



Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Turhan Social Sciences High School

ERASMUS +

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Why we have implemented this project!

The number of visually impaired people in the world is known to be 285 million (World Health Organization, 2012), and according to the statistics presented by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK, 2010) in 2010, 280.014 disabled people, 8.4% of whom were visually impaired live in the country. It is stated in the researches that 36.33 % of the disabled people in Turkey cannot read or write. 2.24 % of the disabled students can find a chance to go to university.

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It has been understood through researches that students with visual impairment have long been ignored in terms of education and providing the correct environment for them to get the most benefit. Despite the ignorance of the high number of people with visual impairment, it is argued that blindness does not actually hinder learning; instead, their aural sensitivity and memory put them in a more advantageous position on condition that the required methodological and pedagogical conditions can be created.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sOL_w-iVM&feature=youtu.be

Our Objectives are:

- To increase the quality of education that the students with visual impairment at our school are exposed to during the whole academic year,
- To provide sufficient and efficient technical support for these students,
- To design effective learning environment for the visually impaired students,
- To extend the knowledge of teachers in terms of teaching strategies,
- To be a pioneer name among other high schools with blind students in our country, thus reaching a position to help the government develop politics regarding blind education.
- To transfer good practices applied in other schools and adapt/innovate them for our school



Intellectual Outputs of the Project!

O1: Audio-Library

This Audio-Library, which will be created by the students of the coordinator organisation with the help of their teachers using the new devices to be bought during the implementation of the project, is going to be a valuable source not only for our visually impaired students but also for other visually impaired students around Turkey since this Audio-Library will be open to everyone and shared online on certain portals like EBA and the website of the coordinator school.

O2 : Activities and Strategies To Be Used In Teaching Visually Impaired Students

This book called “**Activities and Strategies To Be Used In Teaching Visually Impaired Students**” will be a great source for teachers working with visually impaired students to use in their classrooms. This will be an innovative source since we will collect the activities and strategies used in the classrooms and we will observe during the class visits. Moreover, there will be activities developed or created during the discussion hours done after the class observations.

O3: The Impact of Educational Technology and New Strategies on the Education of Visually Impaired Students

Another intellectual output that we will produce is an article on the education of visually impaired students. This article will provide information about the implementation and the results of the project through the data gathered by the participants throughout the project process. These data will be gathered from surveys applied to students and teachers, interviews with the visually impaired students and the participants, comparison of students’ reports and reading other scientific studies.



Multiplier Event: Congress

This multiplier event is going to be one of the most important activities throughout the project as we want to reach so many people as possible so as to change the attitude towards the education of visually impaired students at regular schools. With the help of this event, we will be able to reach about 300 teachers directly and give them a chance to exchange ideas regarding the difficulties they encounter in their classes. What is more, the teachers will get some very practical and useful activities to be used in their classes during the workshops that will be held in different rooms at the conference hall right after the opening and keynote speeches. There will be parallel sessions so that each teacher can get a chance to attend every session. The teachers taking part in this project from the partner organisations will take active role in the parallel sessions and they will share their experiences with their colleagues and give information about the technological devices, strategies and activities to be used while teaching visually impaired students.

What we have done so far!

As soon as we learnt that the project was approved, we got in touch with the project partners and started to make the project heard by the staff working at our school through giving information about the purpose of the project. We prepared a bulletin board and pointed out the stages of the project. The key personnel had a meeting and prepared a survey as mentioned in the application project. We chose the participants and asked the partners to follow the same procedure. The key personnel had the first transnational project meeting in the UK, during which planned when and how to implement the mobilities of the project. We also made the objectives of the project and the roles of the partners clearer.

We had our first LTT in Romania. We visited Liceul Teoretic Special IRIS in Romania in January 2018 and took part in several workshops. After that, we had our second LTT in the UK in June 2018 and attended several workshops there. We were able to talk to the staff who had been working with students with special need for a long time and gather as much information as possible.



After completing the LTTs, we started to work at our school to accomplish the objectives of the project. The contact person of the coordinator school and two academicians from Yildiz Technical University started to write the third intellectual output of the project. We had interviews with the teachers taking part in the project activities and two of our VI students. We tried to get as much information as possible regarding the benefits and applicability of the tools and methods to be used at our school.

We organised the first Goalball Tournament among high schools in Istanbul. There were 10 high schools in the tournament and the tournament lasted for one week. After the matches, we organised a award ceremony to which we invited several NGOs working for the VI people. During this award ceremony, our students performed a music show. There were also folk dance performances. Thanks to this goalball tournament and award ceremony, we were able to reach lots of people and make them be aware of the importance of a school accommodated for their needs.

We also organised a trip to Eskişehir Anadolu University to see an exhibition organised for the needs of VI students. There were 3 dimensional products such as statues, pyramids and so on. That was a great experience which made us think about producing similar work of arts and display them at our school. We also organised several musical and cultural events at our school.

<http://www.visuallyimpairedmentallysighted.com/index.php>

