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## **Preparatory visit**

26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

The preparatory visit was the first meeting with our Turkish Erasmus partners. The previously determined date has been changed. So our first task was to change the date of the preparatory visiting and determine a date which is suitable for both partners. The modification was justified by the late money arriving time. So instead of September, we travelled to Istanbul at the end of November.

Once the date was set, the people who would travel had to be identified. Originally, the project coordinator and the school principal were to go on the preparatory visit. In the meantime, however, the original project coordinator had changed jobs and gone to teach at another institution, and the school principal had taken on a higher management position. Since the project coordinator had a connection with the Turkish partner institution, he and the future project coordinator traveled to Turkey.

During the preparatory visit, we got to know the Turkish school and we also presented our institution. The leaders, teachers, and participants in the Erasmus program introduced themselves. During this visit, we signed the partnership agreement, which we discussed together and signed in agreement. This contract includes the background, purpose, rights and obligations of cooperation, forms of contact, financial provisions, and settlement procedure. This document is the guarantee for both parties for cooperation.

On this occasion, we discussed the entire project in detail, determined the dates of the next 2 visits, discussed the activities included in the project, and answered any questions that arose.

The preparatory visit was definitely very useful, because it allowed us to get to know the teachers, the institution, and its environment. We were much more prepared and confident in organizing the visits, as we already had prior experience with our partner. We had been in contact online until then, but a personal meeting cannot be replaced. This visit strengthened the bilateral cooperation and helped us start and implement the project. This made us better prepared for international cooperation with the partner institution.



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2023-1-HU01-KA210-VET-000156243 *Funded by the*

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Already during this visit, it was clear that an excellent working relationship was beginning with the Turkish institution.

