



## **Report about the local seminars with teachers in Novo Mesto, Slovenia**

"Integration of Museums into School Education"

27<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 and 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2019

### **Introduction**

Novo Mesto is a rather small town with less than 30.000 inhabitants. There are 5 primary schools and 5 high schools in Novo Mesto. Each school only has one or two teachers of Art, Geography and History. To be able to organise a seminar with at least 15 teachers (5 teachers of Art, Geography and History each), we first sent an invitation to school administrators in charge of approving yearly school plans. Out of 10 school administrators, 6 accepted our invitation and attended an introductory meeting at the beginning of June 2019. At this meeting, we presented the Erasmus+ project MuseSchool and explained our goals and plans for the implementation of project activities.

School administrators liked the MuseSchool project idea and agreed to allow their teachers to participate in the proposed activities. We decided to organise the training of local teachers in two parts. First part would take place at the end of June, with a more theoretical approach to the subject matter, and the second part would be at the end of August, with emphasis on a more practical approach.

### **First local seminar with teachers, 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2019**

In cooperation with the Dolenjska Museum, DRPDNM organised the first local seminar on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 from 9 AM until 1 PM. The 4 participants of the two LTTs held in Novo Mesto and Piraeus, first greeted and thanked all the attendants for their willingness to participate in the event. The representative of DRPDNM, Sanja Đurašević, held a presentation of the project MuseSchool and all its activities. She spoke about the objectives and goals of the project, with the main purpose of establishing closer links between local schools and museums, as well as using museums for non-formal learning. One of the main objectives of the project is to present museums as educational institutions with emphasis on gaining experience through senses and practical activities of the visitors.

Second part of the seminar was dedicated to presentations of interdisciplinary pilot lesson plans that were created by teachers Lavra Fabjan for Art, Maša Faleskini for Geography, and Nejc Primc for History. Each of them shared their experience and ideas for preparing interesting lessons in an open air environment and museums. They shared the new methods they had learned while participating in the two LTTs organised in the framework of this project. They all spoke about different ways to engage students in various activities while visiting the museum, as well as about all the necessary preparations before and after the museum visit.

Third part of the seminar was reserved for group discussions on the topic of creating interdisciplinary lesson plans and using museums for educational purposes. Teachers received evaluation questionnaires and were asked to evaluate the presented pilot lesson plans. We wanted to gather their ideas about what they thought was good and what they would perhaps do differently. Art teachers evaluated lesson plan for Art class, Geography teachers for Geography class and History teachers for History class. After, they were also able to share their ideas and views in a group discussion. We heard a lot of useful and thoughtful suggestions that will be very helpful in advancing our educational programmes.



### **Second local seminar with teachers, 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2019**

Second seminar was organised at the end of August in order to demonstrate to the participating teachers how to implement their lesson plans in practice. The same group of teachers from the first seminar was in attendance this time as well. The event lasted from 8 AM until 12 o'clock noon. We started the seminar on Marof, a local hill, where Maša Faleskini performed a Geography lesson in an open air environment. Teachers had to carry out different tasks in connection to orientation. They found out new facts about geographical position of Novo Mesto and also learned new things about the history of Marof and people that lived there in the past.

Nejc Primc performed a History lesson at the Dolenjska Museum. He introduced teachers to the museum's vast archaeological collection from the iron and bronze ages. They learned about the prehistoric processes of producing glass beads, iron and bronze weapons, as well as making pottery. Teachers were asked to participate in different tasks and to find correct answers by using materials found inside the museum. They also learned some new and interesting facts about the famous situlae from Novo Mesto.

Last part was dedicated to Lavra Fabjan's Art lesson. Teachers joined her in the museum's art room where they created unique T-shirts by printing motives typical for Novo Mesto on them. They also learned more about the situlae art and how we are still able to create new stories by using old figural motives from situlae (creating a new kind of comic book). In this way, teachers were able to see and learn how they will implement their own museum lessons with their students in the coming school year.

### **Implementation of lesson plans, September 2019 – June 2020**

The next step involves teachers preparing their own lesson plans and implementing them in the coming school year. Lesson plans need to be coordinated with the annual curricula and approved by the school administration. First few teachers will prepare and implement their lessons by the end of September and in early October of 2019. Other teachers will implement their museum and open air lesson plans in the spring of 2020.