

NEWSLETTER

THE BUSTA PROJECT

ERASMUS KA2 2021-1-LT01-KA220-SCH-000034363



WELCOME TO THIS 6TH NEWSLETTER OF THE BUSTA PROJECT !

Altogether let's Build Skills through Training therapy Animals!

The BUSTA project is unfortunately coming to an end soon however the results and the work accomplished from its partners will continue to be of benefit for many more years to come ! In this newsletter you can read more about what comes after BUSTA, the multiplier event in Bulgaria as well as the final TPM in Lithuania !

In plus, EASPD have been busy preparing for their last multiplier event which will take place on the 22nd of February in Brussels !



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FROM PROJECT TO SCIENCE

FEBRUARY 2024



Lithuanian Sea Museum together with partners: QUEST from Belgium, Paint and Quarter Horse Foundation from Bulgaria, Community for Democratic Education from Bulgaria, European association for service providers for persons with disabilities from Belgium, Klaipėdos Marijos Montessori Mokykla-darželis from Lithuania and associated partner Dyadis from Belgium for two years implemented a very valuable project for the development European competencies and values for children through animal training programs. During this project the partners created an educational film, a methodological book, and guidelines for schools, organizations working with people with disabilities, and therapeutic process organizing organizations. Three multiplier events presenting these results took part – in Lithuania, in Belgium and in Bulgaria.

However, the two-year project turned into an interesting idea – to disseminate this project results into the scientific context for having better and long-lasting effect. Two authors prof. dr. Brigita Kreiviniene (Lithuania) and Martina Paone (Belgium) summarized and analyzed the gathered research material, including questionnaires, surveys, free writings, etc. and put this good practice into scientific article published in Klaipėda University scientific journal Bridges. The article with the title “A New Approach Towards The Acquisition Of Democratic Skills In Children: Building Skills Through Training Therapy Animals” can be found here: DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15181/tbb.v91i2.2551> . The results of the narrative analysis show a significant improvement in the skills of children, improving the quality of their relationships with themselves, with others, with animals, and with the environment. This reaffirms that exposing children to authentic, hands-on experience can significantly enhance their cognitive, social and emotional development. Moreover, the article shows that the process also increased the soft skills of teachers and of external actors involved in the process, reinforcing the importance of an open schooling approach as a way of improving all society. The article contributes to empirical evidence to support the integration of experiential learning into the pedagogical realm.

FINAL TPM IN LITHUANIA

FEBRUARY 2024



On the 7th and 8th of February in Klaipėda, the final meeting of BUSTA project partners took place. Partners from Bulgaria and Belgium gathered in the located Baltic Sea Animals Rehabilitation Center of the Lithuanian Sea Museum. Partners met at the final TPM meeting to discuss the final report of project BUSTA which is going to be presented for National Agency in a while.

Two days of work were very fruitful, the Final report is nearly done, many questions have been discussed and partners decided that there should be a continuum for this novel project on how animals could be a part of school process, help children to develop the European identity, socialize, become leaders, get to know different cultures and countries, etc.

FINAL TPM IN LITHUANIA

FEBRUARY 2024



At the ending of meeting of partners, all could be a part of special program SOS at the old vessel which is a part of Museum's exposition. This modern educational and extreme experiences were organized in „Escape room SOS“ – on the museum-ship M52 „Sūduvis“. Each team had a possibility to participate in escape room activities. An imaginary mine hunting operation awaited the participants, during which they needed to listen well to the captain's commands, identify and decode received hidden messages, navigate the environment well, act alone, be quick, brave, smart when making decisions, and test the ship's special equipment.

MULTIPLIER EVENT BULGARIA

FEBRUARY 2024



The BUSTA project in Sofia, Bulgaria concluded with a successful multiplier event organized by the Community for Democratic Education (CDE). The event showcased the students' growth and development, with active participation in planning and execution. CDE students played crucial roles, contributing in various capacities, from catering selection to leading ice-breaking games. Their involvement demonstrated commitment and personal growth.

The event served as a reflection of the students' journey in the BUSTA project, receiving positive feedback from guests and validating the project's impact. Additionally, it provided a platform for parents and families associated with CDE to appreciate the collective achievements of the participants and reflect on the progress made over the two-year project.

As a conclusion of these exchanges, conference participants 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 final multiplier event in Belgium !



