

Event: “Erasmus for a cause: skills that make a difference!”

1. Introduction

The Erasmus+ project “Eco-Citizen Solidarity Entrepreneurship” is focused on promoting social equity through educational and cultural activities, among other objectives. On December 7th, 2022, an event was held in “Colégio INED”, the Portuguese partner school institution, as part of this project, and it aimed to raise awareness about the importance of international school programmes, cultural diversity, soft skills, and social equity. The event was attended by 29 participants, who completed a Google Forms questionnaire after the event, stating their opinions and perspectives and giving feedback on it.

The purpose of this report is to analyse the data gathered from the questionnaire and provide an overview of the event, suggesting recommendations for future events. This report also aims to demonstrate the impact and effectiveness of the Erasmus+ projects in achieving social cause objectives, and to disseminate good practices as far as this type of projects is concerned, motivating other schools to do the same.

2. Event Details

The event “Erasmus for a cause: skills that make a difference!” was held on December 7th, 2022, at 07.00 p.m. (CET), in Colégio INED’s facilities, the Portuguese partner school institution. It was intended to be a good practice dissemination event under the scope of the Erasmus+ project “Eco-Citizen Solidarity Entrepreneurship” ID KA220-VET-17EECA4B. It aimed the following objectives:

- To disseminate the project to all the members of the school community and attendees.
- To share good practices on a local, regional, national, and international levels (even though the event took place in Colégio INED’s facilities, it was broadcast live on YouTube, allowing people from all over the world to watch it).

- To support a social cause and the Non-Governmental Organisation “Associação de Proteção à Infância Bispo D. António Barroso”.

This event was divided into 3 parts (attachment 1: programme):

- a conference led by 5 invited speakers on the topics of entrepreneurship and soft skills (attachment 2: invited speakers).
- students’ presentations: the Erasmus+ students presented a pitch of the products they represented (each partner country was represented by two local products)
- olive oil tasting (olive oil is one of the local products that represent Portugal) and a market where all the local products were sold. The profit gathered from the selling of the products was donated to the Non-Governmental Organisation “Associação de Proteção à Infância Bispo D. António Barroso”.

This event was physically attended by students, staff, parents, the press, and other stakeholders, in a total of 100 attendees.

3. Data Analysis

At the end of the event, all the attendees and project participants were invited to complete a Google Forms questionnaire, which could be accessed by scanning the QR Code that was placed in different places of the venue. The anonymity and confidentiality of the respondents' data were ensured by removing any identifying information from the responses. Data were analysed, summarised, and interpreted. The key findings are the following: (attachment 3: key findings).

- **Level of satisfaction:** 58,6% of the respondents assessed their satisfaction with the event with the highest level - 3 (Very satisfied).
- **Favourite part of the event:** 16 respondents identified the students’ pitches as their favourite part of the event. The second one with a higher assessment was the olive oil tasting and the market.

- **Organisation aspects that need to be improved in further editions:** this was an open question. 4 respondents identified the venue which, according to them, should be larger to make it possible for everyone to comfortably attend the event.
- **Impact of this event:**
 - o 69% of the respondents considered that this event helped them know more about the Erasmus+ programme and how important participating in international projects could be for their personal, academic, and professional life.
 - o 58,6% of them said that they are now more curious about all types of international projects they could participate in.
 - o 41,4% stated that they are now more confident in taking part in international projects, like Erasmus+, and are also more aware of the importance of entrepreneurial competencies that could be developed in projects like these.
 - o 20,7% of the respondents confessed that they are now more receptive to study abroad or work for an international company.
- **Eagerness to participate in future international projects:** 100% of the respondents confessed themselves eager and motivated to participate in future international projects.
- **Types of international projects they would like to take part in:**
 - o Erasmus+ projects: 82,8% of the respondents
 - o Similar events to this (“Erasmus for a cause”): 34,5%
 - o eTwinning projects: 20,7%
- 79,3% of the respondents said that if they were given again the opportunity to **interact with the invited speakers**, they would ask them questions. Some of those questions are:
 - o What’s the best thing about Erasmus?
 - o What are the benefits in participating in Erasmus+ projects?
 - o Could you suggest some ideas that could help us improve our Erasmus+ project?
 - o I’d like to know more about your experience.
 - o How does it feel like to live in another country?

- Are entrepreneurial skills difficult to be developed?
- ...
- **Definition of the event in one word:** the respondents suggested lots of different words. Below are some of the most mentioned ones:
 - Communication
 - Interesting
 - Amazing
 - Unique
 - Innovative
 - Inspiring
 - Learning
 - Future
 - Diversity
 - Opportunities
 - Skills
 - Curiosity
 - Solidarity
 - ...

4. Outcomes and impact of the event

Considering these key findings, we have got evidence to conclude that the objectives defined both for the Erasmus+ project and the event itself were achieved:

- **Objectives of the Erasmus+ project:**
 - To boost the levels of motivation, engagement, participation, and collaboration: the students participated actively in this event by presenting the pitches of the products and welcoming the attendees to the olive oil tasting and the market. They were also the ones selling the products. All this was possible because they worked collaboratively and as a team. Besides, in the questionnaire, 100% of them revealed interest in participating in further international projects.

- To improve their soft skills (communication, creativity, proactivity, digital and language skills).
 - To consolidate partnerships and to enlarge our partnership network.
 - To strengthen the European dimension of our school's policies and strategies.
 - ...
- **Objectives of the event:**
- To disseminate the project by all the members of the school community.
 - To share good practices on a local, regional, national, and international levels (even though the event took place in Colégio INED's facilities, it was broadcast live on YouTube, allowing people from all over the world to watch it).
 - To support a social cause and the Non-Governmental Organisation "Associação de Proteção à Infância Bispo D. António Barroso".
 - To increase the awareness and understanding of the social cause among event attendees and participants.
 - To get recognition for the event or the Erasmus+ project itself: this objective was achieved especially because we had media coverage during and after the event. <http://youtu.be/Rmv2UQNKRZY>
 - To get positive feedback from event attendees, project participants, or other stakeholders: we got positive feedback during the event and immediately after it, highlighting the value and impact of the event in promoting the social cause.
 - ...

5. Recommendations

Even though this event was successful, there is still much that could be done to promote international projects and the social cause. These are some suggestions:

- Organize more events focused on the social cause and/or the importance of international projects, such as workshops, webinars, or roundtable discussions, to continue raising awareness and promoting engagement.
- Develop and distribute educational materials, such as toolkits or guides, to provide practical resources for promoting social inclusion and equity in different settings.
- Host or participate in cultural exchange programmes or mobility programmes that bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds and promote intercultural understanding and dialogue.
- Collaborate with other organizations or institutions that share a similar social cause or mission, to amplify the impact of the Erasmus+ project and foster wider social change.

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, this report presents the dissemination event “Erasmus for a cause”, what it aimed at, and its most important key findings. All the objectives were achieved, namely the most significant one, which was related with promoting and raising awareness on the importance of international projects, like our Erasmus+ one, in the development of soft skills and the contribution to social causes.

Attachment 1: Programme

Programa

- 18h00 Hino da Alegria
Alunos Erasmus+
- 18h05 Boas-vindas
Ana Pires de Sousa
Diretora do Colégio INED
- 18h10 "O empreendedorismo na Educação"
Rui Monteiro
Diretor de Departamento Municipal de Economia da Câmara Municipal do Porto
- 18h20 "A Europa como promotora de oportunidades"
Raquel Luz
Gestora de Programas no Serviço Externo da Comissão Europeia
- 18h30 "Um mundo que se abriu depois do Erasmus"
Luís Fragoso
Ex-aluno do colégio INED, atual consultor na Farfetch
- 18h40 "Eco-Citizen Solidarity Entrepreneurship"
Alunas participantes no projeto Erasmus+
- 18h50 "Empreendedorismo por uma causa"
Fátima Vilela
Diretora Técnica da Associação de Proteção à Infância Bispo António Barroso
- 19h00 Pitch dos produtos locais promovidos pelo projeto Erasmus+
Alunos participantes no projeto Erasmus+
- 19h20 "A importância das *soft skills* num mundo cada vez mais globalizado"
Miguel Mota Freitas
CEO Worten
- 19h30 Reflexões finais
- 19h45 Fecho | Degustação

Evento de disseminação de boas práticas

Erasmus for a cause!

Skills that make a difference!

Oradores Convidados

Rui Monteiro



Doutorado em Gestão, com especialização em Marketing e Estratégia, pela Faculdade de Economia da Universidade do Porto, ocupa atualmente o cargo de Diretor de Departamento Municipal de Economia, na Câmara Municipal do Porto. Conta com uma vasta experiência profissional nas áreas administrativa e financeira e na coordenação de equipas, tendo também desempenhado funções de docência em várias instituições de ensino superior na cidade do Porto. O empreendedorismo e, em particular, o ensino do mesmo nas escolas são realidades incontornáveis nos dias de hoje e é precisamente este o tema sobre o qual incidirá a sua partilha.

Raquel Luz

Graduada em Relações Internacionais e em Comércio Internacional, possui uma vasta experiência profissional ao serviço da Comissão Europeia. Atualmente, exerce o cargo de gestora de programas de apoio ao desenvolvimento, com particular enfoque em questões relacionadas com os Direitos Humanos e Género. A par deste trabalho de âmbito social, colaborou anteriormente com as Nações Unidas, na qualidade de consultora, na América Latina, no México e no Equador.



Luís Fragoso



Mestre em Engenharia Mecânica pela Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto, possui experiência em projetos de solidariedade e responsabilidade social, para além de ter participado em projetos Erasmus+. Atualmente, é consultor na Farfetch. No nosso evento, irá partilhar a sua experiência pessoal no Programa Erasmus+ enquanto promotor de competências diferenciadoras no seu percurso académico e profissional.

Fátima Vilela

Pós-graduada em Sociologia da Infância pela Universidade do Minho, ocupa atualmente o cargo de Diretora Técnica da Casa de Acolhimento e do Apartamento de Autonomização, na Associação de Proteção à Infância Bispo D. António Barroso. Entre outras funções, foi representante de uma associação juvenil na implementação das CPCJ do Porto. Paralelamente, a área da Promoção e Proteção e os Direitos das Crianças foi sempre uma grande paixão, pelo que abraçou o novo desafio, o do Acolhimento Residencial. Esta é a associação para a qual reverterão todos os lucros obtidos com a venda dos produtos da empresa multinacional criada no âmbito do nosso projeto Erasmus+.



Miguel Mota Freitas



Licenciado em Gestão pela Universidade do Porto, ocupa atualmente o cargo de CEO da Worten. Ao longo do seu percurso profissional, desempenhou funções de liderança e gestão comercial. É um dos subscritores do Global Business Oath, um conjunto de princípios promovidos pelo Young Global Leaders, do World Economic Forum, com o objetivo de definir as boas práticas na atividade empresarial em defesa de valores e de ética nos negócios.

COLÉGIO INED PORTO

O Colégio INED Porto é um estabelecimento de ensino particular que iniciou a sua atividade em 1998, pondo em prática um modelo educativo inovador, centrado no aluno, de modo a formar cidadãos conscientes, ativos, participativos e plenamente integrados na sociedade. Além da atenção redobrada às áreas base de formação, promovemos a transversalidade de matérias, através do desenvolvimento de projetos que visam o reforço das *soft skills* e de outras competências, nomeadamente as artísticas, culturais, estéticas e desportivas.

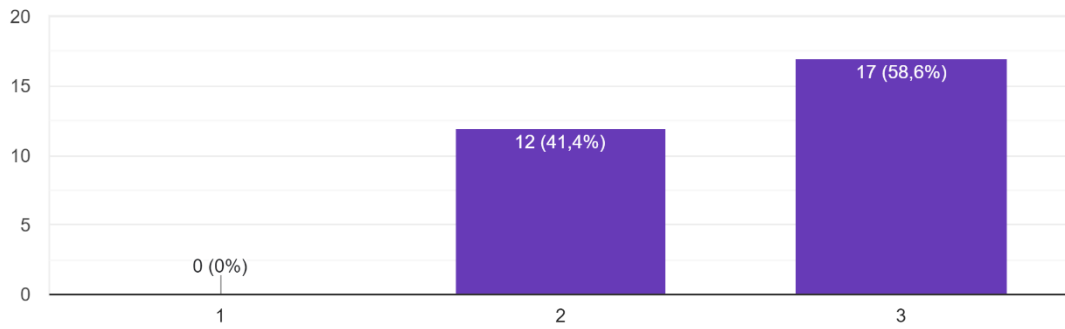
Nesta formação integral do aluno, orgulhamo-nos também do trabalho desenvolvido ao nível da internacionalização, tendo-se consubstanciado em reconhecimentos nacionais e internacionais eTwinning e em projetos Erasmus+ com elevados padrões de qualidade.

O Colégio INED Porto é, desde 2021, Instituição Acreditada, contribuindo, através dos seus projetos internacionais, para o desenvolvimento e melhoria do sistema de educação e formação na Europa, de forma permanente e contínua.

Attachment 3: Key findings

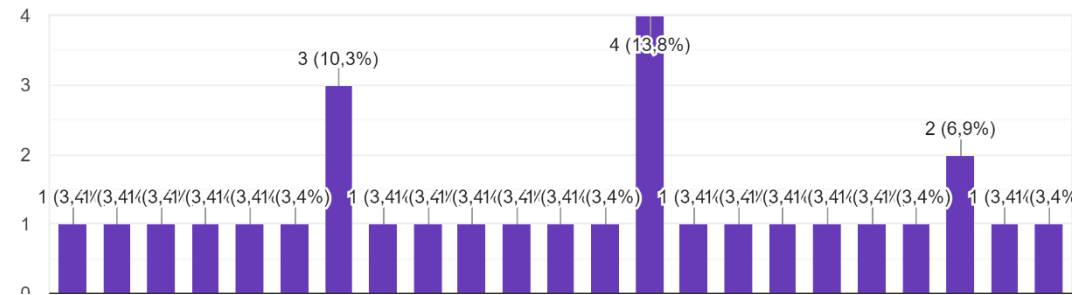
How satisfied are you with the event? (1=Dissatisfied; 2=Satisfied; 3=Very satisfied)

29 respostas



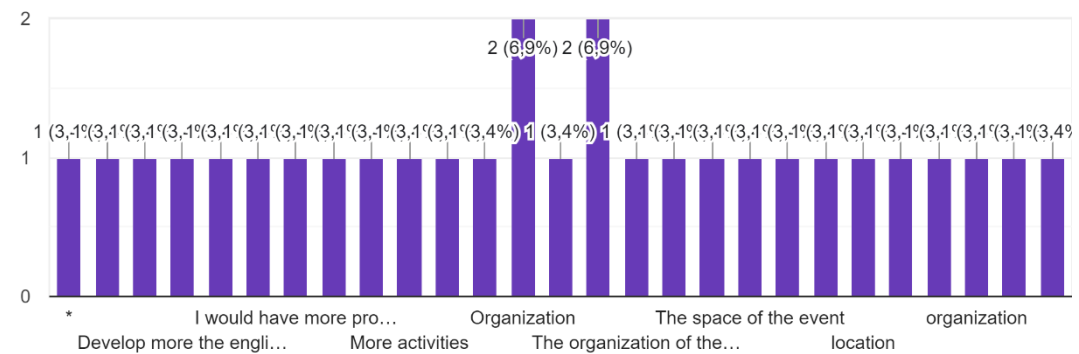
What was your favourite thing about the event?

29 respostas



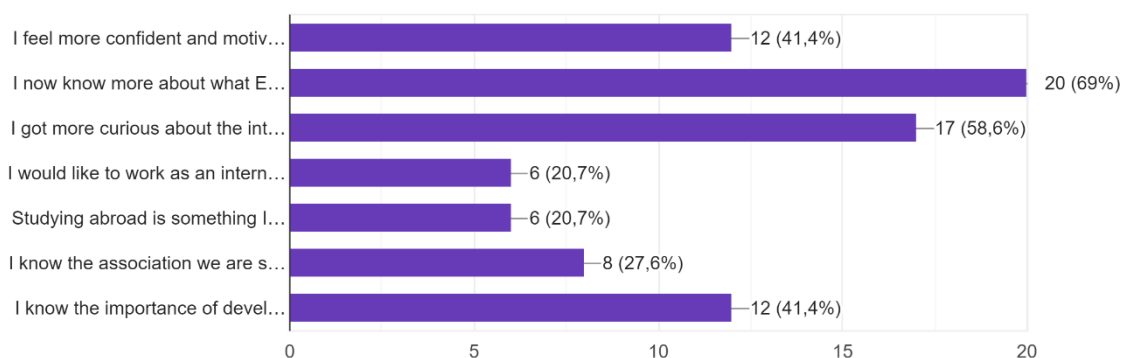
What is the one thing you would improve?

29 respostas



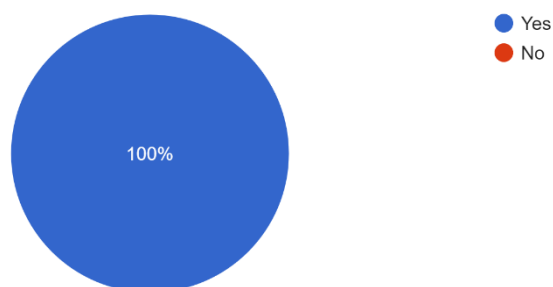
After having participated in an event that disseminated and shared the products... (you can choose 3 options)

29 respuestas



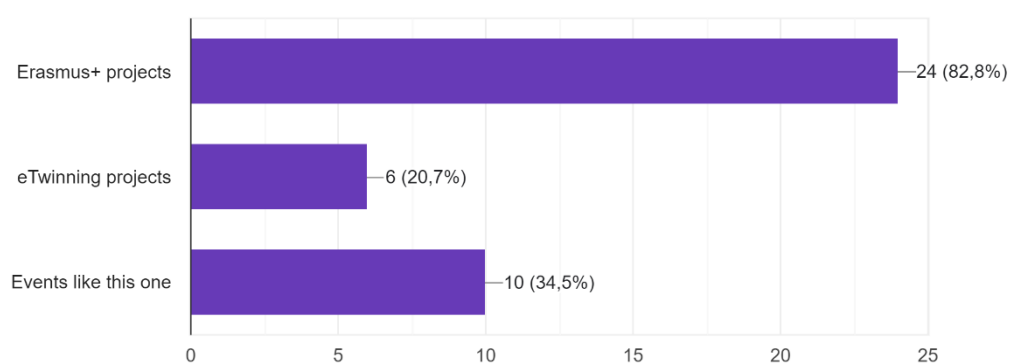
Would you like to participate in other events or projects promoted by your school?

29 respuestas



If your answer was "yes", what kind of events/projects would you choose?

29 respuestas



Define the #Erasmus for a cause! activity in just one word.

29 respostas

