak of personal experiences to understand the world; To inspire the culture of communication and confrontation to look for problems solution; To know the facts, refuse fakes and prejudices in favor of respect and diversity appreciation; To increase the educators' use of Art in Adult education.

The goals were realized in the common activities, through different arts.

1. Knowledge step

In order to understand in depth the problem related to the feelings and experiences of migrants in the new country, their memories and how they would help the people who took the new path, 5 workshops related to different arts were used. They stimulated the

participants' attention to the details and meaning of the symbols in traditional art. The idea is to help students think, understand, make their own opinions.

2. Creative step

Visual arts: KNITTING/EMBROIDERY

The first and second workshops were an art lab, where students and accompanying persons from all partner groups of Italy, Greece, Portugal and Lithuania, supported by the Bulgarian group and volunteers made Martenitsa traditional for Bulgarian culture. All participants were introduced through a power point presentation prepared by the Bulgarian teacher Ioan Danailov and assisted by the other Bulgarian participants about the meaning and significance of the traditional Martenitsa. Then, during the two art labs, all partners made different types of martenitsa using different art techniques.

The whole group of learners, migrants, refugees, 2nd / 3rd generation migrants, brought and showed to these art labs works of art / crafts in order to encourage them to "communicate" a fragment of their own history through non-verbal languages. More specifically, these were napkins / table napkins made of fabric, but also of paper decorated with traditional folklore elements (embroidery or drawings or paintings).

3. Music.

Music has a large part in the labs activities.

Performing arts: CHOIR. The performing arts are types of experienced, empathetic and inclusive education. They improve the knowledge and experiences that the body carries and that are translated by the body into different languages. This is a positive dimension that creates an unconditional and non-judgmental acceptance of the other. The object of music labs during the mobility in Bulgaria was the completion of the song, created especially for the I-TALES project of the Italian composer Mirella Sasso. All partner groups presented one verse of the song in their own language, and during the musical activities they all together created the lyrics of the song's chorus in English.

The Lithuanian group wrote a new stanza of Song for Europe, was shared and learned with the other partners, as planned in LTTA2.

At the dance workshop, each of the partner groups taught the others their traditional dance.

4. A critical step for development Migrants and refugees were to be encouraged to share their personal experiences by telling a fragment of their personal history. Other stories will be added to their stories by local actors, stories of relatives or people they know or have heard who have also left their country over the centuries.

5. On the dissemination of the results of the Blended mobility in Bulgaria:

An art exhibition was held on July 22, 2021 in the Public Center in the village of Krushevo with the Martenitsas made by all participants during the Blended mobility and with the napkins made by them during the local mobility. It was opened by the artist and participant in the Bulgarian group Ioan Danailov and by the secretary of the Public Center in Krushevo Nikolinka







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<https://www.facebook.com/106626687578496/videos/346115510510302> Saverio, one of the Italian learners in Bulgaria for the project second mobility, interviewed some of the participants. Here is the video he made.(interview)











