

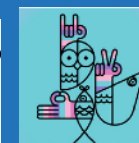
Collection of EU Club Activities

European Citizenship Common Education Program for Integrated Europe

Erasmus+ 2020-1-BE02-KA227-SCH-083030



EU Club with school partners visiting: Zamość, Poland



INTRODUCTION

Between July 2021 and April 2023, five teacher trainings in five different countries were held. After each training, teachers from the partner schools would go back to their home schools to implement what they learned in the format of an EU Club activity. The idea behind the EU club was to generate critical thinking students who would learn how to debate and discuss the pros and cons of European history, identity, politics, legislation and commerce, through an interactive learning methodology. Teachers implemented these activities either after-school or as an extra class time activity.

The below content was collected from all participating teachers and staff who shared their activities on our Facebook group with accompanying pictures. Our aim is to share our ideas with other European teachers, so that they will be inspired to implement the concept of a European Club as an extra-curricular activity in their respective schools.

Our EU Club activities covered the following topics:

- Promotion of a European cultural heritage
- Cultural music and dance from various European regions
- Learning about various European cuisines and cooking
- Promotion of European cultural arts and art history



- Learning about up-cycling: how to creatively reduce waste
- History and discussions about wars and migration
- Learning EU Values, legislations and human rights
- Critical thinking and discussion about the effects of European common culture on the future of Europe; what will a European Common Identity look like in the future?

After the first teacher training, with the help of the participating teachers and students, we designed the European Citizenship in 100 Questions questionnaire. It became the starting point of the EU Club activities, revealed the cultural needs of the partner school students and ensured that the activity contents filled the gap in their general knowledge about the European Union.

The questions can be found on the website and can be used as a guide in kick-starting the concept of an EU Club in other schools around Europe.

All activities were repeated at the gathering of all school partners (both students and teachers) in Lublin, Poland, for a one-week intensive EU Club meeting.



2021 ACTIVITIES (SEPT-DEC)



Cosimo lives in Šiauliai and shared his experiences of what it is like to be an Italian living in Lithuania. As an added bonus, he taught the students how to bake real Italian pizza!

In this activity, we were interested in addressing the following questions:

- * How does a citizen of the European Union succeed in starting a business and living in Lithuania?
- * How does the Lithuanian culture affect an Italian citizen?
- * How can you start a business in an EU country?
- * What are the biggest challenges about living in a different culture and country?
- * How long have you been working in Lithuania and it is easy to find a job for a foreigner?
- * Which cultural barriers are the most difficult to overcome?

Teacher: Simona Miškinienė





At Vizyon College, we discussed Digital Citizenship with students in the EU Club. With our 9th grade students, we prepared presentations, podcasts, shared weekly bulletins with parents and made a “Do You Know?” Board. With our 10th grade students, we created a survey discussing the Types of Citizenships, had an interview on the Types of EU Values and even discussed the pros and cons of being an EU citizen.

Teacher: Bilgay Atiş



In the European Club at Adalya College, we discussed the languages that are spoken in Europe and the effects of multilingualism on cultural dimensions.

Teacher: Nihat Saraç

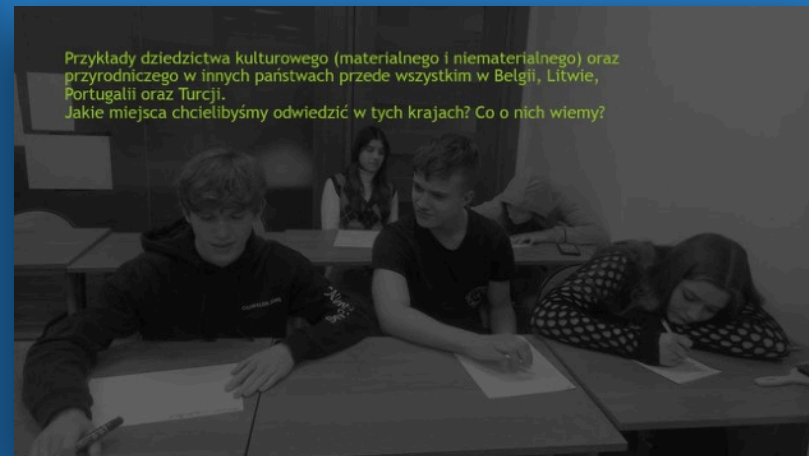




This activity was focused on discovering the cultural and natural heritage of both our country (Poland) and other countries, in particular, the ones involved in this project. We discussed where we would go and what we would do when our project partners came to visit. Also, how we would teach them about our heritage and what we can learn about theirs.

We shared our knowledge about art, culture, nature and the history of Lithuania, Belgium, Portugal and Turkey. Our students already have a lot of knowledge and are very interested in gaining more during this cultural exchange. To conclude, we browsed through the UNESCO World Heritage List so that we could add examples to our list of European heritage sites. It was also interesting to discuss how we can unite to protect natural heritage sites that are in potential danger.

Teacher: Anielka Mroczek





Monika Lewocka is a philosopher and currently teaches ethics. She believes in the importance of teaching students the history of Human Rights. She also believes that if the historical context of Human Rights is not known, then all forms of discrimination don't have much chance in being prevented.

The European Convention on Human Rights is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted on December 10, 1948 by the General Assembly of the United Nations, which in turn has its roots in the United States Declaration of Independence. Knowing the historical context makes it easier to avoid or duplicate mistakes that were made in the past. From an ethical point of view, it is important to talk with the students about the dignity of man and his social condition in the present times.



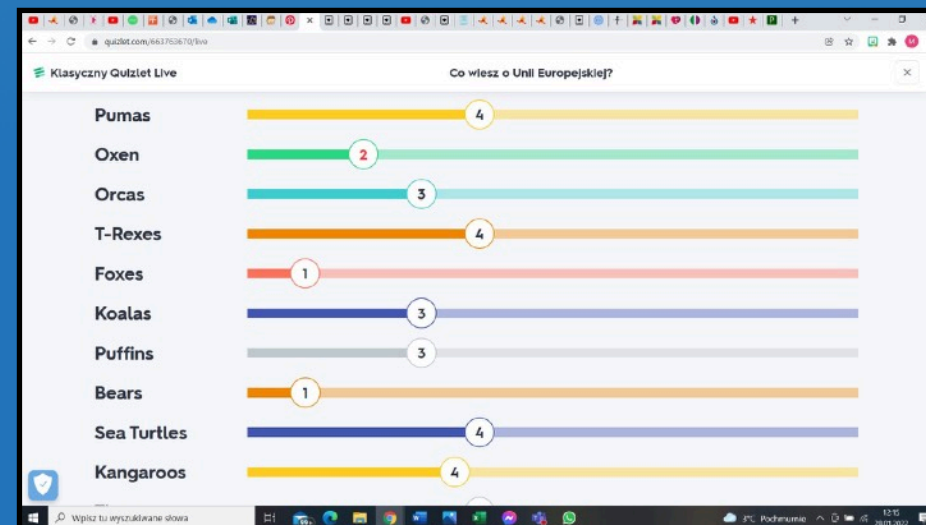
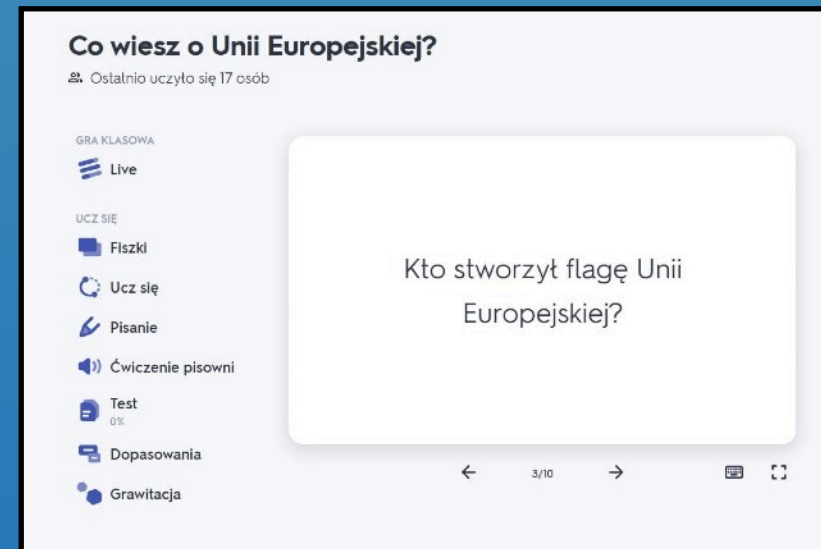
The first workshops in Antalya inspired her to conduct a series of lessons about the EU - about its roots and our human and civic responsibility for each other. Our wealth lies in our diversity. To label something as different means that it is interesting and undiscovered, not something to reject.

Europe has been built on Christian foundations; true Christianity is **unity** and **love**. Europe cannot reject these values because of ignorance and fear. Her belief is that we should get to know and understand ourselves better so we can stop being afraid. Finally, let us consider what the biggest problem of the European Union is today. Is it immigration (as it has always been) or rather a departure from the original assumptions of what building a community means, instead of just an economic union. Where has our empathy gone?



During this activity of the EU Youth Club, we played "100 Questions" about the European Union with the students. They tested their knowledge and were also able to understand where they still needed to do some studying. The competition took place online since we could not meet in person, but everyone had fun learning.

Teacher: Maria Miedziewcka





Our goal during this activity with the European Club was to build a map of Europe where we could locate and visualise data on the members of the European Union. This data includes: country capitals, flags, populations, surface areas and currency values. We can use this data to compare with other countries in the future.

Teacher: Marek Pawelec



In this EU Youth Club activity, we focused on the principles of building State and Democracy. Due to the changing geopolitical situation, we thought it would be a good idea to provide the students with a basic understanding of democracy. What builds a democracy and what can destroy it was discussed. We also posed the questions of: "What can we do together as the European Union to prevent conflicts?" "What do Europeans need to do in order to live in peace?"

Teacher: Monika Lewocka





EU Club members at the Šiaulių r. Dubysos Aukštupio School analysed and discussed the topic of “What faces are on the Euro coins?” Each student prepared a presentation to share their findings and answered the related questions.

Click the link below to view a short video of the activity:
<https://youtu.be/yS2nwK8BUTQ>

Teacher: Natalja Kozlova



- The students of the 9b class participated in the project activity concerning the question, “What are my duties and why?” They revised information about the EU such as: the number of participating countries, EU day and more.
- Afterwards, they played a game on Kahoot called, **Europe and I**, which discussed the rights and duties of a European citizen. To add to the atmosphere, the European Union’s national anthem, ‘Ode to Joy’ by Ludwig Van Beethoven was played during the activity.

Teacher: Sonata Abromavičienė

On 24 March, students from the 8B class participated in an activity that was based on examining the following question: “How can we preserve and protect our health when using technology?”

During an integrated music lesson Advances in Computer Music Technology, we learned how to convert music to a QR code. More and more, we have been integrating the use of different IT applications during our music lessons. Relating to the search of our main question, students discussed how modern technologies have impacted us and what influence these these technologies can have on a child’s health. Finally, they played a Kahoot game to summarise what they learned.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AO4Fwx-ZqUs>

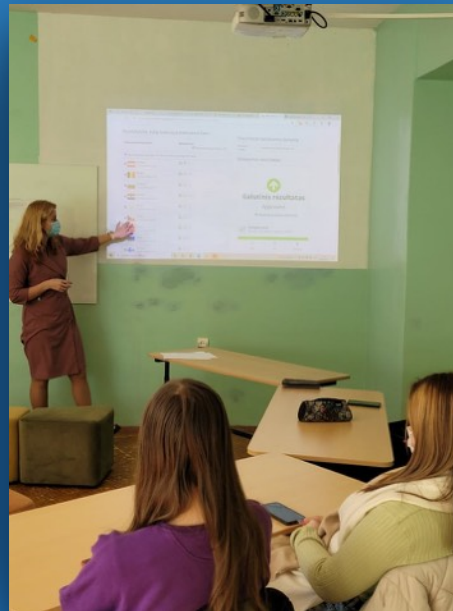
Teacher: Sonata Abromavičienė





During this activity, the 10th grade students took the time to reflect on various questions relating to how decisions in the EU are made. Often hearing about Brussels and Brussels making specific decisions, we analysed the following: What are the EU institutions and what are their responsibilities? How does the voting system work? And finally, what is the structure of the EU?

Teacher: Simona Miškinienė



EU Club members at the Šiaulių r. Dubysos Aukštupio School analysed and discussed the conditions of becoming an EU country. They prepared an infographic with the knowledge they gained on this topic, presented their work in groups and answered related questions.

Teacher: Ausma Šereivienė



During this Youth Club activity, students were instructed to design quizzes, board, card and social games concerning the European Union. The questions covered various information about the EU and its member states, particularly, the ones involved in this Erasmus+ project.

Students had the responsibility of creating several aspects of the games, such as: the plots, the rules, the creation of graphic design and recording tutorials for how to use the game. Our aim is to pass on these projects to other members of Youth Clubs in Europe so that they too can create games where additional information, specific to their countries, could be transformed into a fun way of learning and sharing. These games were created on the principle of fair play.

Teacher: Anielka Mroczek

The topic of this activity we made with the 9th and 10th grade classes, was entitled, "Budget of the European Union." It was designed to understand what a budget is, how the EU budget is set up, what the main projects funded by the EU are and how it benefits its member states. Students conducted research on the EU budget data to understand whether EU countries give or receive more money within EU itself.

Teacher: Natalija Kozlova

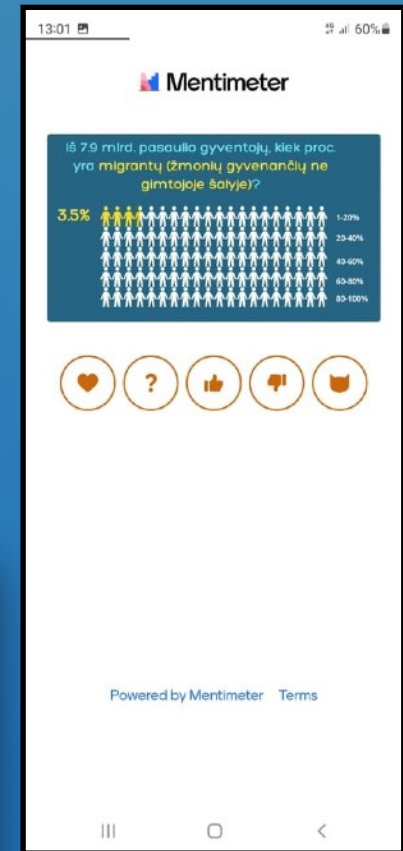




- This activity was centred on the migration process, which was organised by the project called, "When Stories Meet." Students from grades 6-10 participated in analysing society's attitude towards migration and how it is quickly changing. What is also changing is our understanding of what living in harmony means in a modern and socially responsible community.
- With the help of interactive and dialogue-enhancing activities, students developed the tools to take a comprehensive look at the realities in which they live by exploring the challenges of the global world.
- In addition, a photo exhibition of portraits taken of people from developing countries was show and will become available to the rest of the school community.

<https://nara.lt/lt/articles-lt/kai-susitinka-istorijos>

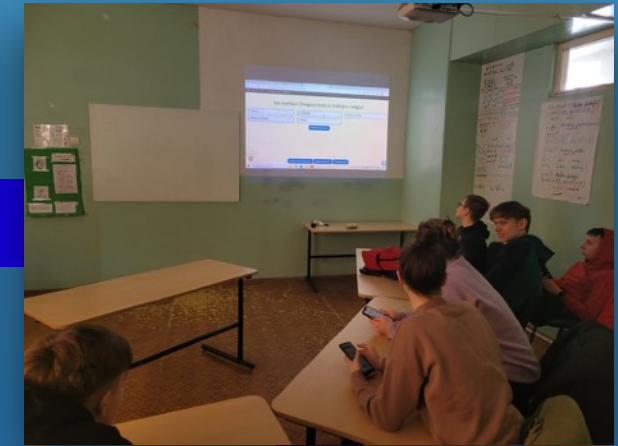
Teacher: Simona Miškinienė





This activity was focused on discussing the topic of human rights versus traditions and if one was more important than the other. With our 10th grade students, we watched the film entitled, "Mustang" (2015) by Turkish director, Deniz Gamze Ergüven. It explores the topics of the emancipation of women and gender equality.

Teacher: Simona Miškinienė



Students of the EU Club took a trip to visit with members of the government to discuss how the EU legislation affects the laws of our country (Lithuania). We are aware that some of the objectives set out in EU Treaties are legally binding, while others are not, and that some of them apply to all member states, while others only apply to a few.

Teacher: Simona Miškinienė





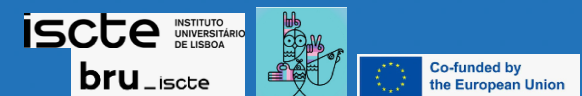
Together with the 8th grade students at Šiaulių r. Dubysos Aukštupio School, we introduced the European Space Agency (ESA). We discussed how the European Union participates in European Space programs and students were eager to learn about current and future careers at the Agency. They learned which types of skills would be needed to enter this career and which EU countries already belong to the ESA. Tomas Narbuntas gave a lesson about space and space programs and we found out that Lithuania has already launched two satellites: 'Lituanica SAT-1' 'Litsat-1.'

Teacher: Jūratė Ščeponavičienė



Each year on the 9th of May, we celebrate Europe Day, created to symbolise peace and unity in Europe. For this celebration at the Dubysos Aukštupio school, students from grades 5-10 began their day with a virtual lesson organised by the teachers of the European Club. The lesson presented the challenges currently faced by the European Union to reach their goal of making Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Students learned what the specific steps are to reach this goal. Throughout the month of May, our school community will participate in four sustainability challenges with the aim of promoting responsible use and a sustainable lifestyle with nature.

Teacher: Agnė Poškienė





As part of our month long commitment to promote responsible use and a sustainable lifestyle with nature, EU Club students at the Dubysos Aukštupio schools discussed sustainability. What are our responsibilities and why? What examples can we set in our own school?

Teacher: Jūratė Ščeponavičienė



One of the four sustainability challenges organised by the European Club took place in the Aukštelkė and Bubiai departments. It was designed to draw attention to a great problem of the amount of waste produced in Lithuania. Just one Lithuanian produces around 450 kg of waste per year. In this amount, we are looking at not only product packaging, but uneaten food and bought and discarded items as well. In this activity, students and teachers had the opportunity to trade or give away unwanted and/or unused items, such as board games and jewellery, in attempt to reduce the amount of waste produced.



Teacher: Agnė Poškienė





On 10 May, we discussed the European Union and the Erasmus+ program with Ukrainian refugee students. The information about the Erasmus+ program was actually new for them.

Teacher: Jurij Seniuta



With the end of school approaching, students are encouraged to think about what is important in their lives and for their future. Over the course of a couple of months, we took the opportunity to discuss uncertainties and worries they have about adult life. We asked them to reflect on certain questions such as: What kind of job will give me satisfaction? What kind of person do I want to become? Why do people in power fail to see the suffering in this world? Would I have the same rights to freedom if I'm living in a place with war?

Although these are not easy questions to ponder, we thought that the time spent on this will be worth it for their futures.

Teacher: Monika Lewocka



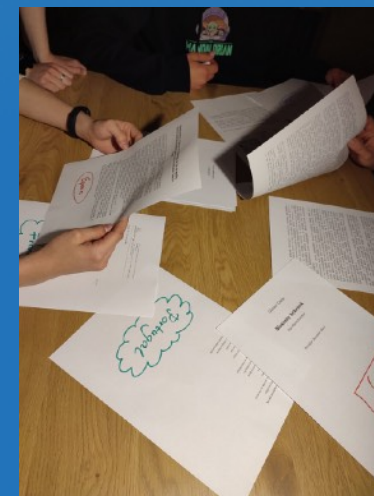
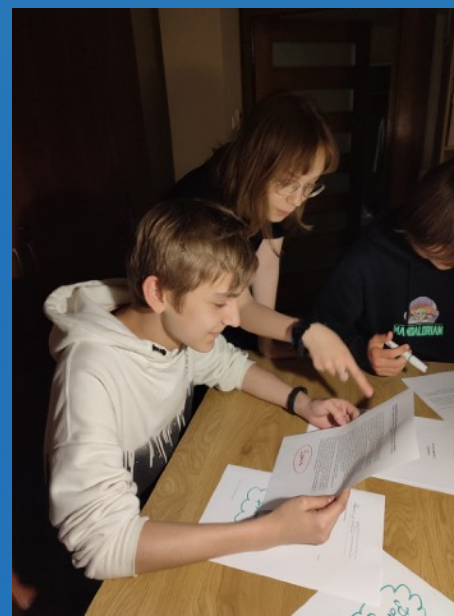


During this activity, EU Club students learned about the European Green Deal. Many aspects of this deal were discussed such as, biodiversity in 2030 and clean energy. We also took a look at what smart homes are and if we as EU members, have an impact on global warming.

Teacher: Idalia Marcewicz

This activity was very fun and educational for the students and concerned culture in the European Union, with a specific focus on literature. Students were instructed to select texts of significant writers in various EU countries. They presented their chosen examples and the other students had to guess from which country these texts originated from.

Teacher: Maria Miedziewicka





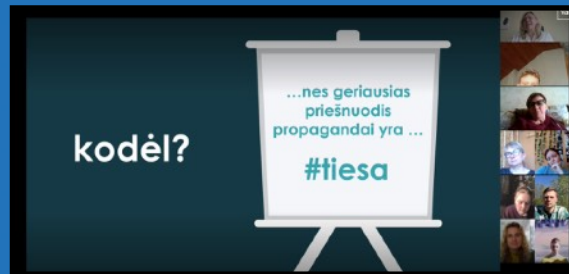
The ending of the third week of Mobility and Travel Challenges at the Dubysos Aukštupio School provided us with great results. During this week alone, we have collectively taken about 11 million steps, planted around 40,074 trees in the WALK15 app and have expanded our community, now reaching about 150 people who support sustainability.

Teacher: Simona Miškinienė



In this EU Club activity, students had the opportunity to attend a virtual meeting with the diplomat and strategic communications expert, Viktorija Urbonavičiute. She discussed propaganda and its impact on society.

Teacher: Simona Miškinienė





With the arrival of Spring, we took this opportunity to discuss agriculture in the European Union. The students of the EU Club were eager to pin-point the countries where plant production is dominant, what the problems agriculture faces in the EU and what are the threats. They also took note of the how natural and non-natural factors affect the development of agriculture.

Teacher: Małgorzata Pawłowska



The 9th grade students from Adalya College held a quiz about the European Union, using a question and answer method.

Teachers: Berkay Kuşu and Meriç Çelik





The fourth week in the Sustainability Month at Dubysos Aukštupio School has come to an end. The aim of this challenge was to collect plastic bottles during the week and to understand the complexity of sorting them. We learned that this material is so resistant that it doesn't even decompose under the most extreme conditions. Once all the challenges have been complete, we will announce the winning class. From the collected funds, the EU Club will hold a sustainable picnic.

Teacher: Jūratė Ščeponavičienė



During this activity in the English language lesson, students researched the answers to questions around cyber-bullying and copyright in the EU. What is copyright and how does one obtain copyright protection? What is the difference between bullying and cyberbullying and how can we fight against it and help those affected by it?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPfljbwm-qU>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvQ3iy0IJUM>

Teacher: Ausma Šereivienė

The fifth grade students at the Šiaulių r. Dubysos Aukštupio School learned about EU countries, seas lakes and rivers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4saIfd1xxo>

Teacher: Natalja Kozlova



On 22 June, the Sustainability Month Challenge Marathon ended with camp and other sports activities. We congratulated the 5A class and the rest of the EU Club students on their achievements and progress during this period.

Here is a quick recap of everything that happened:

- ▶ From 9 May to 3 June, students completed four sustainability challenges.
- ▶ Challenge #1: 9-13 May: Production and Consumption.
- ▶ Challenge #2: 16-20 May: Nature conservation. Planting of colonial oaks, watering them. Giving the tree a name that reflects the value of the class.
- ▶ Challenge #3: 23-27 May: Mobility / Travel Step challenge and planting virtual trees via the **Walk15** application. Development of the principles of sustainable travel.
- ▶ Challenge #4: 30 May - 3 June: Returning plastic and metal packaging for recycling. The money collected will be used for a waste-free picnic.
- ▶ 22-23 June: Waste-free picnic held. Camping at school and sports activities.

Teacher: Dainius Daukšas



In this activity, EU Club members discussed and analysed the fundamental human rights in the EU. One of the basic obligations of the European Union is to respect people's rights. They must be taken into consideration when EU institutions and member states apply policies and programmes.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW_X3htF19s

Teacher: Ausma Šereivienė



2022 ACTIVITIES (JAN-DEC)

Following the European Club meeting in September at the Dubysos Aukštupio School, students discussed mobility week in Europe. We watched a promotional video and talked about how our community can contribute less to pollution. Other meetings were planned such as: organising a walk in the forest and holding a brainstorming session to inform the school community on climate change.

Teacher: Jūratė Ščeponavičienė

With the students of 10B, we discovered which EU countries still use their own currency.

<https://youtu.be/fBsRjU2YmAs>

Teacher:
Natalja Kozlova

The first meeting of the EU Club of the Dubysos Aukštupio School, took place at the Jautmalkė Nature School. At this school, environmental awareness, responsibility, natural and cultural values are cultivated. The members of the EU Club discussed ongoing activities and what they have planned for this year. They also played games centred on shaping interpersonal relationships.

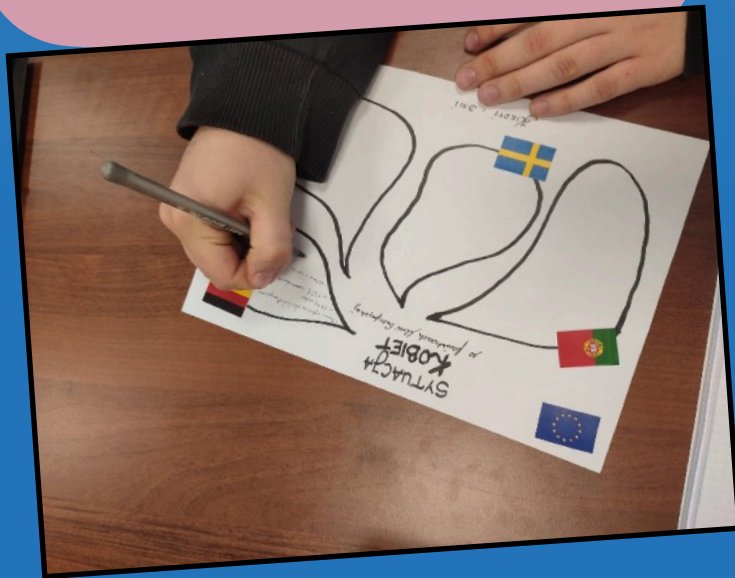
Teacher: Simona Miškinienė





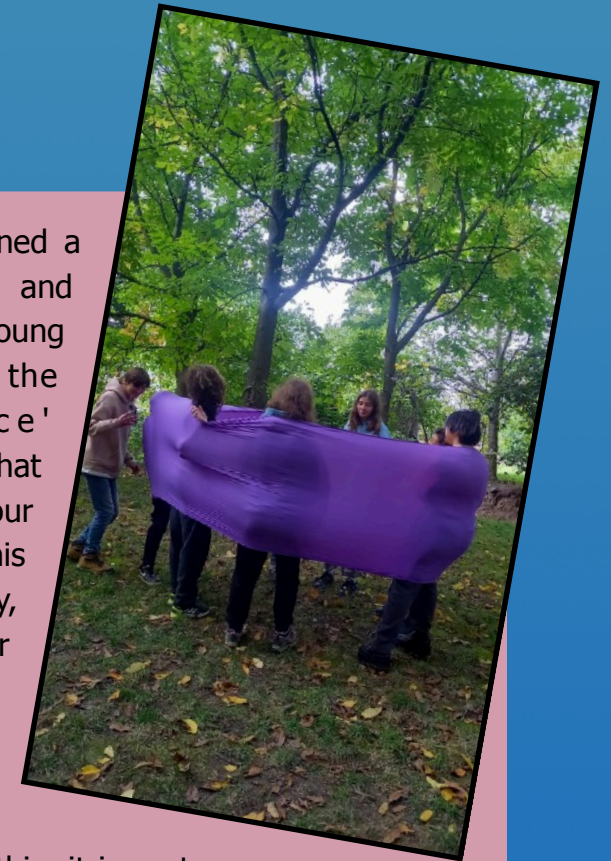
We had the opportunity to analyse one of the greatest Polish novels, "Nad Niemnem" by Eliza Orzeszkowa. After discussing the different types of female characters, we were inspired to collect information about the rights of women in some European Union countries and what has changed over time.

Teacher: Maria Miedziewicka



During this activity, we learned a lot of valuable information and saw how much potential young people possess. During the 'Sphere of Influence' experiment, we discussed what kind of impact we have on our immediate environment. This includes ourselves, our family, our city, our country, our continent and the world. How can one's action or inaction shape the future? The most important conclusion we came to was this: it is up to our commitment we make and the responsibilities we give ourselves, that will determine what our world will look like in the future.

Teacher: Anna Zbiciak





At Vizyon College, students were presented with a very important topic: migration. One of the most serious problems our world is facing. We focused on two aspects of this issue, namely, "What makes migration a problem?" and "How can it be solved?"

We also tried to answer questions around how it affects different countries and their cultures.



During our Russian lesson, we discussed the possibilities of Ukraine entering into the European Union with our students. Even though we are aware that entering the EU would not be easy, we wanted to explore what the benefits this would bring to the EU and what the future of Ukraine would look like.

Teacher: Jurij Seniuta





For this activity, students of the EU Club of the Aukštelkė branch of Dubysos Aukštupio School, went to the screening of two films at the Šiauliai Cultural Centre. The first film, "To the Light," encouraged students to think about self-discovery, support and gender identity. The second film, "The Problem of the Bear," led the students to look for solutions on the problems posed by ecology.

Teacher: Jūratė Ščeponavičienė

During this activity, 10th grade students discussed intellectual property. The topics of copying, plagiarism and piracy were talked about and they were shown some videos. They also created photos with the help of artificial intelligence.

Some facts:

- Monkeys own the copyright to the selfies they take after stealing a camera.
- Tattoo rights technically belong to the artist, not the person who gets the tattoo.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_lpBC8YfJcE&t=78s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InzDjH1-9Ns&t=3s>

Teacher: Simona Miškinienė



On 1 March 2022, the first meeting of the European Club took place online at the Dubysa Upper School. We talked about the history of the European Union and discussed some of the following related topics: why and how it was created, which countries are members and the evolution of economic, social and political perceptions from its citizens. The students interactively performed various tasks during this meeting.

Teacher: Dainius Daukšas

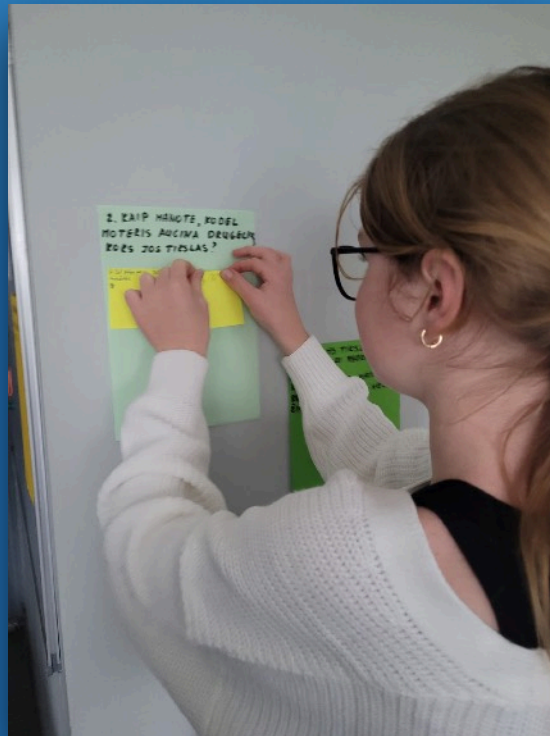




This activity at the Dubysos Aukštupio Schools, was centred around the interference with nature and the importance of eating healthy. The EU Club students had afternoon tea with two teachers, Živilė Pilsudskė and Jūratė Ščeponavičienė where they watched the film by M.Stonytė, called, "One Life". We discussed the issues presented in the film, specifically about whether it is necessary for one to interfere with the cycles of nature and use butterflies for entertainment.

Afterwards, Živilė Pilsudskė presented the European Day of healthy eating. She discussed why eating healthy is important for us and the students decided to enter a healthy eating campaign for the duration of two weeks at school.

Teacher: Jūratė Ščeponavičienė



EU Club students were provided with the opportunity to discuss ecological issues. They searched for references which spoke about renewable natural resources such as trees, water and more. They also researched and answered the following questions:

- ➔ How many trees do you think are cut down per year for paper production?
- ➔ How many times do you think we can recycle paper?
- ➔ How many tons of waste do you think are found in the water bodies of the world?

At the end of the activity, students had a picnic.

Teacher:
Simona Miškinienė



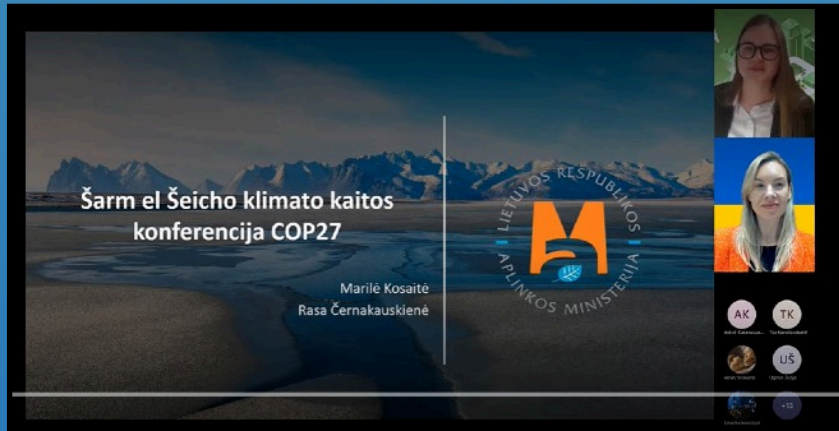


2023 ACTIVITIES (JAN-APRIL)

During two days, 9-10 March 2023, students attended the XVI Educational Fair at Lublin Exhibition Center to present our Erasmus+ European Citizenship activities. About 3,000 interested people came to meet our students and teachers from the Lubelska Szkoła Realna. The interdisciplinary activities we participated in during the project captured the attention of our audience.

Teacher: Agnieszka Kantor-Kołodzyńska





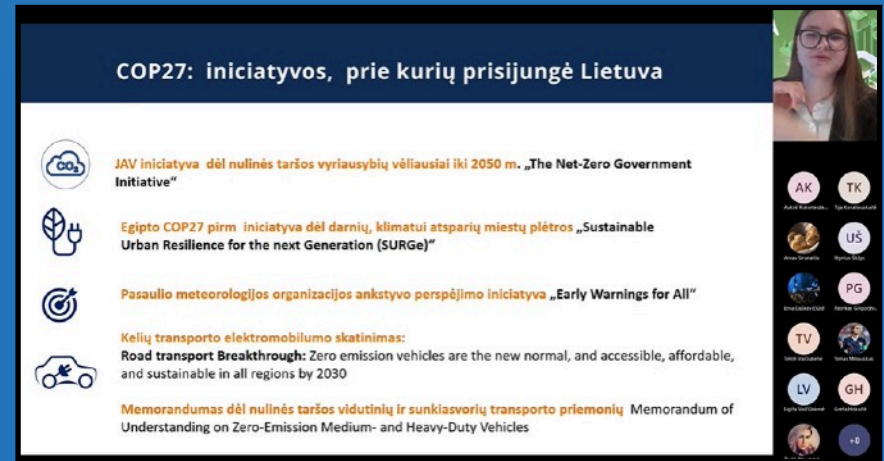
In December, the European Club invited two special guests to speak in a virtual meeting with our students. Rasa Černakauskienė, Advisor of the EU and International Relations Division of the Ministry of Environment and Marilė Kosaitė, a member of the Climate Policy Group of the Ministry of Environment, who will be attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP27 in November 2022, discussed which initiatives are being taken to achieve sustainable and resilient climate change.

Teacher: Simona Miškinienė

As part of the project dissemination, two students from the Dubysos Aukštupio School and active members of the European Club, participated in the international online English Language Students' Conference, "We Care and We Share." These two students, Kęšmina and Neda, introduced the activities of the European Club which took place both inside and outside school, and focused mainly on presenting sustainability and environmental protection.

https://youtu.be/gGy_FRS5gOU

Teacher: Ausma Šereivienė





On 22 March, we celebrate World Water Day. We took this opportunity to discuss accessibility to water and its quality in the European Union. Together with the students of the Faculty of Chemistry UMCS, we conducted experiments on the purity of water. We also learned about which activities the younger students at Lubelska Szkoła Realna participated in. We were very impressed to know how much knowledge about European citizenship our students have gained throughout this project.

Teacher: Idalia Marcewicz



Our students shared the project results relating to literature in various EU countries at the Łopaciński's Library (branch no. 35).

Teacher: Maria Miedziewcka





To summarise this project, our students created images to represent the idea of visual thinking. They used flashcards with icons and associations to the European Union. We mainly discussed the topics of individuality and partnership and what the similarities and differences between the member states are. Using graphics helped render this information more clear.

Teacher: Dorota Zielińska-Dryl



During a Polish language lesson for our Ukrainian refugees, we spoke about the European Union. We focused on the most important facts, the benefits of being part of the EU and how much people are valued and supported here. The lesson turned out to be very interesting and enjoyed by the students.

Teacher: Jurij Seniuta





On 10 February, active members of the EU Club, spent the night at the Dubysos Aukštupio School. Throughout the month, students had an interest in learning about circular economics. They spent the night recycling paper, playing volleyball, dancing and watching films.

Teacher: Jūratė Ščeponavičienė





One of our dissemination activities was to present and summarise the project activities and results to the natural science students at Maria Curie Skłodowska University. We discussed the benefits of collaborating with schools in other countries and how we encourage others to participate in such projects.

Teacher: Marek Pawelec



Normally in March, we teach math to our primary school students, but this time, we took the opportunity to tell them about this Erasmus+ project. We discussed culture, economy and the geography of European countries and we were amazed to watch them become so involved in the discussion. They were curious and fascinated by the cultural differences and the opportunities that are offered by being part of the European Union. The main consensus was that this is valuable knowledge to teach others since there is so much to discover.

Teacher: Piotr Tokarski



As part of dissemination, we talked about the project results to students in our general English course. We discussed the values of European nations and the opportunities this union provides.

Teacher: Kuba Dabrowski

