

Erasmus+ project „The Children of Sheherazade“

Belgium – Storyteller’s Summary

School: Städtische Grundschule Unterstadt Belgium

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The Children of Sheherazade project is about more than fairy tales and storytelling. When I started working on this project as a storyteller in a Belgian primary school in 2021, I felt like the hero who sets off on a journey. I couldn't foresee what I would encounter on this journey. I suspected that the road would not be easy, that I would be tested and that I would need helpers at my side.

My adventure of building a relationship with children of primary school age for three years through an artistic activity took me to unexpectedly beautiful landscapes, even if the paths were often steep and I was sweaty after almost every one of my assignments.

As the Belgian school showed little interest in the project in the first two years, there was often no help from the teachers. In the first year, there were also sabotaging elements of 'black' pedagogy.

This made the encounters with the other storytellers involved in the project all the more important for me. I felt supported and accompanied by both the coordinator and my fellow storytellers and hope to have given them the same.

Our regular Zoom conferences were supplemented by meetings in Aachen and Denmark, where we learnt a lot from each other and the scientific side of the project was revealed to us. As artists and women, we met and were increasingly able to recognise the significance of the project. Through our exchange, the social and economic gap between the north and south of Europe became increasingly clear.

I would like to say that the project idea of giving children more self-esteem and social skills has continued and manifested itself at the level of our encounters.

Were we able to get closer to the guiding principles of empowerment and social interaction among the children? Did these children have a special opportunity to feel for themselves and for others?

Were we able to show the children the well of their imagination and teach them to draw from it?

I am firmly convinced of this.

Need we add that schools need something like this?