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LOGBOOK

“Structured Educational Visit to Schools & Training Seminars in Sweden”

Stockholm, 23rd – 29th April 2023

(Participants: Rosa Favale, Francesca Paola Notaristefano, Grazia Orlando, Tonia Colella, Bianca Patrizia Cascioli, Maria Rosaria Termite)





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Course programme

Sunday, April 23rd

Venue at Westmanska Palatset – Stockholm. Meeting with the President of the Organization *English Matters*, Mr. Eduard Marin, who welcomes the participants coming from 11 European countries. Teachers have come to study and reflect on the Swedish educational system, ranked among the best in the world.

After the introduction to programmes, participants have had an overview of the European dimension in teaching (principles, structure, framework) and an introduction to Sweden field learning “Context4Content” approach. The coordinator has focused his speech on the tools on learning and professional development.

The atmosphere has been relaxing and friendly, participants have familiarised one another thanks to a group activity and a quiz about Swedish culture.

Monday, April 24th

Field Learning project (Contexts4Content), from 09:30 to 12:00 Images of Sweden in Stockholm. We spent the morning exploring Gamla Stan (old town) with a local guide. The Field Project gave the participants a great opportunity to know one another and start building the European dimension, as well as gaining valuable historical and social context for the visits to Swedish schools.





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Venue at Westmanska Palatset from 14:00 to 18:00.

The conference was held by the vice principal of a local school, who has given very interesting insights into the Swedish Educational system and Culture. In Sweden teaching is a prestigious profession and teachers have great authority in school and society. Participants learned about the structure of the educational system, the functioning of the Swedish “welfare market” and the impact of politics, as well as the different “flavours” of Swedish schools.

In the second part of the meeting participants have been divided into mixed groups, in preparation for the on-site school visits.

Tuesday, April 25th

Educational Visit to the school Lilla Alby skola in Sundbyberg. Participants have been welcomed by the Principal of the school Iréne Svensson and other teachers. Our international group had the opportunity to take part to lessons, visit the spaces and the craft laboratories: metal and wood working and textile, where students are taught the importance of manual and collaborative work. Participants have shared lunch break with the school staff and the students, a great moment of integration of school community.





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Wednesday, April 26th

Educational Visit to the school Ursvikskolan in Sundbyberg. Today the principal of the visit Mrs Christine Elm has welcomed us.



She illustrated the main aspects of the way in which the school works. A group of students have made us know all the spaces of the school, classes, laboratories like wood and textile. They have shown great kindness, helpfulness and very good communicative skills in English. Participants gained valuable insights into the functioning of the world-renowned Swedish educational system.

In the afternoon teachers visited the fascinating Vasa Museum where they had an insight into the Swedish perspective on learning outside the classroom. Participants admired the majestic Vasa warship, which sunk just 1 km into her maiden voyage in 1628 before being recovered some 300 years later for visitors to learn from and enjoy.

Thursday, April 27th

Educational Visit to the school LBS Stockholm Sodra. The vice principal of the school Mr Karl Martin Duke has welcomed us. He has shown us around the classrooms where we have noticed the relaxing and friendly atmosphere with the students studying on very comfortable sofas in an



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autonomous way, according to the Swedish Individual Learning model, where the teacher acts as a mentor.

The last part of the afternoon has been dedicated to group work for the presentation of the participants' Portfolio.



Friday, April 20th

The day was dedicated to the discovery of the Swedish Cultural Heritage. We began our day back in the dark ages of Swedish history, with a visit to the Jarlabanke runestones, legacy of 10th century feudal lord Jarlabanke Ingefastsson.

Next, we continued to the picture-postcard village of Sigtuna, the oldest inhabited site in Sweden, where colourful wooden houses are beautifully reflected in the waters of lake Mälaren.

Finally, we explored the town of Uppsala, whose historic role as a hub of learning and culture in Sweden dates back to the founding of the University in the 15th century.



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Saturday, April 29th

Presentation of Learning Portfolios, evaluation and departure.

Some important facts about Education in SWEDEN

- **Education is very important in Swedish society.**
- **Education is free** at all levels including University.
- **Education is personalized.** Each student's learning pace is respected.
- **Learning to learn:** Students can choose subjects and their study paths.
- **Trust-based responsibility:** students can move freely from the classroom around the school.
- **Out of classroom:** Students can study in small groups in the library, in the hall, in the corridors.
- **Topic based Learning:** While teaching, it's important to help students find the connections between the studied subjects.
- **Learning by doing:** It's better to learn while doing experiments and practical activities.



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- **Good conditions for handiwork:** Students are able to create small wooden objects or sewing products since primary school because manual work is considered very important.
- **Being healthy and ecological:** students use their bicycles to get to school and do lots of sport activities at school.

During the educational visits to the schools we have been struck by:

- Different kinds of classrooms and laboratories inside the schools, and open spaces outside with games and playground for children;
- Silent students and relaxed and motivated teachers who respect one another;
- Teachers can have break moments (Fika time) where they can have a coffee and talk with the colleagues in a comfortable teachers' room;
- There are differences in the students' preparation but they are helped by the school to reach their learning goals.