

# CHAIN REACTION



ERASMUS + project



At the beginning of 2018, five schools: Primary School No. 154 from Warsaw (Poland), Detska Gradina 79 from Sofia (Bulgaria), Osnovna Škola Sucidar from Split (Croatia), Scoala Gimnaziala No. 7 from Buzau (Romania) and Grundzales pamatskola from Grundzale (Latvia), decided to submit an application for the possibility of implementing a project under the European Erasmus plus program. To the enormous joy of all interested parties, the project 'Chain Reaction' was approved and received funding.

The general goal of the project was to increase teachers' competences in conducting attractive lessons for students, promoting the bicycle as a healthy, ecological and attractive means of acquiring school knowledge among the group of teachers, students and their parents. The aim of the project was also to motivate students to learn foreign languages. The active use of English, which was the language of the project, was to make the students overcome the language barrier, shyness and fear of contact with people from other countries, enrich their vocabulary and learn to use English in practice in everyday situations. Another goal was to get acquainted with local customs, the region and people living there in the partner school countries, as well as to expand cultural awareness, learn tolerance and openness. Apart from expanding knowledge about other countries and getting to know their natural environment, students and teachers had the opportunity to exchange experiences and promote knowledge about other cultures, their similarities and differences.

We invite you to familiarize yourself with the material on the activities undertaken in the project and their results.



# Erasmus+

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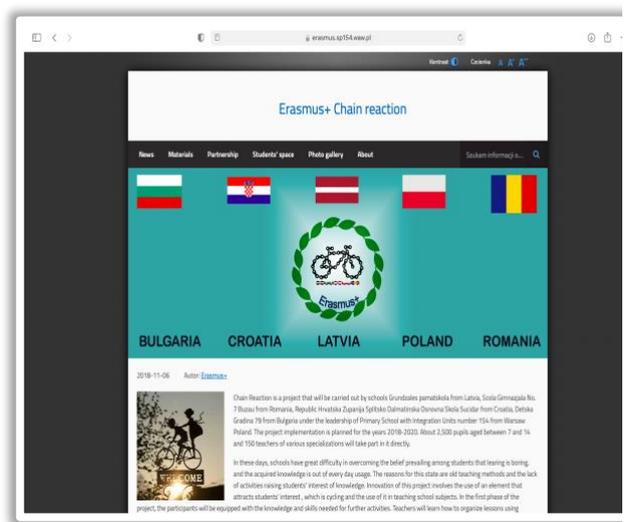
**FREE PUBLICATION**



The "Chain Reaction" project under the Erasmus + program started in September 2018 with a competition for the project logo. The competition was addressed to students from partner schools. A lot of work was submitted and the jury had a difficult choice. Ultimately, the project of a student from Latvia won. It shows the symbol of the bicycle, our leitmotif of the project, and the flags of the participating countries, linked together like links in a chain. What a beautiful symbolism!

The next step was to create a website where we posted information about our project. There, we presented information about the schools participating in the project, published information about all our activities, shared the results of our work and shared our memories.

The website can be found at [www.erasmus.sp154.waw.pl](http://www.erasmus.sp154.waw.pl). So far, the site has nearly 27,000 hits. We encourage you to visit it!



Schools undertook a series of dissemination activities and the local community quickly learned about our project. Articles about "Chain Reaction" appeared in local newspapers, on the official profiles of our cities on social media. We were even invited to the radio, which was an unforgettable experience. We have also included links to the project website on the official websites of our schools.

In November 2018, for the first time, we had the opportunity to get to know each other better during the teachers' meeting at Primary School No. 154 in Warsaw. At that time, a training "How to ensure safety during the organization of cycling lessons?" was organized for the participants. We also discussed the details of future activities in the project. The meeting was also an opportunity to exchange experiences and observations about the education system in Poland.



We shared the knowledge gained during the safety training in our schools. Together with qualified medical staff, we conducted first aid workshops for students. During the classes, we could learn how to act in the event of an accident in which someone suffered, how to call for help, dress wounds and perform CPR. This valuable knowledge will be useful to us not only when cycling.

The next activity was a workshop for students on bicycle preparation and minor repairs. During the workshops, the students acquired the knowledge needed to maintain and adjust the bicycle, learned how to detect, assess and remove any irregularities in its working. They also learned about the usage of some tools, devices and technical instruments, they learned how to correctly read indicators on these devices. Students developed an attitude of responsibility and caution when using tools and a habit of maintaining order at the workplace.



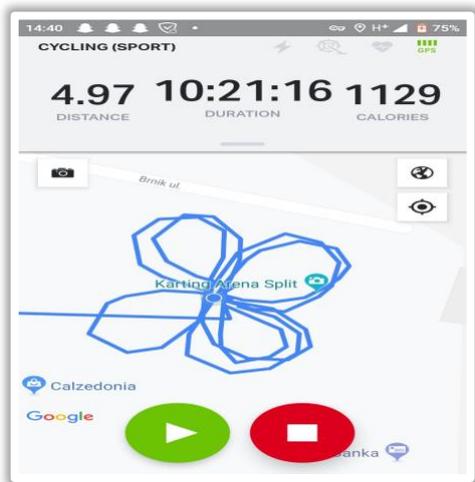
In February 2019, we organized a short-term exchange of groups of students and a training meeting for teachers. The meeting place was a school in Split (Croatia). As a result, students developed their cultural sensitivity, interpersonal skills and language competences. Thanks to the cooperation with other students, the children had the opportunity to acquire practical English language skills, exchange knowledge and make new friends. During workshops and discussion panels, teachers developed scenarios for English lessons with a bicycle as the leitmotif. After returning to their schools, they organized open lessons, where they used the created lesson plans in practice.



In spring 2019, schools participating in the project conducted a competition "Bicycle school". Students, parents and teachers from partner schools competed among themselves in the number of kilometers cycled. The number of kilometers reported to school coordinators had to be documented using generally available applications for measuring the distance covered. The competition was fierce and the number of kilometers traveled exceeded all expectations. The competition has become an annual event in our calendars.

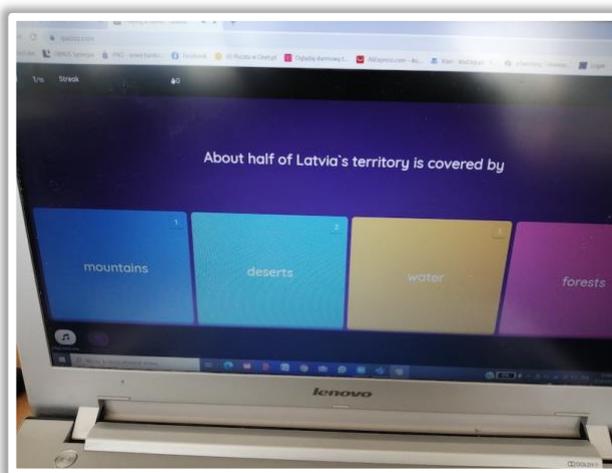
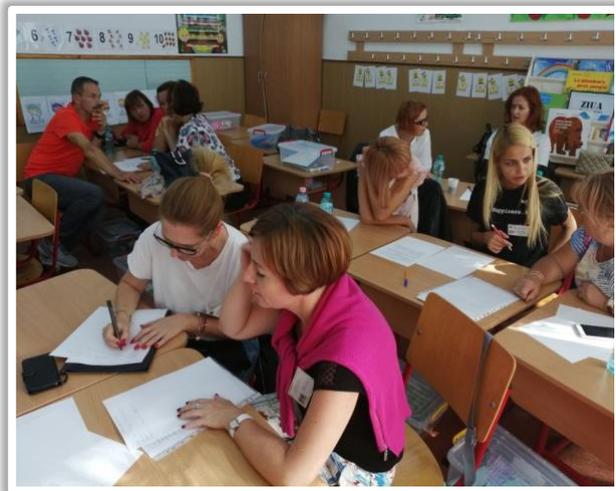
The next meeting of teachers and students took place in May 2019, in Grundzale in Latvia. This small, but very charming and picturesquely situated school hosted participants for 5 days. At that time, teachers created science lesson scenarios that they later used for open lessons in their schools, and familiarized themselves with the education system in Latvia. The students could see what a typical Latvian student's day looks like. They also took an active part, among others, in bike tours, visiting Riga and exploring the bicycle museum. It was an unforgettable week!





Despite the holidays, our project continued. At that time, a competition was held in which the task was to drive a specific route in order to create a drawing visible in the route tracking application. The creativity of the participants was limitless. In August, just before going back to school, the safest bike routes to school were developed. The maps have been provided with directions on how to get there and potentially dangerous places have been marked. The culmination of the work was driving the developed route together

The subject of the bicycle can be combined with teaching history and art. This was expressed by the teachers who prepared scenarios for such activities during the meeting in Buzau (Romania). Moreover, they also participated in a discussion panel on informal education and visited the European Information Point. At the same time, the students who visited the Scoala Gimnaziala no. 7 participated in competitions, made bicycles from recycled materials, made presentations on the history of bicycles and, equally importantly, made new friendships.



One of the many results of the project was also the development and publication of a brochure on the use of new technologies in teaching. During the meeting at Kindergarten No. 79 in Sofia (Bulgaria), the teachers exchanged good practices in this area. The knowledge gained at that time resulted in lessons with students who created, for example, quizzes on the Kahoot platform, as well as during remote learning, which unexpectedly became our everyday life, shortly after this meeting.

Participation in the project also resulted in an increase in our language skills. We had the opportunity to use English not only during international meetings, but also by writing letters, messages or Christmas and New Year cards. We believe that the tradition of students' writing wishes will be one of the activities that will certainly continue even after the end of the project.



The aforementioned pandemic slightly thwarted our plans. Not only were we forced to extend the duration of the project, hoping to get back to normal soon, but also had to postpone or slightly modify the rest of the project activities. Despite the pandemic, some of our schools managed to establish school clubs for bicycle enthusiasts and conduct a campaign for safety while cycling "Put on a helmet"

Due to limitations in international traffic and sanitary restrictions, we also had to change the form of our last joint meeting, which was scheduled to take place in Warsaw. Instead, on May 31, 21 - June 2, 2021, an online meeting of students and teachers of partner schools was held on the Zoom platform. 48 students and 11 teachers participated in the meeting. Participants had a chance to get to know each other better by answering questions in English, discussing topics important to them in groups or cooperating to get out of the virtual escape room.

