



**SECRETARIAT FOR
CATHOLIC EDUCATION**



Working together for professional future in Europe: Jobs4All

LTT 3 - POLAND

Szkola Podstawowa nr 1 im. Mikołaja Kopernika w Minsku Mazowieckim, Poland

TESTIMONIAL – ANNETTE AGIUS (YOUTH WORKER)

As part of the Erasmus+ mobility programme, our Maltese group had the opportunity to participate in a highly enriching and educational week in Poland. While several activities took place in Warsaw, the capital city, the Maltese delegation stayed in Mińsk Mazowiecki where the hosting school organised a comprehensive programme of workshops, cultural activities, and educational visits. It is important to note that, unlike some other groups, the Maltese students did not stay with host families, but this did not limit the opportunities for integration and collaboration with the other participating countries.

One of the most engaging sessions during the programme was the workshop organised by Katarzyna from the coordinator of Erasmus Job4ALL. This activity was particularly interactive and hands-on, allowing students to explore the concept of European volunteering in a practical way. Through group discussions, simulations, and role-play activities, participants explored ideas related to peacebuilding, solidarity, and cooperation between European countries. Students were encouraged to imagine themselves as active citizens and peace ambassadors, understanding how young people can contribute positively to their communities and to wider European society.



Another important aspect of the programme involved visits to educational institutions and organisations in the area. Participants visited the Construction School Complex in Mińsk Mazowiecki where they observed carpentry workshops and learned more about vocational education and career pathways available to young people in Poland. These visits allowed students to gain insight into how education systems function in different European contexts and how practical skills are developed in vocational training environments.

The group also travelled to Warsaw where they visited the European House / Europa Experience Centre. Here, students took part in an interactive role-play simulation of the





European Parliament, giving them a better understanding of how European institutions function and how decisions affecting European citizens are made. This activity encouraged critical thinking, teamwork, and communication skills while allowing students to explore democratic processes within the European Union.

Beyond the structured workshops, the mobility provided an excellent opportunity for networking and intercultural exchange. The Maltese students integrated very well with participants from Portugal and Greece, building friendships and collaborating effectively throughout the programme. It was encouraging to see the young people working together across cultures, supporting one another during activities, and sharing their perspectives and experiences.

The programme also encouraged students to develop independence and practical life skills. On several occasions, students were given the responsibility of navigating their way to certain locations using Google Maps, working as a team to identify routes and ensure that the group arrived at the correct destinations during a photo Scavenger hunt. This simple but effective activity helped promote teamwork, responsibility, and problem-solving skills.

Cultural exchange was also a central element of the experience. Participants had the opportunity to learn about Polish culture, traditions, and daily life. The group had the chance to taste traditional Polish cuisine and even participated in an activity where they learned how to make pierogi, one of Poland's most well-known traditional dishes. These moments provided valuable opportunities for informal learning and cultural appreciation.

During our stay, we also had the opportunity to observe everyday life in Warsaw and Mińsk Mazowiecki. Despite being a capital city, Warsaw presents itself as a calm, organised, and safe environment. The city is clean, well-structured, and offers a welcoming atmosphere for visitors and residents alike. Mińsk Mazowiecki, where we were based, provided a quieter setting which supported meaningful interaction with the host community and schools.

Overall, the Erasmus+ mobility experience proved to be extremely fruitful for both the students and accompanying staff. It provided valuable opportunities for learning, intercultural dialogue, collaboration, and personal development. The activities helped broaden students' perspectives, strengthened their sense of European identity, and encouraged them to think about their role as active and responsible citizens within a wider international community.