



Erasmus + projects: a great opportunity to promote Science and Interculturality in high schools

Nathalie Bisson

Cité Scolaire Internationale, 69 Lyon, France (nathbi@outlook.fr)

Erasmus+ projects are not restricted to universities but can be carried out in high schools. If you like innovation, they'll give you good opportunities to go off the beaten track. Your students will develop various competences in the field of autonomy, cultural awareness, communication, organization, foreign languages, and get new knowledge in a stimulating environment.

Joining or becoming the coordinator of an Erasmus+ project is not easy, but a visit to the e-twinning platform or a contact at your European national agency may help you. People believe that mostly teachers of languages and history are concerned, but if you're a teacher of Science, don't hesitate to involve in an Erasmus team: whatever the topic of the project, there's always a way to inject Science in it. And if you want to coordinate a project, why not on a topic dealing with Science?

I'm a teacher of biology and geology. I started with the ancestor of Erasmus+ in high schools, i.e. Comenius projects. The first one was easy for me as the topic was "science planet" and I dealt with "life on Mars" then "epidemics". On my second Comenius, the subject was "the Great war (1914-1918)" with the aim of stimulating remembrance in young people: a little bit more challenging! I organized workshops on biological and chemical weapons, on medicine and war, and on the pollution of soils due to war. Erasmus+ "Broaden Horizons" brought me the topic of Interculturality (enhancing cultural awareness at home and abroad): some Science workshops focused on non-verbal communication (facial and body languages), genetics with the search of origins in Humans, and on the question of the relevance of the idea of a biological community on Earth.

Put your students in the position of running the workshop for their foreign partners under your kind supervision, and peer to peer communication will do the rest.

In these times of threat on good scientific culture, teachers of science have to promote the passion for it through stimulating scientific experiences directly in connection with students centers of interests. Erasmus+ projects provide the opportunity to associate the learning experience with a strong emotional context of friendship across the borders and in the best interdisciplinary way ever.