

The meeting in Kungsbacka, Sweden



Kuggaviksgården in Åsa

During a both rainy and sunny week in May 2019 the second learning, teaching and training meeting of the ERASMUS + project

SENHIAS took place in Kungsbacka, Sweden. Teachers and students from the partner schools in Belgium, Slovenia and Portugal got together with their Swedish friends for a week of field trips, visits, sightseeing and social activities. The guests stayed in typical Swedish red houses at the hostel

Kuggaviksgården in the village of Åsa, situated by the sea just south of Kungsbacka. Being close to nature and further from all the venues in a bigger city, this encouraged the students to socialize and to get to know each other. As did the activities during the week.

As part of the main topic for the project, the theme for the week was invasive species in marine ecosystems, as well as cultural- and natural heritage. Starting off the week did a welcome meeting in school, and a following round tour of the building and facilities. Before lunch, the student also discussed questions that all of them had prepared answers to before the meeting. The knowledge, about invasive species in marine environments, the students got out of this lay ground for the construction of panels on invasive species later on during the week. In the afternoon the group went to Fjärås Bräcka to study the unique surroundings and natural heritage in the form of a ridge formed during the last ice age. Being a place for old settlements, the group also got to visit graves from the Viking period, an important part of the Swedish cultural heritage.

The week continued with guided visits to the museum of World culture and to Universeum, a science center in Gothenburg. Both visits corresponded well to the theme of the project, concerning natural heritage and invasive species of the oceans. The same counted for the field trip to the national park of Kosterhavet. Including the travel time the visit there took a whole day. The students learned more about the biodiversity in the sea next to the Swedish west coast and how different species adapt or not to for example different salinity in the water. They also got the opportunity to use proper equipment to collect species from the water, both invasive- and native species. Also during a visit to the harbour of Gothenburg together with scientists from Gothenburg university the students collected species from the sea, the invasive black spotted goby and the invasive crab *Hemigrapsus sanguineus*. The scientists also gave an informative lecture about the problem and consequences with invasive species in marine ecosystems. Not directly connected to marine ecosystems was the guided visit to Gothenburg Botanical garden. The visit mainly concerned natural heritage, and the



group got to see a lot of plants from different parts of the world and learned a lot about how different ecosystems react to environmental changes like climate change and invasion of alien plants.

During the last day of the meeting the students concluded the week and their newly received knowledge and created digital panels about what they had learned during the week. They all presented their panels to the rest of the group, spreading their knowledge. These panels will once again be shown at the final meeting in Belgium in may 2020.



Aranäsgymnasiet in Kungsbacka, Sweden

Besides the mentioned activities the meeting encouraged a cultural exchange with the students and teachers socialising during meals and in the evenings. The farewell dinner ended with traditional dance around the “maypole” as the Swedes do every year in June.

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