

Name: Mauro Martinelli

Country: Italy

Activate your English for Teaching

Reflective Journal

This Reflective Journal is a useful means for your **professional development**. Please take a moment to reflect personally on the programme and write a few lines every day on your thoughts.

Possible areas of reflection: my *professional development* today, *cultural understanding*, *participation* in and understanding of *debates, talks, visits to schools, sharing of expertise* and building of *future partnerships* (Dissemination Strategies), *European Dimension*, etc.

If you decide to use an online platform for your journal, please paste the link here:

Date: Monday, 3rd July 2023

It was my first day of this course. At the beginning I was a little worried but when the course started it was very interesting to meet new people from different European countries. My classmates and my teachers were very friendly and welcoming. Listening and singing typical songs of different countries was very amusing. We could touch the European dimension firsthand. I liked very much the afternoon activity: going out to Dublin to look for monuments and roads to learn local stories and traditions was very educational and amazing. I found the Oscar Wilde's statue very fascinating.

Date: Tuesday, 4th July 2023

My favourite activity of this day was talking to some of my classmates about my life and my goals. I learned new words and improve my English vocabulary. My colleagues' goals were very interesting. I learned new Irish slangs and "Irishisms" too. Investigating Irish history with some of my classmates was also very interesting. Our group chose to look for information about Easter Rising of 1916. I didn't know this topic and I found it very engaging because it was a very painful part of Irish history.

Date: Wednesday, 5th July 2023

Learning new things about principal aspects of English pronunciation like stress of words in the sentences, tone, rhythm, intonation and phonemes was very interesting for me. It was very important to improve my English. I found amazing how stressing different words causes different meanings of sentence. Studying food idioms and expressions and their meanings was very exciting and listening you tube video about gastrodiploamacy was formative and improved my English skills very much.

Date: Thursday, 6th July 2023

A full immersion on Irish legends and myths was very trilling and knowing that the Irish storytellers, like the Seanchai, could be considered as something of the Google of ancient times makes you think. The legend of Oisin and the land of eternal Youth was sad for me. In the afternoon we visited the National Museum of Archaeology, in Dublin. Looking for ancient finds with the classmates of my group following the path of interactive map was formative and amusing. Irish Bronze Age Gold jewels was very beautiful. The bog bodies surprised me very much and reading that one of these men was decapitated was shocking for me.

Date: Friday, 7th July 2023

We told about bogs, peat and turf almost all the day. It was an interesting scientific lesson about peat formation from a lake that vegetation invasion transformed in swamp and bog. Saturation and anaerobic conditions transformed vegetation in peat with a process lasted thousands of years. Discussion between two group of classmates after reading about the Irish government turf cutting restrictions was very vibrating and amusing although it was just a simulation. It was very interesting studying about difference between unvoiced ending of nouns and voiced ending of the corresponding verbs. It was engaged listen to idiomatic expressions for me.

Date: Monday, 10th July 2023

In the first part of the morning lesson our teacher told us about early nineteen century in Dublin and in Ireland. I enjoyed doing the comprehension exercises of a soundtrack about this topic. Then we investigated the early nineteen century in our own country on internet. After the coffee break each of us told

about his investigation to the other classmates. It was very interesting to learn about history, food and clothing traditions of other European countries such as Slovakia, Hungary, Spain and Bulgaria. We were fully in a European context. In the last part of afternoon lesson, talking to each other about topics chosen by the teacher was a lot of fun.

Date: Tuesday, 11th July 2023

This morning I noticed that my English listening and speaking skills are improved because lesson exercises were easier and less tiring for me. I was so happy to practise pronunciation exercises in classroom and learning about traditional Irish instruments and music was so amusing and easy that time has flown by. We listened to some Irish singers and musicians and I liked The Scratch. Their music has an interesting rhythm and it is very fascinating for me because it has ancient sounds. I liked also Christy Moore' s Ordinary Man because it tells of a social problem like dismissal from work typical of the 80s in Ireland. Going along the Dublin streets searching bunkers amused me.

Date: Wednesday, 12th July 2023

This was the expected day of Field Project "Glendalough". Visiting an ancient old-century Medieval monastery placed in a green valley was a wonderful experience. I liked nature, woods and beech's tall trees, rivers and waterfalls, silence and bird songs. It's a very mystical place rich of an ancient history. It was an amazing experience to improve knowledge of Irish traditions and Irish history. This outing was useful to have fun with my new European friends and to deepen our relationship.

Date: Thursday, 13th July 2023

During the morning we watched a short film called "The Irish goodbye". We talked together, in team, about this lovely tragic comedy full of contrasting emotions are the main characters. A film about brotherhood, about life and death, amusing and sad. We learned new words watching this film too. In the afternoon our team, St. Henry Street, worked on our presentation. This activity was part of our portfolio to be presented the next day. Working with my friends was exciting and tiring because we had to respect the everybody's opinion. After this activity we became even more friends.

Date: Friday, 14th July 2023

Today was the final day. Our dissemination's activity has begun. My team and I had to show and discuss our presentation to the other European project participants. It was vibrant and exciting. The atmosphere was full of emotion and we could listen and applaud the other presentations.

A final overview of my experience in this European training programme:

This European training programme was very interesting because I improved English skills and I learned a lot of others knowledges about Irish traditions, history, territory and culture in general with some practical and collaborative strategies. Contexts4Content approach was very good for me. When I'll be in my classrooms, I'm going to put this approach in practice with my school colleagues. We were fully immersed in a European context with other school teachers from Spain, France, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and many others with whom I shared good teaching practices and learned about other European school models. When I'll go back to school I'm going to encourage all my colleagues to do this amazing experience. Now my dissemination activity begins.

Thank you!!

Well done on completing your Reflective Journal.