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KA1 Mobility

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PARTICIPANTS

21 people

- Cooperativa Glocal Factory (LP)
- Uniauser Genova
- ARCI nazionale
- Associazione Glocal Factory



DESTINATIONS

- Cyprus
- Finland
- France
- Greece
- Ireland
- the Netherlands
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Turkey

LEARNING AREAS

- non-formal and informal teaching methodologies (art, music, dance)
- new technologies
- communication and social media
- social innovation
- environmental education
- multiculturalism





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LEARNING IN EUROPE: LUC, PAOLA AND MARIANNA'S EXPERIENCE



I would like to tell you about this experience, which has simply been an incredible journey, both personally and professionally. This summer I attended the **Summer Dance Forever**, one of the most iconic events in the global urban dance scene.

I arrived in **Amsterdam** on the 21st of August and immediately knew it was going to be an unforgettable week. The city, with its unique charm and vibrant energy, was the perfect place to fully immerse myself in hip hop culture and urban dancing. OK, I admit, Amsterdam is not exactly cheap, and keeping track of expenses was a bit of a challenge, but the city offers so much that it was easy to forget your wallet and get carried away by the experience.

The days were full of activities, between popping, house and hip hop dance classes, and every single moment was an opportunity to grow and learn. And we're not talking about just any classes, but classes taught by teachers of the highest calibre. Every class was a discovery, a journey into hip hop culture that, despite having become mainstream in many contexts, still retains its deeply inclusive and communal nature. And then, boy, the meetings! There were people from every corner of the world: from Brazil, Japan, Italy, France.... It was a continuous cultural exchange.

Besides the lessons, the days were enriched by events. The urban dance battles were spectacular, with a level of competition that left you breathless. And I cannot fail to mention the visit to the Stedelijk museum, which was an equally powerful experience. There was a section dedicated to diasporic culture and black resistance that made me think deeply about how hip hop culture is not just music or dance, but a real form of expression and resistance.

Logistically, I must say that everything was well organised. I stayed in two different hostels, one for the first night and another for the rest of my stay. Perhaps a little uncomfortable having to change accommodation, but nothing insurmountable. In the end, they were just details in such a rich and intense experience.

The time to leave came all too soon. But I returned with a baggage full of new skills, new friendships and above all a new awareness. Being immersed in such an international environment, with different people and cultures, challenged me and made me grow so much.

The Summer Dance Forever was not just a dance event, but a true celebration of culture, inclusion and passion.

LUC



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I had a very interesting learning experience in **Dublin**, participating in the **Soft Skills for Strong Teachers** course, organised by the Europass Teacher Academy.

I left on 24 July. I arrived at Dublin Airport and took a bus from the airport that took me directly to the student campus where I would be staying for the whole week. The accommodation was simple, a single room with a private bathroom, but all in all comfortable and functional. After all, I knew I would spend very little time there: Dublin was all to be discovered!

The course was held at St Mary's Boys School, about a 20-minute walk from campus. Every morning I walked through the streets of Dublin, breathing in the unique atmosphere that the city has to offer. The school building was modern, with bright, well-equipped classrooms: interactive whiteboards, computers for the teacher, and even a refreshment corner with tea, coffee and snacks, which became a meeting point for a chat between classes.

My teacher was young, motivated and superbly prepared. From day one, she was able to engage us with dynamic and interactive methods: group work, discussions, presentations, self-analysis. There was never a dull moment! What impressed me most was the cultural and professional diversity of the group. We were a nice mix: teachers of English, but also of art, design, history, from all over Europe. I was the only Italian, which forced me to push hard with English, but it was a great way to really immerse myself in an international environment.

Every day we tackled different and important topics: from time management and prioritising, to intercultural communication, to building self-esteem, both our own and that of our students. We also explored how to improve our problem solving skills and how to make our lessons more creative and inclusive. One of the most formative moments was when we discussed various communication styles - assertive, aggressive, passive - and how we can improve in this area. We even played a couple's game to work on self-control!

But it wasn't all theory. The course was very hands-on, with practical exercises and moments of personal reflection. We also had time to discover Irish history and culture, such as during a visit to the EPIC Museum, which gave us a fascinating insight into the Irish diaspora. And on Saturday, at the end of the course, we went to Glendalough: a wonderful hike in the middle of nature, which ended the week on a high note.

I must say that one of the most positive aspects of this experience was the comparison with our European colleagues. We each brought with us a wealth of different experiences, and exchanging ideas with people who are so passionate about their work was really enriching. It was not easy, especially because of the language barrier: everything was in English, and the level of conversation was high, since most of the participants were English teachers. However, it was a challenge that I faced with determination, and I can say that I benefited a lot from it.

In short, this week in Dublin was an experience that changed me, both personally and professionally. It gave me new tools, new perspectives, and a boost of energy that I can't wait to bring back to the classroom. If you ever have the chance to have a similar experience, don't miss it!

PAOLA





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I am telling you about my experience in **Athens**, participating in a training course on **multicultural classes** organised by the Europass Academy Athena. It was a perfect opportunity to get away from the routine and immerse myself in an international environment, surrounded by fellow teachers from all over Europe.

Let's start from the beginning. After a direct flight from Verona, I landed in Athens. The flat selected on Booking turned out to be a good choice: comfortable, practical, and a stone's throw from where the classes were held.

The school was cosy, with a well-equipped classroom for different activities: mobile tables, blackboard, video projector... everything needed to create a dynamic learning environment. The classes alternated between morning and afternoon, which gave me the opportunity to explore the city a bit in my free time.

The course focused on **how to manage an intercultural classroom**, a real challenge in the age of globalisation. We were introduced to the complexities of working with students from different cultures, and given practical tools to deal with discrimination and prejudice, unfortunately still present in our schools. One of the aspects that impressed me most was the use of storytelling as a teaching tool. I had never considered how powerful it could be in developing empathy and intercultural awareness among students.

During the six-day course, we covered topics such as intercultural communication, prejudice management, and the EU anti-discrimination legal framework. It was intense, but also extremely educational. The workshops were really practical and gave us concrete exercises that we could immediately apply in class.

I also learnt a lot from my colleagues, a fantastic group of 14 teachers from Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, and Germany. Comparing our contexts and the challenges we face every day was enriching, and made me realise how important it is to work in a network.

There was, of course, the touristic experience. The course included a visit to the Acropolis Museum, a true dive into ancient history, and a two-day hop-on hop-off bus tour that allowed me to discover the most iconic places in Athens, from the city centre to Piraeus and the beautiful Athenian Riviera. These cultural moments were the icing on the cake, perfect for relaxing after the intense days of study.

Honestly, I did not find any critical aspects during this experience. Athens was welcoming and the course well organised. Returning home with new skills and, above all, new friendships and European contacts was invaluable.

This experience opened my eyes to how essential it is, now more than ever, to promote inclusiveness and respect in our classrooms. And this course has given me the tools to do this in the best possible way.



MARIANNA