

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

The second transnational meeting of the OPIECE project was held in Sakarya/Turkey on 3-4-5 July 2019. The details of the meeting were finalised following the previously held online meetings with the partners. All partner teams (Sakarya University, the Stichting Drio, University of Evora, Vytautas Magnus University, Hendek Municipality, Yenimahalle Kindergarten) participated in the meeting. Each day of this 3-day meeting was hosted by one of the partner teams in Turkey.

In total, 20 project members participated in these meetings: 8 participants from Sakarya University, 3 from the Netherlands – the Stichting Drio, 3 from Hendek Municipality, 2 from Hendek Yenimahalle Kindergarten, 2 from Portugal – University of Evora, and 2 from Lithuania - Vytautas Magnus University.

The first day of the meeting started with the opening speech delivered by the project manager Prof. Dr. A. Güler Küçüküran representing the hosting team, Sakarya University in Hendek Ramada Hotel. The 3-day schedule of the meeting was presented. Following, the street-to-be-designed was visited. Arrangements on the street were discussed among the project members with the attendance of the Mayor of Hendek. A small city tour was organized to inform the partners about the cultural structure of the city. During a coffee break at the Dean's office in Sakarya University Hendek Faculty of Education, the details of the visited street and the arrangements were discussed further.

After the lunch break at the Ramada Hotel, the afternoon sessions were held. Firstly, the coordinator of the Stichting Drio, Gülşah Van Dijk, informed the project members about the educational street design based on the first output they led. Later, the architect Juliana presented and shared the drawings of the street design. Lastly, Guida Veiga from Portuguese team presented their suggestions on children's developmental stages and plays in accordance with these stages. Following the presentations, workshop sessions were staged. Before these sessions, as a result of brainstorming with the project members three main topics were

decided upon: safety & maintenance, street, and playground. Each topic had subtopics and issues to be discussed within the groups. Later on, a spokesperson from each group shared with the whole project team what they had discussed in their groups. However, due to time constraints, the last group had to postpone their presentation to the next day.

Hendek Yenimahalle Kindergarten team hosted the second day of the transnational meeting on 04.07.2019. The day started with the opening speech of Sakarya Provincial Director of National Education. 20 in-service kindergarten teachers in Hendek province participated in the training session “Outdoor Practices in Early Childhood Education” as stated in the program of the meeting and the project application form. Firstly, Prof. Dr. A. Güler Küçüküran as the project manager informed the in-service teachers. The training sessions were provided by Muhammed Bulut from Yenimahalle Kindergarten and Ieva Pažusienė from Vytautas Magnus University. Consecutive translation was done during the training sessions. The first session of the second day was concluded with the certificate ceremony. Following the lunch break, ideas from the two remaining workshop groups were shared, and new suggestions on these topics (street and playground) were voiced out. In conclusion, the following issues were stressed to be taken into consideration with regard to the educational child-friendly street:

- To arrange the entrance of the houses on the street in a way that does not make the lives of the families difficult,
- To ensure that the street-facing parts of the garden walls can also be used for educational purposes,
- To ensure that the surface of the playgrounds placed on the curves are of the materials like sand, grass, soil, sawdust, and volcanic stone; the surface of the street are of the materials like asphalt, concrete, or paving stone,
- To make sure that sitting areas such as benches and amphitheater that could strengthen the social relations of the residents of all ages of the street are considered,
- To establish sports areas such as football and basketball, which are particularly of interest to local children,
- To determine and plant trees of the street from the genera that shows the seasonal transitions in addition to fruit trees.

Upon sharing the suggestions, the layout of the third day of the meeting was reminded by Dr Güler Küçüküran; thus, the second day of the meeting was finalized.

Hendek Municipality hosted the last day of the meeting on 05.07.2019. Following the opening speech of the meeting, the recent Mayor of Hendek Municipality, Turgut Babaoğlu, elected on 31.03.2019, introduced himself and voiced out his support for the current project. The project manager Prof. Dr. Güler Küçüküran briefly introduced the project, what has been and will be done for the project. In accordance with the meeting program, brainstorming on the third output of the project, designing an e-book on outdoor-oriented practices in early childhood education was held, and participants' suggestions were discussed and noted. At the end of the session, it was decided that the Portuguese team, as the leader of the third output, would distribute the tasks among project teams and lead them during the process. The tasks that the Evora team would assign are comprised of the e-book contents, main titles, subtitles, and by which team each chapter would be complied.

The date of the next online meeting was set as the 16th of October 2019 at 14.00. In addition to the online meeting, the dates for the next transnational meeting were also decided to be held on 29-30-31 January 2020 in Portugal.

Upon concluding the meeting, the certificate ceremony for the participants was held. With the lunch program at Sakarya Universtiy Main Campus, project members bid their farewell. The members who had free time joined a cultural trip around Sakarya.

