

"Living and Experiencing Linguistic and Cultural Diversity - From the Classroom to the Outside World"



At GTVS 12 Am Schöpfung in Vienna, there is a multicultural and multilingual class consisting of 11 children aged 9-11, currently in the 4th grade. Apart from German, the class represents 11 different first languages of the children. In the school year 2020/21, the class initiated the project "Living and Experiencing Linguistic and Cultural Diversity - From the Classroom to the Outside World." This project has garnered recognition, including the European Language Label in 2021, leading to subsequent Erasmus+ projects with similar objectives.

The primary goal is to empower the children to perceive their culture and first language as valuable resources. The class aims to foster appreciation for all cultures and languages, promoting a cosmopolitan and respectful attitude among the students.

To facilitate interaction and connection between the children, the class encourages them to exchange letters, drawings, and video recordings. We propose starting with a profile that includes a photo or drawing of the child, along with relevant information. This approach not only helps assign partners but also motivates the children to improve their English skills. Video recordings can be shared, featuring songs or short introductions by the children, according to their comfort and convenience.

Given the class's emphasis on language diversity, the class proposes the exchange of short voice recordings in their native languages. It would be fascinating for the students to hear 1-3 sentences spoken by a child from another culture, such as German, English, and Turkish from our side, and Khmer and English. This exchange would offer a unique opportunity for the students to experience the sounds of different languages and further appreciate linguistic diversity.

The project, "Living and Experiencing Linguistic and Cultural Diversity - From the Classroom to the Outside World," aims to promote appreciation for different cultures and languages among our multicultural class. Through activities such as letter exchanges, drawings, video recordings, and voice recordings, the project strives to foster a cosmopolitan and respectful attitude towards all cultures and languages. It is believed that this project will enhance intercultural understanding and provide enriching experiences for the students who participated in the program.