

## Estonia – The home of non formal activity

We arrived to Estonia after we organized the course in our school. It was amazing experienced to see how the course worked in real. We were very lucky because the participants were very active and they could learn from each other very much. They came from several schools with lots of similar and different experience. In the end everybody said that the course was a great opportunity to summarize their knowledge to know new methods and activities and to meet with other colleagues.



We looked for the estonian meeting very much because we were interested in the successful education system very much.

On Monday:

We knew each other in a special way, because Siim Värvi made for us a non formal workshop. We could know some technics about how we can help the students to know each others in a very non formal way. After this Siim and Tiina Kallavus presented to us their school system we could know how a school system works in real. We could ask them what is the best in the estonian school system how they could be so successful for example in PISA test, how they could involve the children with ADHD, autism and behaviour problems. And at the end of the day we visisted a very interesting secondary school they use a very non formal curricula which is so useful not only for students with special needs but talented students. Sometimes

happens that students with disabilities are so talented, so sometimes they are very special in both way. And this good practice helps to find the best way for them.

On Tuesday

First, we visited a kindergarten, which integrated children with physical disabilities and they used several methods to integrate them into a regular group. They were a leader of a "step by step" program in Estonia, they taught the other mainstream kindergartens how they could integrate children with disabilities in the best way. We could know lots of very non formal way and could meet the children and the teachers, we could observe their job.



After we went to a primary school which had got lots of students with behaviour problems and they use a very special "open room" method. We could observe two activities and learned a lot how we can change the environment to be fit to every children, how can contact the environment and a good method in the best way.

After that we knew a very special vocational education centre. They have got a special curricula for children with behaviour problems and we could observe some activities here also.

On Wednesday

It was a very interesting and special day. We were so lucky because the Estonian education system tries to be as non formal as it can be possible, so they have got a very organized support system to help the school to integrate students with special needs. These centres have got lots of non formal methods, and they organized for us a workshop and showed us how they work with the children in the daily routine. We could try lots of non formal activities.

On Thursday

It is very difficult to choose what was the best day of the week but if somebody force me very much I choosed this one. We went to a forest and spend the whole day with the children with special needs, it was a very non formal activity. I was really lucky because one of the students with autism was my excellent guide, so i could involve totally to their activities. It was amazing.



On Friday

We could try several non formal activities and we could observe lots of very special and non formal activities for integrated groups. We visited a Nature House which offers only non formal activites to the children and they put emphasis on support the integration very much.





Here they organized us a non formal worksop to show us how they work with children with behaviour problems. After we went to another youth centre and they represented us a dog therapy in a workshop. It was really amazing too.

Summarized it was a very useful week we could know lots of really non formal methods and activities and we could meet with a very non formal education system in real.