



O professor Paulo Silva participou dos dias 28 a 20 de Setembro de 2009, numa conferência Internacional InterNetwork, com o título : **Diversity, Inclusion and the Values of Democracy: Building Teachers' Competences for Intercultural Education**, em Ljubljana, Eslovénia. Apresentou 2 projectos vivenciados por alunos dos 4^{os} anos de escolaridade do nosso Colégio, o projecto InBetween e o projecto Intercultural stories. Ambos os projectos foram bastante elogiados, o que a todos nós, muito nos orgulha e que ao mesmo tempo nos dá força para continuarmos envolvidos em projectos internacionais.

Clique para abrir e ler as comunicações que foram apresentadas.

Title: *INTERCULTURAL STORIES PROJECT*

Objectives

In this teaching practice the aims were to involve pupils and staff in intercultural dialogue, where they could share ideas, opinions and views on activities and issues addressed throughout the project, thus enhancing communication skills in both mother tongue and foreign languages, aiming at: a) developing a sense of European citizenship based on understanding, respect and tolerance of different cultures, human rights and democracy; b) providing greater motivation for reading and writing for both genders, through intercultural stories and activities; c) and finally providing pupils with cross-curricular learning activities that can contribute to their overall development by helping them to have an increased awareness of their own culture and language(s) and those of the other participating countries.

Methodology

There were 7 countries implicated in this project. Each country started a story set in their own country at the same time, which would then be swapped to the next country crossing all the countries. The stories had approximately 10 sentences long. Stories were written in own mother tongue and translated into English and Pupils had to research some of the places and objects mentioned in the chapters from different countries.

Conclusions

Both pupils and staff gained a greater understanding of their own and other cultures which will foster greater tolerance and respect towards any culture different to their own. Pupils and staff developed a better sense of being a European citizen. Also improved their knowledge of Europe and its specificities and also gained awareness of the importance of their mother tongue and the importance of learning new languages, especially English. Pupils developed a positive attitude to foreign languages and an interest in learning them through having an opportunity to practise these through intercultural dialogue with European peers.



Title: *PROJECT INBETWEEN*

Background

This project arose from the creation of a platform, in an educational context, for facilitating interaction and communication between a small group of young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders from the Portuguese Association for the Developmental Disorders and Autism-North (APPDA-Norte) and a group of students from the fourth grade of Colégio do sardão Sardão. The general idea was that the two separate groups could develop into becoming one large group. We didn't have as a premise for these students any individualized programming, nor a simple inclusion of individuals with autism in a school environment. Our aim was to create a set for both groups to interact in a dynamic and non-formal way.

Objectives

Awareness of the difference. Socialization and interaction with a distinct community (different age range and different cognitive level) in a different context. Establishment of partnerships and synergies in the school community and educational site. Openness and cooperation with new social realities. Acquisition of basic skills at the level of listening, written and verbal in another language (English). Ongoing reflection on the behavior of both groups initially, and on how these groups were evolving throughout the project.

Methodology

Monthly classes. Workshops aimed at clarifying the class about the characteristics of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Planning and implementation of various activities together, using the new information and communication technologies. Development of an original script. Production of a movie from the script created. Creation and maintenance of an informative blog on the Internet (www.inbetween.blogs.sapo.pt).

Conclusions

The children of the fourth grade began to cope better with the difference in others mainly because they understood it and accepted it through an effective recognition of the positive aspects of it. The young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders started living more comfortably with their own difference having raised significantly their levels of self-esteem. The differences blurred and bonds were created.