

ITALIAN TEAM: REVIEW GOOD PRACTICES AND INNOVATIVE PROPOSAL FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

Thanks to the project RootFut our students have deepened even more their awareness, concern and interest in an important issue such as environmental sustainability, a topic already highly regarded within our school.

In particular, Italian students had the opportunity to discuss and tackle, together with their European peers, the concern about environmental and cultural heritage protection.

Moreover, by preparing various incoming activities we had the chance to get in touch with different local services.

The collaboration with ARPAE (Regional Agency for Prevention, Environment and Energy of Emilia-Romagna) led us to carry out a census of the trees in the park opposite to our school and roughly calculate and estimate the positive impact of the different species of plants on the environment.

During this activity a whole series of materials like maps, dichotomous keys, spreadsheets have been prepared and proposed to our RootFut European partners. Tools that will be used, next school year, in different classe as a citizenship topic through the peer tutoring method so as to reinforce the awareness of sustainability among students, to foster their communication skills and to strengthen their critical thinking especially on such an important subject .

Our partnership with ARPAAE will continue by planting new plants and taking care of the public green area around the school.

Furthermore, at the beginning of the school year we will organise a contest to choose the proper sentence to be engraved on the root of a plane tree cut down from our school yard by the Municipality, a few months ago, in order to do some maintenance work.

We have decided to preserve this huge root and have placed it on the lawn in front of the school entrance because next year we will try to transform it into a symbol that reminds us of the importance of taking care of the environment in order to build our own future.

The collaboration with some members of "Manifatture Urbane" (an association with cultural, scientific, social, environmental, historical, architectural and technological innovation purposes) has allowed our students, during the incoming, to design their ideal green area. The most widely discussed issue was the one related to the air quality of our city.

By continuing exploring this problem, we intend to purchase PM10 detectors so that our students can become sentinels of the air around their school, with the idea of a Service Learning path.

Finally, thanks to the campaign carried out in May as the latest activity of "RootFut" and concerning the theme of reducing the consumption of meat, we made students deeply conscious and interested in food sustainability.

Nowadays Emilia Romagna is the main Italian producer of typical cold cuts, cheese, pasta and vegetables preserved and Parma is the centre of the Food Valley by definition.

And to further Parma fame as a food capital, the city was selected in 2003 to be home to the headquarters of the EFSA, European Food Safety Authority, while in 2015 UNESCO declared it (the only place in Italy) "Creative City of Gastronomy".

Our new year's resolution is to focus more on the food theme, starting from the traditions of our territory encouraging and promoting a culture of food and nutrition and paying particular attention to the concept of environmental sustainability and protection of biodiversity.

In order to achieve this goal we would like to start a collaboration with Open Laboratory, the new Parma hub aimed at innovation and experimentation in the food agronomic excellence system.