



Europass Teacher Academy Expert visit to Masafra Bari Italy

Blog Helen Callanan BCL, BL Post Grad Dip MA Linguistics

Monday 17 October 2022

Arrived in Masafra Bari, Italy at 14.00, after getting up at 4 am in Dublin Ireland.

I was met by Gracia Erasmus + Programme organiser and had some time to get briefed on the logistics of the programme

The first Teacher training was at 15.00 to 18.00 for Secondary school teachers. Approximately 20 teachers attended the training with very mixed levels of English. Three of the teachers were English language teachers, the remaining were subject teachers. The training started with an Introduction to CLIL, what it is, what are the components (5C's Content, Cognition, Communication, Community & Competences) and what each component does in a CLIL lesson. Then teachers participated in a CLIL lesson as if they were students. Teachers' schema was activated by using jigsaw pieces of pictures of the Great Famine in Ireland. Teachers in groups had to create whole pictures and if they did not have enough pieces they had to exchange and negotiate for pieces they needed to win the competition – the first group with the most complete number of pictures.

(1) Activate schema & Guess lesson topic

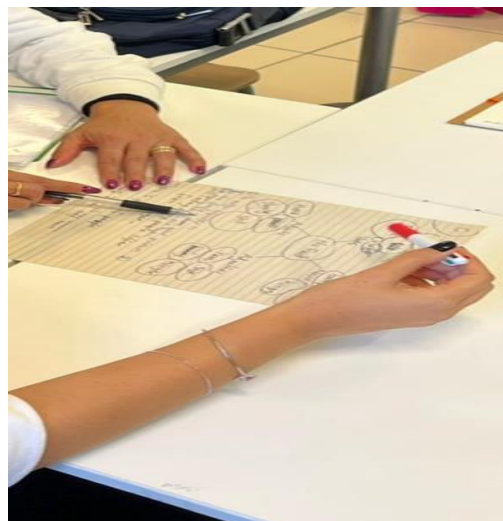


Teachers then mind mapped language using dictionaries and mind map template and then group swapped sheets and created definitions using the template to teach each other the meaning looking for a deeper meaning when using the words

(2) Getting language support

In groups complete the spaces. Now groups swap sheets

Using format :
To verb + adverb is adjective noun make five sentences. After each sentence write What we mean by this is





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(3)Speculate about content of lesson

Teachers in groups then created 10 questions for a given sentence about the Famine and asked their questions to another group who guessed the answers to the questions e.g. why did the potato die, where did the people go who left Ireland , why did the people die?

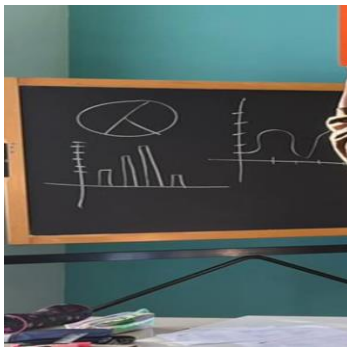
All in all a lot to get through in three hours but the teachers really enjoyed the activities and saw first-hand by doing the CLIL methodology how to activate students' schema, language support (language mapping) for the oral activities (asking questions and answering) and learning content-date of Famine, why it happened and the impact of the Famine on Irish people.

Tuesday 18 October 2022

Secondary school classes

8 am start with first class of secondary school students. Class started with students using a Find someone who with questions about do you eat fruit, take exercise for more than 1 hour a day, use a computer for more then 3 hours a day. Each student had to get 10 names on their sheet. Then in groups they added the numbers of the answers.

They pick which picture would be the best for the numbers(using HOTS to evaluate & create!!)



They had and to make the picture(graph) from the numbers.



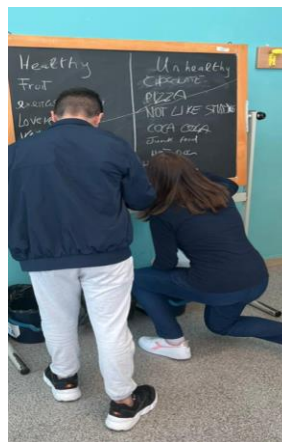
Students then presented their graphs to the whole class.



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Then they did a board race with the words for healthy and unhealthy things.



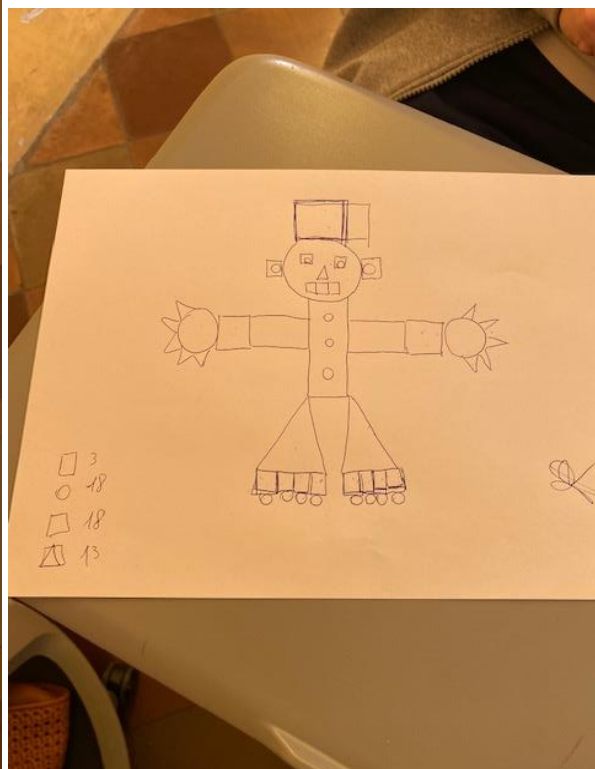
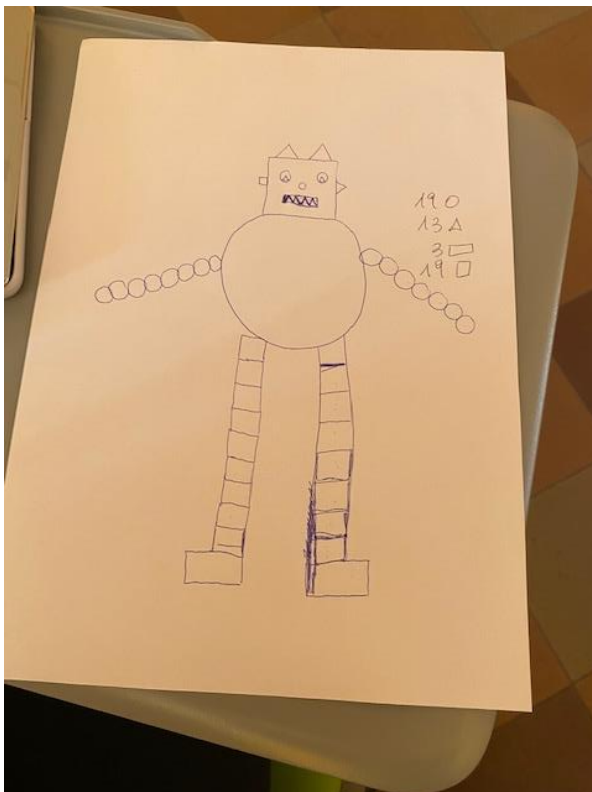
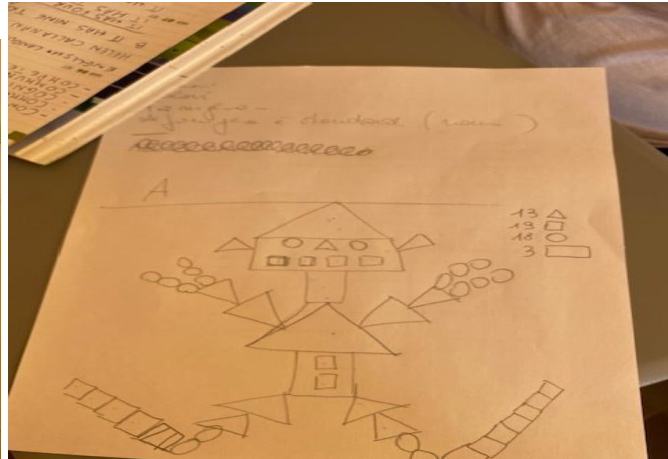
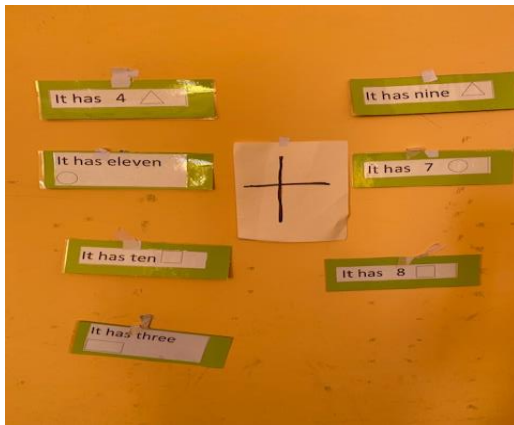
Primary School classes

At 11.15, the first of two classes with Primary school kids aged 7/8 years. This lesson was a Math lesson about shapes, triangle, circle, square and rectangle. I started by air writing the shapes and children listened. Then I checked listening and shapes with thumbs up and thumbs down depending if the shape I air drew matched the sound/name of the shape. Then children did a running dictation in pairs of the shapes and numbers.

Then they added the shapes together and drew a robot using all the shapes. They had to do subtraction when making the robot!!



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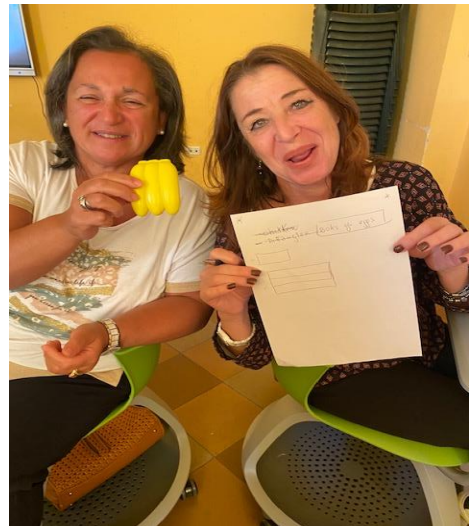
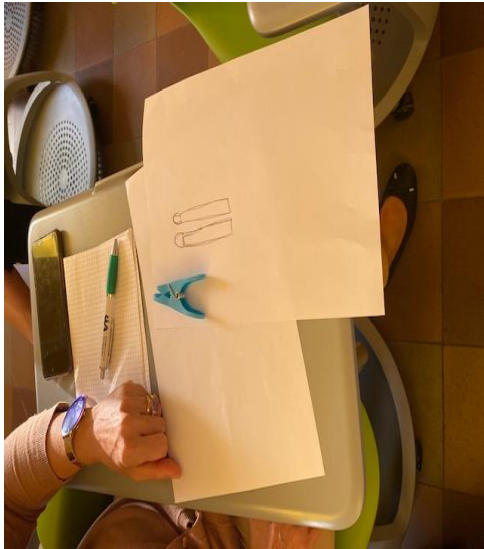
They gave their Robot names. Then each student mimed what the robot can and can not do and the other children guessed the verbs e.g. cook run fly walk .Great fun for all of them. **Not one word of Italian was spoken as I do not speak Italian.** The **whole class was in English.** Best part for me was they all gave me a huge hug when I was leaving!!!

Primary school teacher training

Approximately 20 teachers attended the training with very mixed levels of English. The training started with an Introduction to CLIL, what it is, what are the components (5C's Content, Cognition, Communication, Community & Competences) and what each component does in a CLIL lesson. The second part of the training focused on giving simple instructions in English. Teachers were given specific words draw straight line, circle rectangle, square etc at the top, the bottom, the middle and had to use only this language to get their partner to draw the shape with a variety of results and a lot of laughter!!



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Wednesday 19 October 2022

Wednesday morning comprised me teaching CLIL lessons at

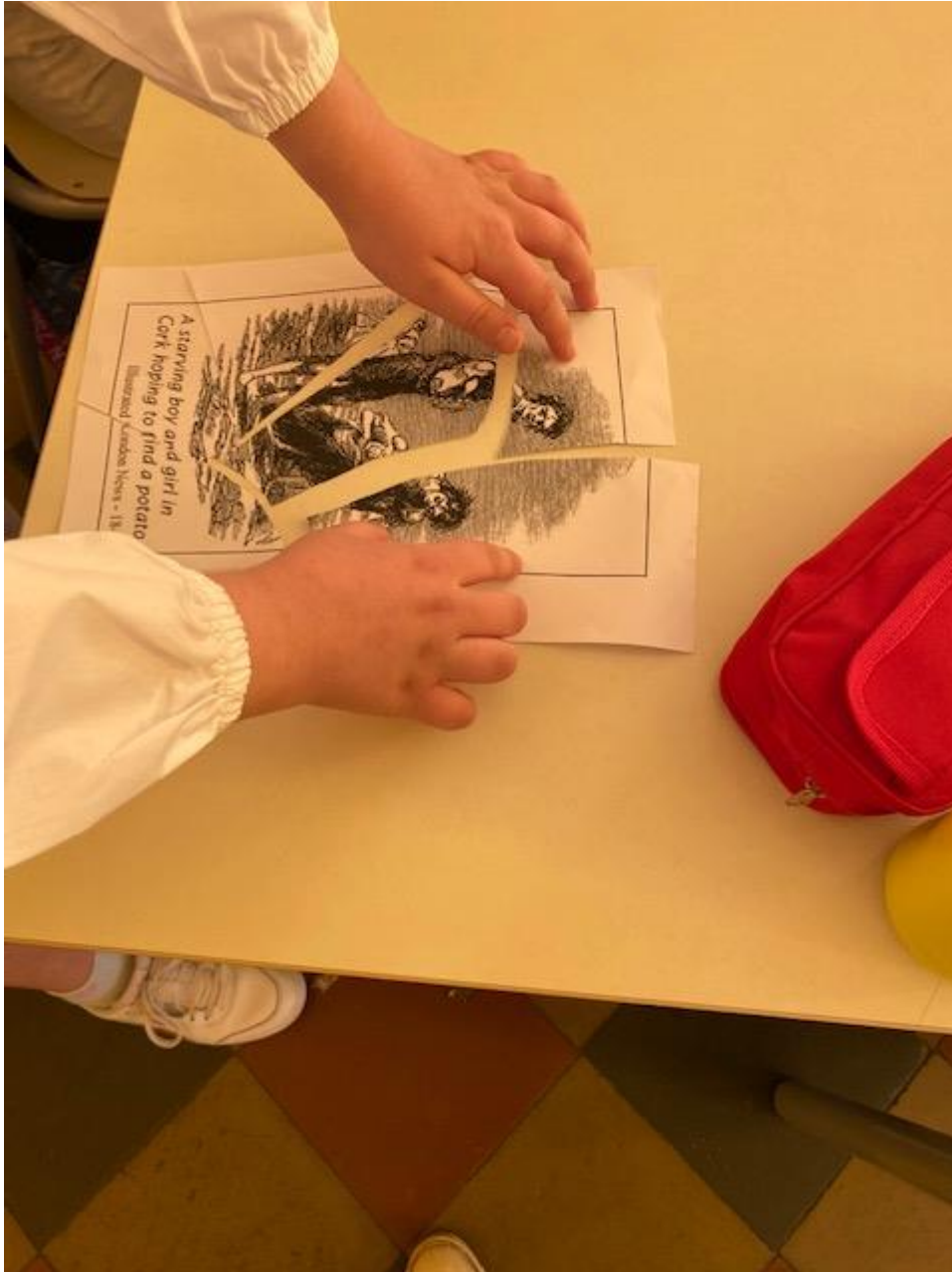
9:00 – 11:00 Primary school (2 classes of the 5th year – 10 years old) and

In Primary the CLIL lesson was a history lesson on the Irish Famine. Children did the activating schema activities while watched by their class teacher. Then they connected the story from the pictures. They then created questions from 2 sentences : In 1845 the potato died in Ireland, One million died and one million left Ireland. They used What , when where



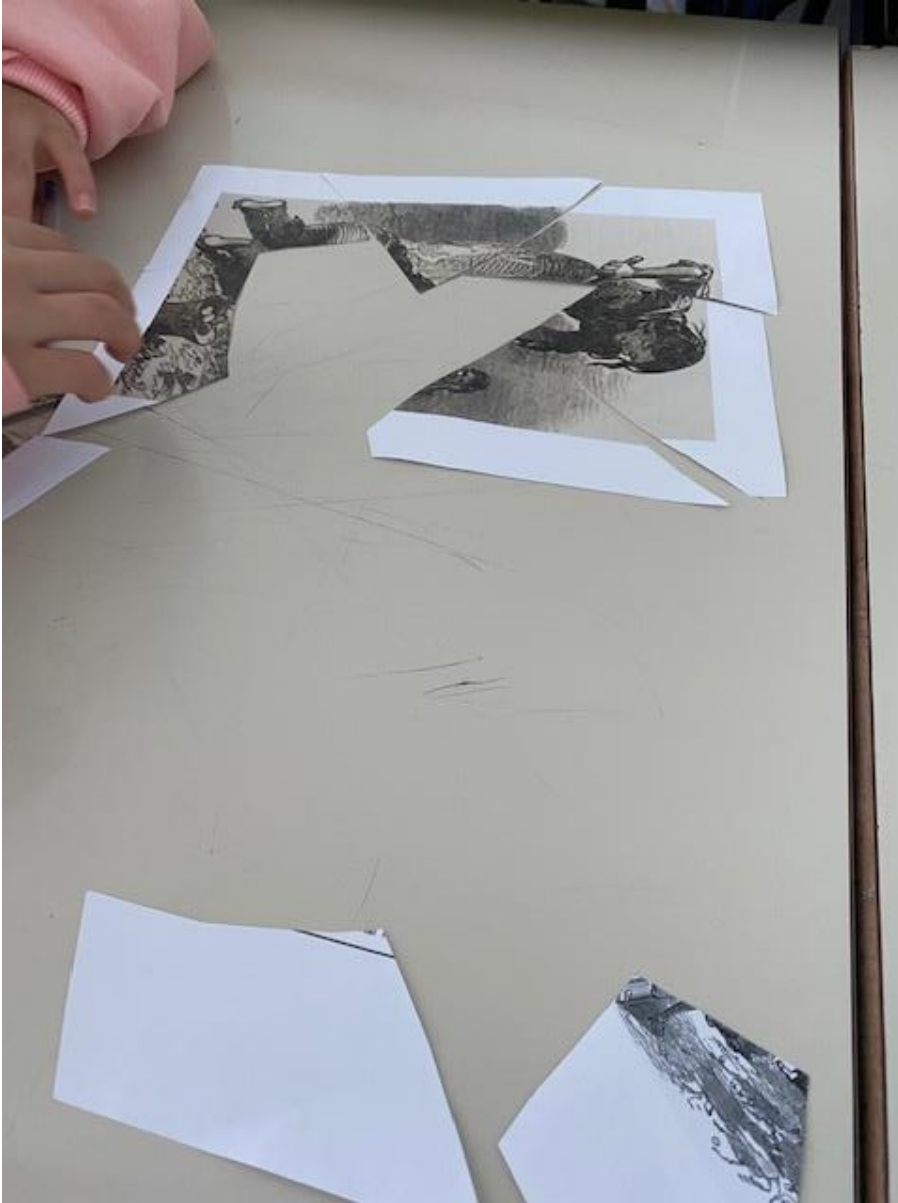
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how who to make questions. Groups asked each other groups and students guessed the answers. One group even guessed that as people spoke English in Ireland, they went to English speaking countries. Amazing how prior knowledge of students helps to teach content!!!!



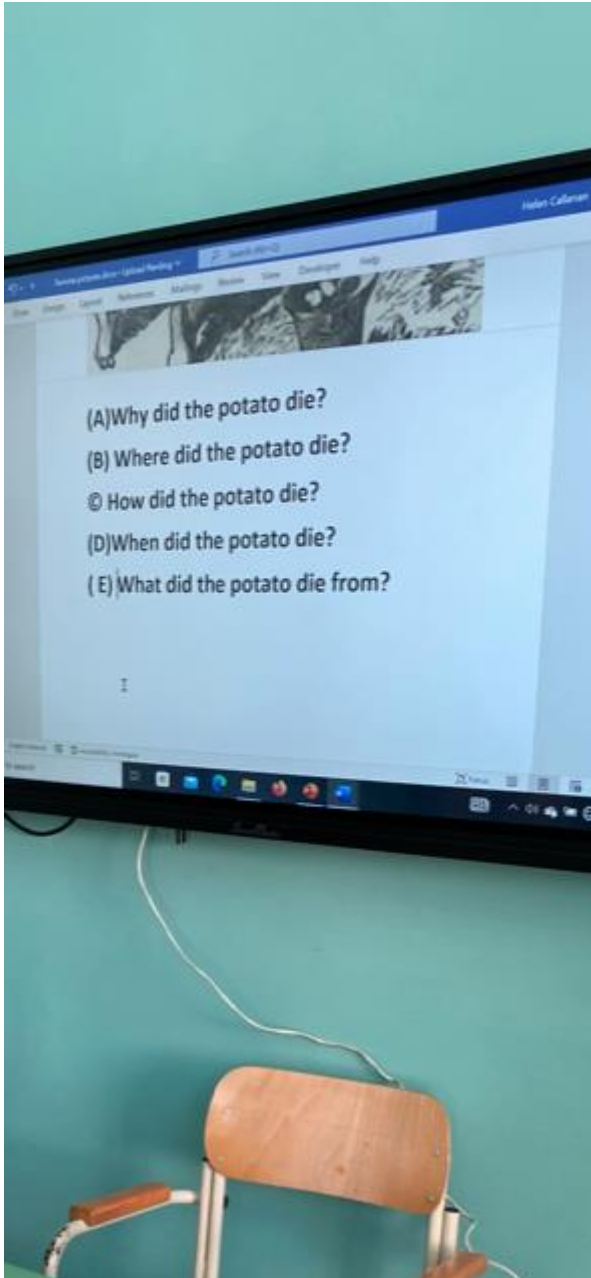


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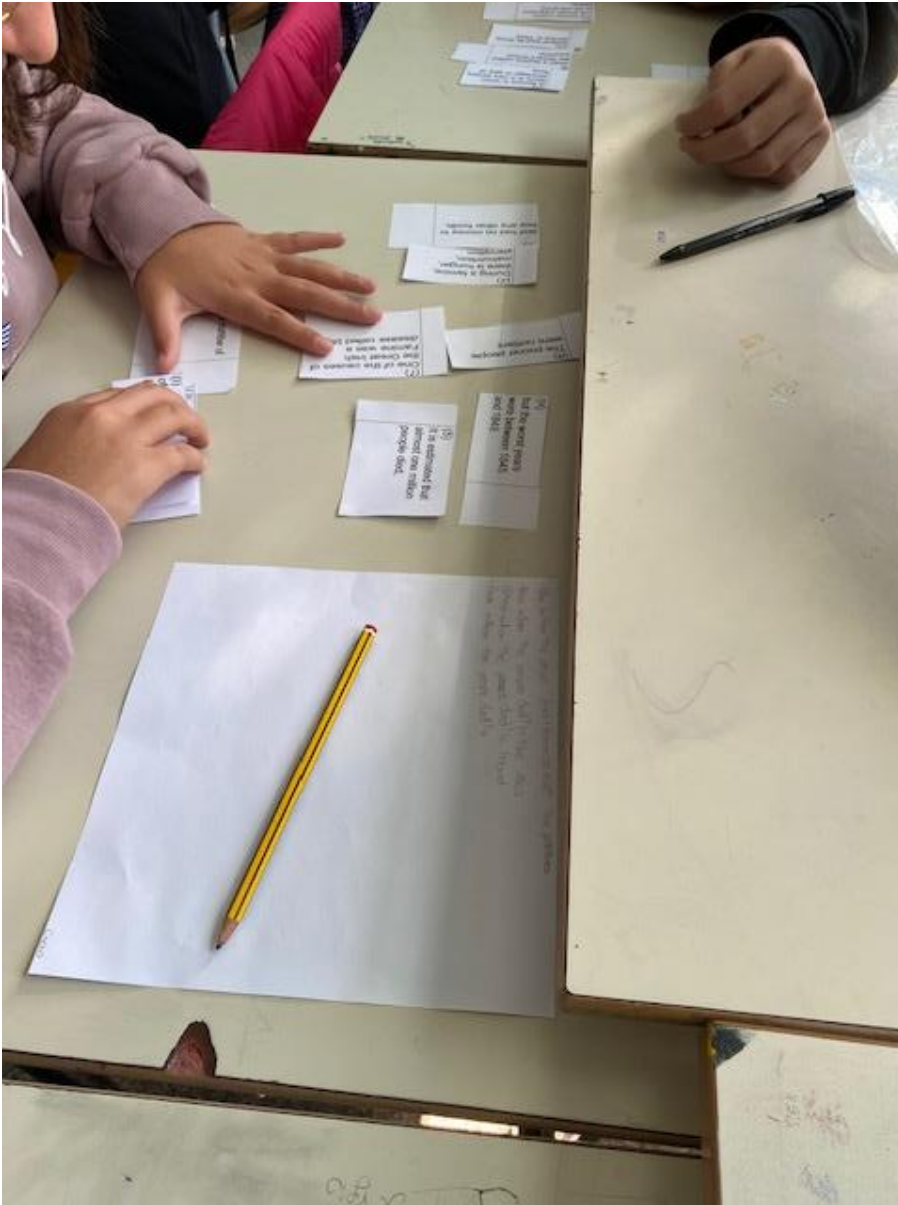
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Students also did a heads to tails matching exercise about the Famine.

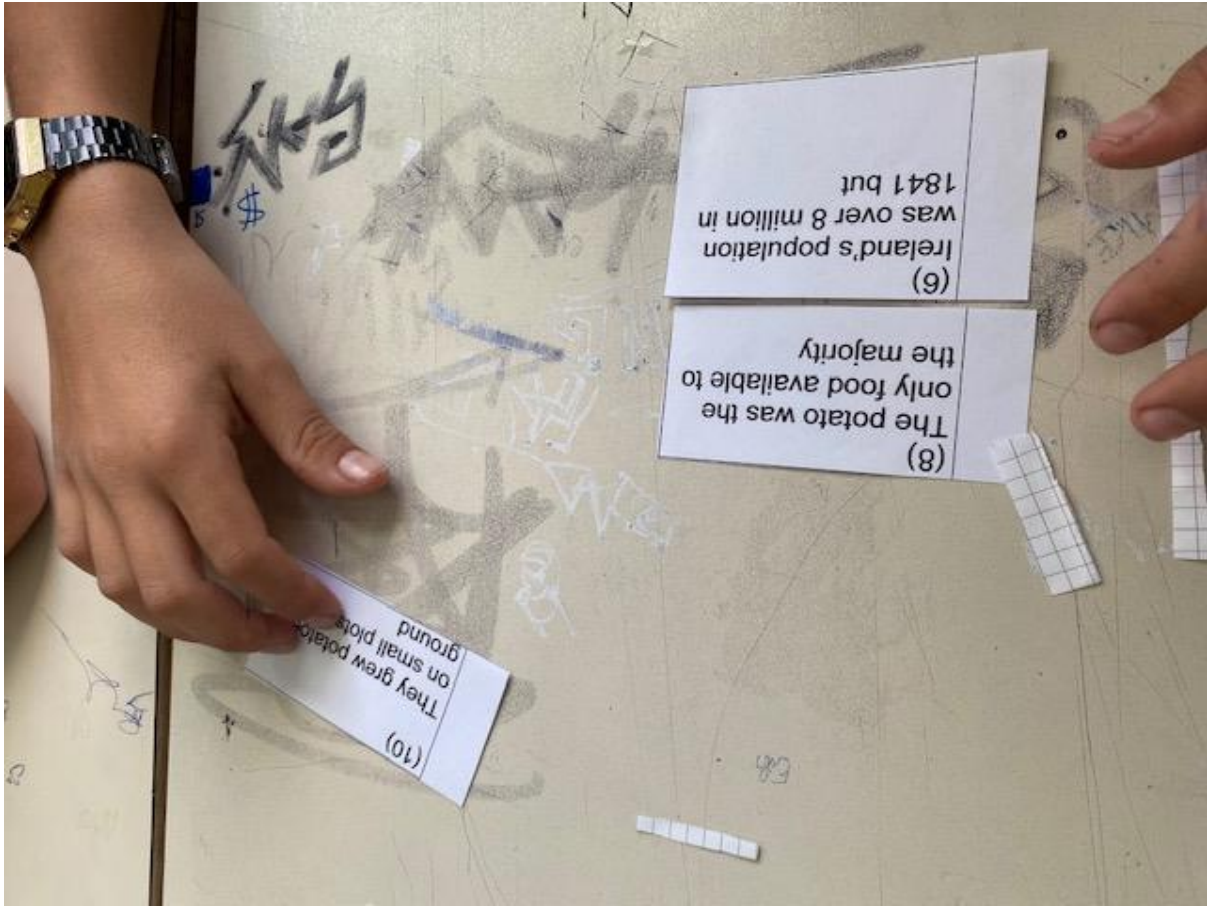


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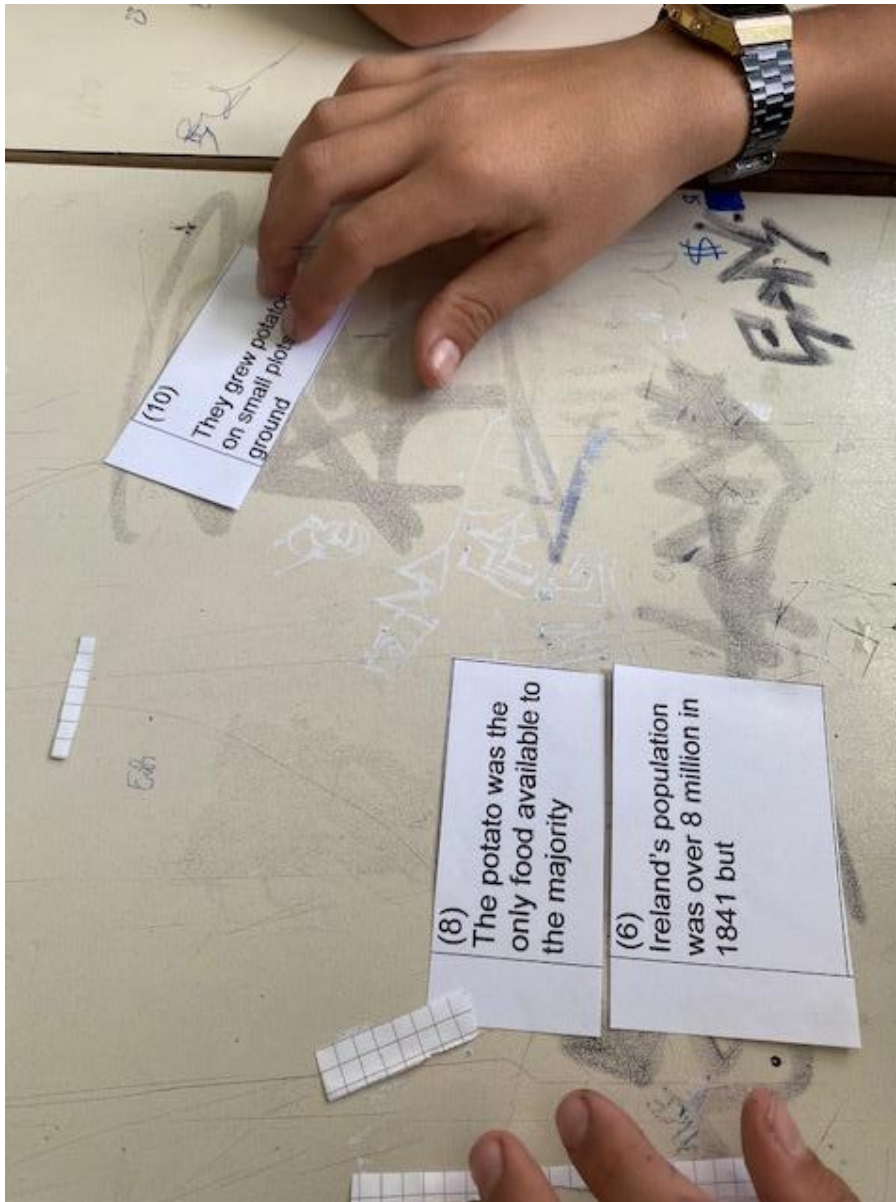


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11:00 – 13:00 Kindergarten (one class with 30 children aged 5)

A fantastic class with 25 five-year-olds. They learnt colours in English and were able to sing the rainbow song in English. They even learnt and could count to 5 in English by the end of the class. Great kids, great time. Attention span good though they were very tired after the class. No photos for obvious reasons!!

Wednesday afternoon Teacher training

15:00 – 16:30 Primary school and Kindergarten teachers

CLIL training focused on scaffolding lessons with using children's' imagination and prior knowledge to scaffold content. Teacher gave presentations on how I taught the CLIL lessons in Primary & Kindergarten classes that they had watched. Activating schema and imagination with open ended

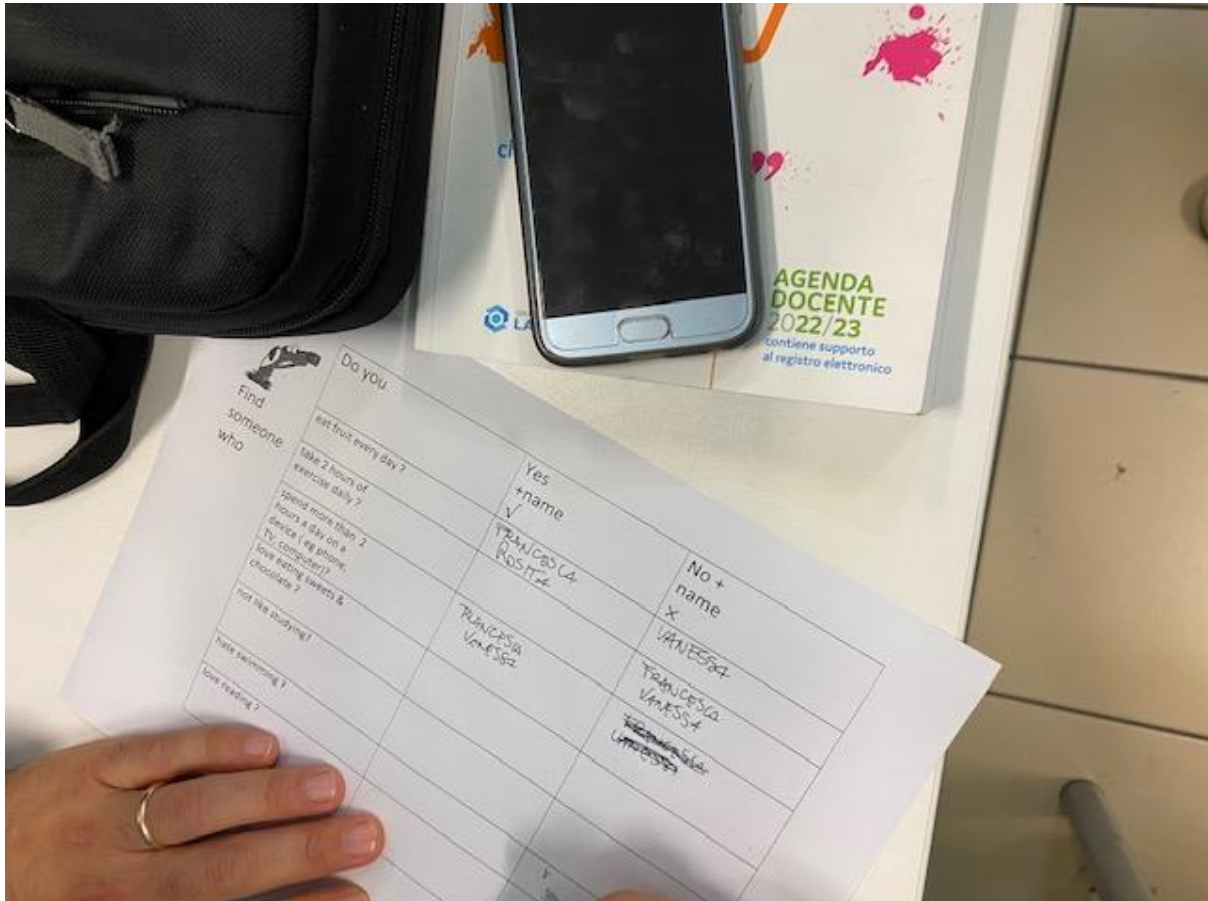


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questions in Primary taught most of the content with Teacher only giving dates and impact of famine.

16:30 – 18:00 Secondary school teachers

This training focused on a math class and teachers did all the activities themselves. Using questionnaire they collected data,



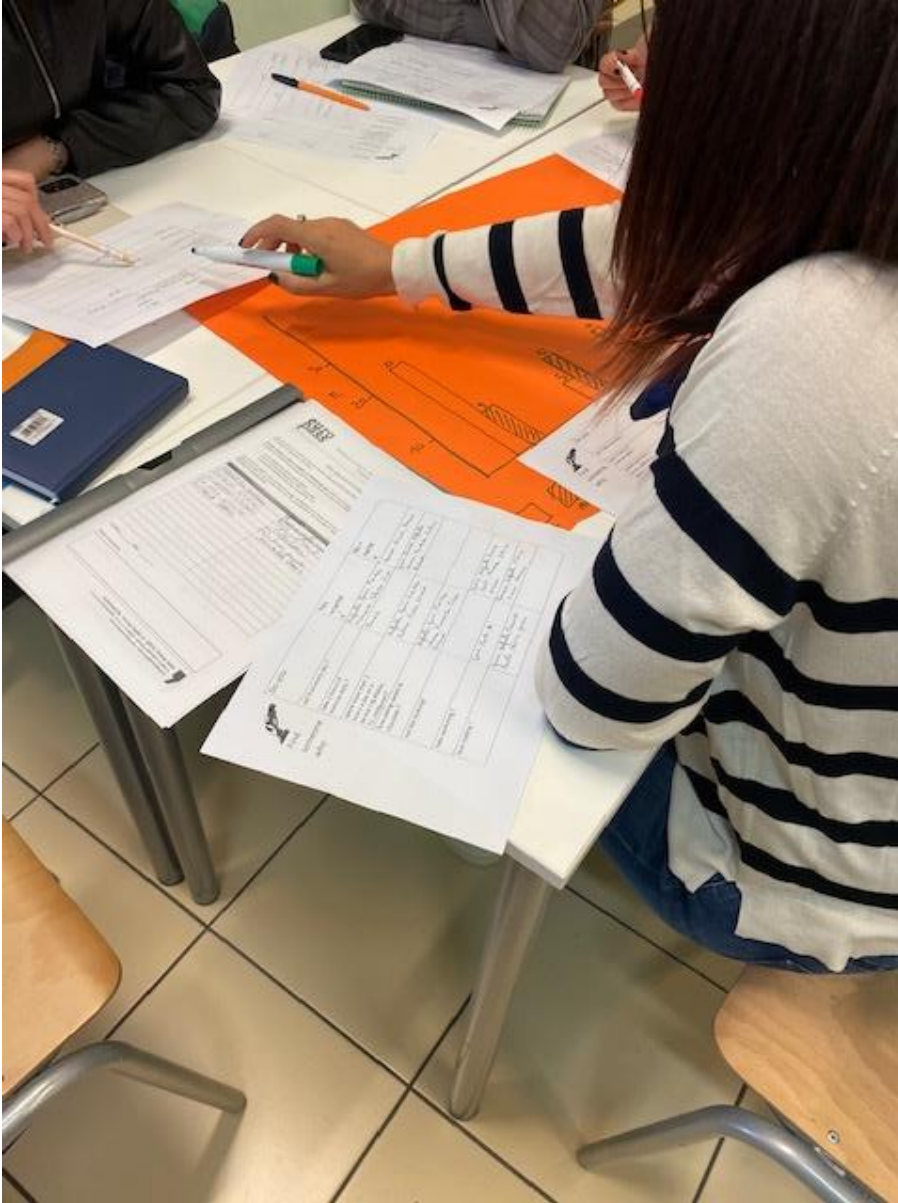


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selected graphs for data and they created graphs.

Each group presented their data to whole group.



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Amazing teachers Grazia and Toni who were my minders, helpers and encouragement throughout the trip A HUGE THANK YOU



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Thursday afternoon training for Primary & Secondary teachers will focus on maximising group work and giving clear simple instructions in English in a CLIL class. Then 2 hours with Kindergarten kids on Friday morning and Dublin here I come after a busy but great experience for me , the students, and the teachers.

Helen Callanan



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