

# NEWSLETTER

## THE BUSTA PROJECT

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### WELCOME TO THIS 1ST NEWSLETTER OF THE BUSTA PROJECT !

Altogether let's Build Skills through Training therapy Animals!

By gathering and working with schools and animal therapy organisations, the Erasmus-funded BUSTA project aims at providing pupils and students with the opportunity to have real life impact that goes beyond the boundaries of the school, on the lives of persons with disabilities: they will develop research and cooperative actions to integrate service animal training.

The partnership kick started the project when they met in May in Brussels. Since then, schools and animal therapy organisations have been working together to introduce pupils from the partner schools in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Belgium to the BUSTA project.



## BELGIUM: BRUSSELS OUTDOOR SCHOOL AND DYADIS

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In June, Brussels Outdoor School held two preparatory activities: introducing students to the project and recording video messages to share with students in the partnering schools in Bulgaria and Lithuania. The dog therapy organisation, Dyadis, visited the school with Aika, a dog training to be a service animal for persons with disabilities. Students were shown and explained training exercises as well as their purpose. Aika will soon go stay for two weeks in one of the pupils' home. This will ensure school friends keep in touch with Aika even during the summer holidays. During the hosting of the dog, the shelter family will receive guidance from the dog therapy association.



## BULGARIA: COMMUNITY FOR DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION AND PAINT AND QUARTER HORSE FOUNDATION BULGARIA

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In June, the pupils from the Community for Democratic Education visited the horse ranch where they were introduced to the herds of stallions and mares. They got to learn about the different breeds sheltered in Paint and Quarter Horse Foundation. This visit sparked the pupils' curiosity who enjoyed learning interesting facts about horses. The event continued with a discussion about disability. Some of the questions raised by pupils include: "What is normal and what is not?", "Is disability a disease or can you be disabled without having a disease?"; "What types of disabilities are there?"; "What types of disabilities do the children in our program have ". The day ended with volunteers demonstrating a therapeutic riding session.

## LITHUANIA: KLAIPEDOS MARIJOS MONTESSORI MOKYKLA-DARZELIS AND LIETUVOS JURU MUZIEJUS



The Dolphin Assisted Therapy Centre of the Lithuanian Sea Museum hosted meetings with the students of the 3rd grade of M. Montessori school-kindergarten. Students were first told an educational story about dolphins and then got to participate in creative activities, such as searching the names of the dolphins living in the dolphinarium. They later learnt about dolphin behaviour and relationships in the Sensory Integration Laboratory and then were introduced to the physiology and communication patterns of dolphins by the Sea Museum chief biologist. Before the final activity, the pupils were taken on an educational tour of the Sea Museum and introduced to the world of water, specifically finding out about the fauna and flora of the Baltic Sea. They were introduced to the protection of the sea animals and their environment. Finally, they could observe a dolphin training session where they learnt interesting facts about dolphins.

As a conclusion of these meetings, school pupils of the partner countries were introduced to the BUSTA project and were brought to reflect upon disability.

### STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO

The BUSTA partnership is now preparing their Learning, Training and Teaching activity that will be held in Sofia in October !

