

## **Erasmus + KA203 Outdoor-oriented Practices in Early Childhood Education Project Report of First Transnational Meeting**

**Time:** 20-21-22 January, 2019

**Place:** Stichting Drio Office, Eindhoven, the Netherlands

**Host:** Stichting Drio

**Participants:** Sakarya University, Stichting Drio, University of Evora, Lithuania, Vytauto Didziojo Universitetas, Hendek Municipality, Yenimahalle Kindergarten.

### **20.01.2019**

The day started with a welcoming speech by the Stichting Drio coordinator, Gülşah Van Dijk. The schedule of the 3-day meeting was presented. Following, each team introduced their institutions and team members by explaining how they will be contributing to the project activities. As a significant contribution, the teams provided examples of child-friendly activities from their contexts and information on their countries enabling the cultural exchange among the teams. Another worth mentioning issue is that the Municipality team presented the location of the to-be-designed street and supported it by showing drone footages.

In the afternoon session, project context was explained to the participants. Detailed information on project aims, expected results, tasks and responsibilities, and project outputs were provided in this session by the Sakarya University team. Following, an architect from the Netherlands, Chris Franken, informed the participants about the Woonerf System and key elements of it by displaying example streets. Hendek Municipality had the opportunity to seek answers for the questions they had about the design of the street. Next, with the help of a brainstorming session, the project participants discussed what, how and why questions regarding the design of the street as a group work activity. Within the groups, they discussed the definitions of a child-friendly street, elements of it, and the cultural adaptations of the Woonerf system into Turkish context. Following the group discussions, results of the brainstorming sessions were shared and final comments were voiced out. The discussions regarding the project were held during the social gatherings such as dinner, cultural trip etc.

## **21.01.2019**

In the morning session, Sakarya University team shared the results of the needs analysis study conducted before the transnational meeting. Prof. Dr. Küçükturan and Assoc. Dr. Kol chaired this session and expressed the expectations of parents on a child-friendly street. The themes parents mentioned were mostly on children's developmental process, safety, and expected activities. Upon this session, the views of experts and project participants were consulted. Additionally, for a better communication in project management, an online communication tool was suggested by a member of Sakarya University team. The targeted communication tool, Slack, was presented with tutorial videos and step-by-step demonstration was conducted. Project participants' e-mail addresses were collected, and the participants were invited to use the app. It was made sure that everyone downloaded and became familiar with how to use the app. Channels were formed on the application, and their content and themes were explained to the participants.

In the afternoon session, the project participants visited Woonerf streets in Eindhoven accompanied by the architect. This visit contributed a lot to the participants especially the Municipality team as they had clearer ideas of what those streets are consisted of. Following the street visits, the project participants gathered in Drio office again and determined checklists for the first and second outputs. Tasks and responsibilities for each team were decided on. A to-do-list was formed to help the participants to keep the track of the project activities.

## **22.01.2019**

The timetable for the project was shared with the participants, and the schedule for each output was either extended or kept as it was. The finalized version of the timetable was found to be satisfactory by each participant. All members were informed about their tasks and deadlines for the upcoming project activities. Following the necessary changes in the timetable, a certificate ceremony was held, and participants received their certificates of attendance. Each project team member expressed their overall comments and ideas regarding the project activities. The details of the next transnational meeting was also discussed in this session. The afternoon was assigned as free time for the participants to have a cultural trip to get an in-depth understanding of the cultural elements in the area.