Results of attending British Culture and Language Development course

The programe Erasmus+ gave me the opportunity to get some new, inner knowledge about life and culture in Britain as well as develop language skills. Teaching English does not only mean teaching grammar, vocabulary, improve listening and speaking skills. It goes hand in hand with revealing the "secrets" of everyday life and culture of target language itself. Staying even a week in British environment provides insight of its culture and traditions for everyone. Having this experience, the teacher is able to realize more activities bringing culture of target language to life in a classroom. Students are often interested in knowing other cultures especially cultures of English – speaking countries. Nowadays, they can get plenty of information, listen to music or watch the films very easily thanks to the Internet. What they need more, is to discuss and share their experience. They also need background infromation to be capable of distinguish right aspects of foreign culture. The role of the teacher, who is trained and stays in permanent contact with the culture of target language, has got its importance. It is him/ her who can positively influence the relationship between students and studying of foreign language with its all aspects.

During my Erasmus+ stay in London I met the community of other teachers. We were changing our experience, methods, opinions but what is more we found out we had a common idea. In today´s world it is more than needed to create international friendships, to teach students empathy, tolerance and understanding of others even with different opinions. Our idea was to re-create the phenomenon of penfriends. This way, students can practise and improve their skills they acquire during the lessons of English – grammar, vocabulary as well as writing skills. What is more, they get to know other people´s way of life, their traditions and culture itself. Although I haven´t met any British teachers who work at a high school in Britain, I came across one teacher from Denmark who was keen on the idea. Students were thrilled, together we wrote first letters along with cover letter for the teacher. Then the letters were sent and we were waiting for the answer. My students got the unique chance to "meet" their peers in other country and communicate in English. Even though Danish penfriends prefer the idea of writing emails, we had to accept it, now they are fully responsible for meaningful communication and maintaing their friendships. Sometimes they ask me for help when they are not sure if their grammar is good enough, I also encourage them to use vocabulary we are dealing with. Thanks to Erasmus + I showed them the way and now it is up to them to follow the path.