



Erasmus+

**ENGLISH MATTERS  
DUBLIN 26.02.-04.03.2017**

**Structured Educational Visit to Schools/Institutes &  
Training Seminar in Ireland**

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*Vastagh Adrienn*

Luckily, I had the chance to participate in a one-week course for teachers in Dublin, Ireland. It was a programme for teachers, headteachers and also for principals to meet other school members from other parts of Europe and to develop and enhance their professional perspective of the European education.

The aim of the programme was a structured educational visit to schools. Depending on the teachers' interests and working places, we were separated into groups and visited different types of schools during that week. Thus we had the chance to have a look at how Irish education works in primary, secondary and vocational schools. But before the school visits, we were integrated to the Irish educational system and their culture because it is inevitable to understand how the system works and why it works in that way. Then we could meet other teachers in Ireland due to this programme, and we could interact with other school staffs from all over Europe. We could benefit from the educational institutions because the visited institutions provided us with perfect presentations about their own systems.

During this week we enhanced our knowledge in culture and education since after every school visit we shared our experience and opinion about the heard information. We visited several main and important parts of Ireland, so we also broadened our knowledge in Irish culture in the Trinity College (Book of Kelts), in different cathedrals, in the town of Dublin itself, during an organised folk night programme (Irish dance and music) and in Kilkenny and Glendalough.

According to the Irish educational system, it is quite different from the Hungarian. But as for the similarities, it could be mentioned that in the educational system there is a strong role of the government, the teachers are overwhelmed in Hungary and in Ireland as well, and we are facing the same problems, for instance the number of students with special needs, early school leaving and mobile phones. The differences are perceptible in the structure itself, in the further educational system, that there are lots of schools owned and managed by the Catholic Church, and there are lots of single-sex schools in Ireland.

All in all, I feel lucky that I had the chance to travel to Ireland and spend a useful and well-organised one week on this beautiful island.