Implementation of the Gentle teaching philosophy at our school

There are 4 schools working hand in hand in our Erasmus Project: "Fritz Felsestain Schule" from Augsburg, "Instituto Tecnológico Giovani Malafarina de Soverato", from Italy, "Ysgol Maes Cod" from Wales and us, "Escola de Vida Montserrat", ACIDH, from Barcelona, Spain.

The Gentle Teaching Philosophy is based on the need for interaction. Each one of us needs from the others, and they need from us. Everyone should be entitled to feel safe, loved and satisfied/connected to their world. Being aware of this interdependence will allow us to create a strong community in which the individual will be able to develop his or her skills and talents.

Gentle Teaching is not linked to any religion or any specific culture, it is simply based on the universal premise of loving and appreciating each other.

In short, educating not only in values but also in virtues. As simple and complex as that, taking into account the values on the rise of our society.

The methodology used is based on 10 principles:

Being kind, taking care of one another, active listening, the dialogue as a tool when facing conflict, standing on someone else's shoes, being grateful, respecting others and the environment, sharing, being part of a community, being generous and letting yourself flow. These principles are the core of our values and the starting point of our activities.

We feel privileged to continue this exchange of pedagogical experiences and the analysis and the reflection derived from it. Our goal is to share our "gentle approach" with other communities.

Our school "Vida Montserrat" started implementing gentle values from the beginning of the project and has continued to do so. This project has evolved and grown throughout time and therefore we have used different methodologies.

What about the teaching community involved? The commission in charge of implementing the Gentle Teaching Method has always been close to the rest of the education professionals. Every teacher in our school has collaborated and participated in the different activities that shape this project to implement the "Gentle Culture". We have worked as a big team so every teacher is

aware of the structural values of "Gentle Teaching" and they can apply them within the general atmosphere of the school.

What about the students? Firstly, it is important to reinforce the contents with visual, clear aids - such as posters, wall painting, or others- in order to remember activities previously done about the project. Also, we keep in plain sight the main gentle values so everyone can relate.

Regularly, we have had theme gatherings involving the whole school. In these gatherings we have worked on one of the main values and we have participated in a special activity. These activities go from creating posters for decorating the school to self knowledge workshops.

With the mobility programme in Augsburg in mind, the school has been working on the "Super Gentle Heroes" for over a school year. The idea behind the "Super Gentle Heroes" is creating a comic character that represents each one of the "Gentle Values". Our students have designed the characters, both the graphics and the personality behind it. They are the main characters of a comic series that we have developed. They deal with the value behind each character: there is an everyday problem that is sorted thanks to the "Gentle Way".

When planning to host the school of our project coordinator, Fritzseltein, we had made a presentation about our "Super Gentle Heroes". For this occasion, we had prepared a version that includes adapted language for special needs so our students could present it in Augsburg, in a different language, and in a different country.

To conclude, we have created a blog and a webpage about the right way to apply the Gentle Teaching Methodology. In our webpage, you can see all the activities so we can boost the cohabitation of our learning community and to show its rewarding experiences from the different mobility programme trips.

This website is meant to be a door to spread our project, our flag site. That's why, we have asked our Education Government to include it within the cloud of resources for other schools in our city to use.