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ACCIÓN CLAVE 1 (KA101): 2020-1-ES01-KA101-078037

COURSE: "STRUCTURED EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO SCHOOLS/INSTITUTES & TRAINING SEMINARS IN PORTUGAL" DATES: 19 – 25 November 2023 HOST INSTITUTION: ENGLISH MATTERS

PARTICIPANT: YOLANDA RUIZ GÁMEZ

This exchange course financed by the Erasmus + Program allowed me to comprehend in depth the features of the Portuguese educational system, both in its public and private spheres and in very diverse socio-economic contexts. In that vein, the numerous visits to educational facilities of different nature implemented not only in Lisbon, but also in Sintra and Coimbra was a unique opportunity to have an immersive experience into said educational system.

I had the opportunity to learn new pedagogical approaches, such as teaching methods based upon project works or problem-solving projects. Another remarkable teaching method I had the opportunity to improve was the use of ICTs, which provides a rich interaction with students.

Additionally, the fact that these seminars targeted a multi-national group of trainees provided me with a valuable insight into my colleagues' own experiences, with whom I had the chance to discuss and contrast the differences between our national educational systems and different pedagogical approaches. Moreover, our visits to the different educational facilities not only enriched the trainees' views and experiences, but also offered to our Portuguese colleagues who warmly hosted us the opportunity to learn on the methodologies and the educational framework of our respective countries.

Furthermore, I was also exposed to the vibrant Portuguese culture through different visits made through Field learning project "Contexts4Content". I had the chance to experience the "Images of Society in Lisboa" learning on its multifaceted elements. I could wittness the student life in Universidade de Coimbra and enjoyed the 19th Century architecture of Sintra.

In brief, these structured visits and training seminars offered me the opportunity to improve my teaching methods and to motivate my students in their learning process.