



What's Up?

Participating countries:



France

* Location - France has the largest land area and lies between the Mediterranean Sea on the southeast and the Bay of Biscay and English Channel to the north and west. It shares borders with Andorra, Monaco, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and Spain.

* Capital – Paris.

* Flag - The national flag of France is a tricolor flag featuring three vertical bands coloured royal blue, white and red.

* Population – 64,916,143

* Currency – Euro (EUR).

* Official language – French.

* Traditional food – French onion soup, Baguette, Pot au feu—a French beef stew and a large variety of different cheeses.



The coat of arms

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Saint-Jean-d'Angély

The town of St Jean D'Angély can be described as one of the most beautiful, remarkable and historic towns in terms of architecture, an unspoilt area which has kept all its medieval fascination. Furthermore, there are various restaurants and cafes to stop by and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere, plus there is a twice weekly market offering seasonal local produce, fresh fish, oys-

ters and mussels. Also St Jean D'Angely has its own hospital, good schools, a brilliant indoor swimming pool, a town museum as well as its own Rugby Team. And finally, there is the famous Royal Abbey, founded in the ninth century to house a relic of Saint John the Baptist from which the town takes its name and which is still on the pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela. Since

1989, the Royal Abbey has settled down the Centre of European Culture, which has brought a new life into the Abbey. From 1989 to 1997, the restoration of the monastic buildings has been carried out according to the needs of the Centre of European Culture and has hosted multinational sessions focused on European culture and citizenship that are dedicated to youngsters 16-19 years old, coming from all European countries.



Sandra Doolan

An interview with Sandra Doolan

- **So hello, my name is Andrius Simankovas from Lithuania, my school is Elektrėnų ‘Versmės’ gymnasium and I want to take an interview from you.**
- *No problem.*
- **Could you please introduce yourself? What about where you work, about family, hobbies?**
- *My name is Sandra Doolan, I’m English although I have been living in France for 10 years. I’m the assistant to the director here at the Center of European Culture. Before I arrived here I lived in Tenerife on the Spanish island in the Sunshine and before that in Belgium in Brussels, so I have lived in various European countries. I am married, but I don’t have children, I used to have a cat, but he dissapered and that’s it.*
- **So, could you please briefly tell us how this project I.M.A.G.I.N.E started?**
- *I think it started on the initiative of some French teachers, they had the idea and then it developed and with the help of the center they were able to conceive the project and it was accepted with big success by the European commission. I think it received 99 points out of 100, almost perfect.*
- **How did you feel when you found out that European Culture Center had been granted?**
- *It was a very very good moment, because we initially received information that it had been refused, so we were all very disappointed and when we made a telephone call to find out the reasons why, they said ,Oh no! There’s been a mistake!’ and it is actually accepted. So we were very very happy because it’s not every year dossier that is accepted. So I think it was good work done by the coordinators to create a good project that was accepted, so we were very happy.*
- **So, what are your duties in this project?**
- *The Center European Culture duties is to be the general coordinator, which means checking and controlling. Lots, lots of pieces of paper, but we have to check all the financial aspects. If partners have questions, we reply to that questions and we have lots of documents that we need to send to the European commission to justify the project.*
- **What do you think, what benefit of this project is?**
- *I think, one of the main benefits is when young people, young*



Sandra Doolan (2nd from the right) with the project participants from Lithuania

students all come together and they're able to live together even if it's just for short 5 or 6 days. It's a good experience for the students to experience other cultures and to meet other people. That I think is one of the main benefits. It also shows the creative side of the students as well and they can get really involved in something which is I think a very young topic. Everything to do with digital and QR codes. It's a very young subject.

- **Thanks for the interview.**
- *You're welcome and thank you.*

Traditional dances with Aunis et Saintonge

On 1 April the closing ceremony of the mobility as well as the handing of certificates took place after the preparation of the buffet of European specialities by participating pupils. In addition, the introduction to traditional dances with Aunis et Saintonge attracted the attention of all participants.

how people used to live between 1800 and 1850. In addition, the members of this club have contacts with other associations in different cities in France or abroad. In the past years, they have been all over France and to Italy, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Spain and many other countries.

The ladies have white ribbons in the back and the young unmarried ladies have blue ribbons.

And finally, all of the project participants were truly amazed by the show and the dances such as **Gigolette, Brisquet, La Sauce à l'Oie, Youska** and many more by the members of this association as well as by the given opportunity to learn how to dance traditional French folk dances.

For a start, this folk association was created in 1931 and its name was 'Saintonge Weddings'. Saintonge is the name of the area around Saintes where this association is based. It is 25 kilometers South from Saint Jean D'Angely. The association disappeared during World War II but reappeared in 1951. It consists in showing

During their performances, country people are represented in two different costumes: casual clothes for everyday life and all the others have Sunday and Celebration Day costumes. Moreover, the women have head-dress and it is different according to different villages or towns: motives of the lace and size are represented differently.

P.S. The newsletter's publishing team would like to say a sincere thank you to Marie-Ange Leveque for some given information about Saintonge association.



Aunis et Saintonge



At the swirl of the dance



The buffet of European specialities



From the left: Sandra Doolan, Frederic Samuel, Gishly Didon

The coordinators' and teachers' meetings at *the Royal Abbey*

During the first work session among all of the participants of an International Erasmus+ project I.M.A.G.I.N.E in Saint Jean D'Angely, a couple of meetings between the coordinators and the teachers took place.

On 28 March all coordinators attended an important meeting with the representatives of CCE who are in charge of an Imagine project coordination: Gishly Didon, the director, Sandra Doolan, an administration assistant and Frederic Samuel. The following questions were discussed during the session:

1. A proper allocation of funds.
2. The submission of various ideas regarding the creation of an interactive game.
3. In what format the final game should be presented.
4. How often the newsletter should be issued.
5. What sort of activities should be done for the nearest teachers' meeting in Lithuania.
6. Questions-answers.

The representatives of this project answered all of the questions of the teachers and wished them good luck in

their further work.

On 2 April the final meeting of coordinators together with IT specialists was held. The main goal of participating IT specialists was to listen to all of the ideas and suggestions in order to generate and review all thoughts into one main objective as well as help to realise what the final product might look like. Furthermore, one of the coordinators, Vincent Samuel from Pau, suggested to come up with 20 questions and 20 pictures regarding each country's town until the following meeting in October in Lithuania. In addition, together with each question the countries have to supply three possible answers with the correct one as well as a short description of each picture related to the answer.



From the left: Vincent Samuel, Frederic Samuel



The main organisers of the meeting in France, from the left: Vincent Samuel, Isabella Colmelet, Frederic Samuel, Jean-Philippe Bernard, Carole Foulon, Christine Barre

First-hand impressions

It's absolutely amazing. I haven't tried anything like this before. New people, new cultures, new countries. Before coming here I wished to meet new people, I wanted to have fun and that's all happening. It's amazing.

Xavi Rico Martin from Spain, 15 years old



Xavi Rico Martin

It's my first time in the project like this. I like this project because the people are all together and feeling great. I have made some new friends, too. I hope this project will help me to open my mind towards other countries, other things and thinkings. I hope I will become more responsible.

Veronica Greggio from Monselice in Italy, 17 years old



**Veronica Greggio,
Irene Greggio**

I have made some new friends here and this is beautiful. I like this project and I expect that it will free our thinking and we will continue to make friends with new people. I also hope that I'll become a more responsible person.

Irene Greggio from Monselice in Italy, 17 years old

In the beginning, I didn't think that it would be so interesting. But now, I can say that it is an incredible experience for me. I am among so many amiable, creative and interesting people. They are so different, but at the same time so similar. We have so much fun in the evenings, we sing, dance and play games together. Definitely, it is the best holidays of my life.

Neringa Laimutytė from Elektrėnai in Lithuania, 18 years old



Neringa Laimutytė

Visits to schools



Frederic Samuel

All delegations of I.M.A.G.I.N.E project had a possibility to visit **College Georges Texier** in St. Jean D'Angely on 30 March. A welcoming speech was presented by a headmaster, Michel Feauveau, following his assistant for education and a social pedagogue. The participants of the project were once more greeted by Frederic Samuel, who had been working at College Georges Texier before and is still cherishing some warm feelings towards this school. After that, the choir of Georges Texier performed a couple of songs which was very impressive.

Later on, the guests were divided into groups and the pupils of this school were ready to give an excursion. The teachers were not only able to communicate with their colleagues from France by discussing and

exchanging the ideas regarding the work at school, but also together with pupils to attend and observe the lessons as well as present their own country and schools.

On 31 March, a trip to La Rochelle, which is situated near the Atlantic Ocean, was organized for all participants of the project. La Rochelle is one of the most eye-catching and historically rich cities on the Atlantic coast. Moreover, it has strong links with the sea by harboring the largest marina for pleasure boats in the whole Europe.

The acquaintance with this marvelous old city began in **Lycee Leonce Vieljeux**, which can be found at the outskirts of La Rochelle. There are about 1700 senior students at this school. After being gathered in a hall, the headmaster congratulated all the

guests, wished good luck in their further work as well as to experience the spirit of charming La Rochelle. The participants of I.M.A.G.I.N.E project had a chance to try out some light refreshments. And after a short break, the students of the school presented us Lycee Leonce Vieljeux. As a result, the guests were able to have a closer look inside of this gigantic building. Everyone was impressed by its spacious sport halls, workshops, bright study rooms and a library. This school definitely has a very relevant material base and excellent teachers for educating younger generation. Moreover, the participants of a project had a possibility to visit a very comfortable and huge canteen as well as to try out their truly delicious food.



Pupils' choir from College Georges Texier



Lycee Leonce Vieljeux

Flash mob

One of the most cheerful and exciting things that all the participants of the project had to do in France was a Flash mob. The moves of the dance were created by Italian students and the dance was taught by Gishly Didon, Adeline Roux, Beatrice Guerra Watson and Veronica Greggio. And there were only a few days given to learn the steps. Fortunately, everyone managed to concentrate on the learning process and in the end we all seemed satisfied with the final result. And then the performance day dawned, excited and amused the participants set off towards the market square

wearing blue T-shirts and carrying European Union flags. As soon as we all turned up at the exact spot, the music started to play by making everyone to dance as one. That was one of the most memorable and splendid events during the whole stay.



Flash mob

Meeting with Rotary youth club

The participants of I.M.A.G.I.N.E project had a unique opportunity to meet up with some of the members of a Rotary club, who willingly explained the main ideas as well as presented the activities of this international club. professionals with different backgrounds were able to exchange ideas and form lifelong and significant friendships.

In short, the club started with the vision of a man called Paul P. Harris who formed the Rotary club of Chicago in 1905, one of the world's first service organizations. That was a place where Therefore, Rotary Youth Exchange is a life-time study abroad opportunity for young people to be hosted anywhere in the world from a few weeks to a full year by local Rotary clubs. Moreover, by sharing your own culture and traditions, it helps to broaden the horizons and the knowledge

not only of your own home country, but also of the host country globally.

After a short presentation given by one of the exchange students of a Rotary club, the participants of I.M.A.G.I.N.E project were divided into smaller groups and had a chance to share and exchange some ideas as well as to communicate with the youth from Rotary.



After the flash mob



Together with Rotary youth club members



Waitresses

Medieval evening



Towards the end of March all the participants of I.M.A.G.I.N.E project were truly surprised having had the possibility to take part in one of the most unforgettable and astonishing medieval evenings gifted by the project organisers.

Everyone had a chance to experience the authentic atmosphere of old times as well

as wear the most ornate clothes we had ever had. Having done that, the participants were asked to sit at the tables with no cutlery. And then, out of the blue, the sound of the drum was getting louder and louder as the real servants were bringing in the medieval food. Everyone was amazed and at the same time stunned as the most gorgeous waitresses started to

serve everyone with grilled chicken, rice, baked apples, cakes and some drinks. In addition, all of the participants were entertained with the sounds of those times music.

All in all, we not only got acquainted with the medieval culture, its customs and traditions, but also experienced the ancient spirit by spending the most fascinating evening in our lives.



Risen medieval characters



A photo session after the medieval evening

A game 'Imagine Saint Jean d'Angely'

The participants of I.M.A.G.I.N.E project had a remarkable opportunity to be housed in the Royal Abbey and feel a gentle waft of medieval times. However, we were all keen on finding out what it is behind those thick walls and in order to be satisfied a game prepared by the French was proposed. The main goal of this game was to introduce an ancient town, Saint-Jean d'Angely, with its historical heritage and modern buildings.

To start with, all of the participants had already been divided into groups from different countries.

Each group received a task and after being acquainted with a map of the town set off according to the given route. The departure time was different. On their way, each group had to find a mailbox and send a postcard with some greetings to I.M.A.G.I.N.E school partners. In addition, various activities had been planned in advance in order to learn more about the town, for example, a game with different kinds of balls, a visit to the town's rescue centre, a chance to try out a BMX track and so on. Also, each group had to

find some architectural details by taking their pictures to decrypt the coded sentence.

All in all, despite the fact that not everyone managed to reach the final point of the game, the most vital thing was that the students and teachers from different parts of Europe had the priceless opportunity not only to communicate, but also to collaborate as well as experience of working and being in a team.

The game was prepared by Christine Barre, Jean-Philippe Bernard and Jacques Dussieux.



Tasting oysters



One of the teams trying to solve a puzzle



I.M.A.G.I.N.E.



Pekka Kylkilahti explaining the rules of the game

Finns games

Outside

Required measures :

- two bottles;
- cards;
- two teams.

Purpose - to steal the opponent's bottle.

One person from each team - the leader - holds the cards, the others take one card each and run trying to grab the bottle of opposing team, but if the opponent touches him/her, both have to show their cards and whose card is superior—wins by bringing the

opponent's card to their leader. The loser goes back to take the other card. And so, the game can be played as long as the opponents' bottle is safe. However, if the bottle is stolen—the game is over.

Inside

Required measures :

- 120 pieces of paper posted up on the walls or furnitures with numbers from 1 to 120 and tasks on the other side;
- sheets of paper;
- writing tools;

• dices.
Purpose - to collect 120 points.

Each team thinks of their name and writes it on a sheet of paper. Rolls the dice and looks for a piece of paper with the same number that is rolled out. When a member of a team finds it, summons the rest members and does the task which is written on the other side of a paper altogether. Then, the dice is rolled again, just this time the number is added to the previous one. The game ends when one of the teams collects 120 points.



Teachers from Italy during the game

Game using QR codes

One of the objectives of I.M.A.G.I.N.E project is the usage of QR codes in a game. Therefore, one afternoon all of the participants were invited to a spacious room, where everyone was given a

photo to 'wear' on his/her back. Furthermore, each contestant had to scan a QR code from his/her tag given on the first day of arrival in order to find out the name of a certain animal. After having gathered

into teams, the so called 'mother' - the leader of a team had a piece of paper with some encrypted questions. By using a QR code application the teams had to scan each question and find a photo related to that



The game using QR codes

question as quick as possible. Having had all the photos, the members of each team tried to solve the puzzle by guessing the country's name. Al-

so, there were some false photos left with the letters written on the back in the end of the game. So, the final task was to place the letters into the

correct order to make a meaningful sentence. Although the whole game took loads of time, it was undoubtedly worth playing.



The game with QR codes

Recipe of Quiche Lorraine

Preparation:

Sift the flour together with a pinch of salt in a large bowl. Rub in the butter until you have a soft texture. Add enough cold water to make the crumb mixture come together to form a firm dough, and then leave it in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Roll out the pastry on a light floured surface and line a 22cm/8½inch well-buttered flan dish. Don't cut off the edges of the pastry as you have to chill it again.

Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5.

Take the pastry out from the fridge and line the base of the pastry with baking paper and then fill it with baking beans. Place on a baking tray and bake blind for 20 minutes. Remove the beans and paper and return to the oven for another five minutes to cook the base.

Reduce the temperature of the oven to 160C/325F/Gas 3.

Sprinkle the cheese onto the pastry base and add the sliced tomatoes if you use them. Fry the bacon pieces until crisp and sprinkle them over the top.

Mix the eggs with milk and cream in a bowl and season well. Pour over the bacon and cheese. Sprinkle the thyme over the top and cut the edges of the pastry.

Bake for 30-40 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool.

If you wish, you can serve it warm. Enjoy

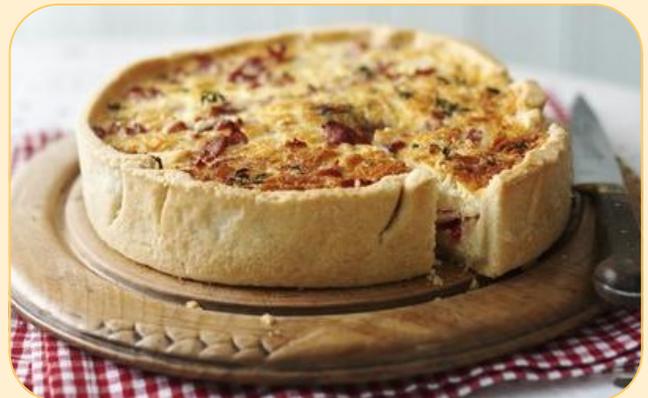
Ingredients:

•For the pastry

- 175g/6oz plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- salt
- 75g/2¾oz butter, plus extra for greasing
- (alternatively use ready made pastry)

•For the filling

- 250g/9oz English cheddar, grated
- 4 tomatoes, sliced (optional)
- 200g/7oz bacon, chopped
- 5 eggs, beaten
- 100ml/3½fl oz milk
- 200ml/7fl oz double cream
- salt
- freshly ground black pepper
- 2 sprigs of fresh thyme



Quiche Lorraine

Erasmus + I.M.A.G.I.N.E calendar:



A short mobility
meeting



The coordinators and the teachers will be meeting in Lithuania.



Mini dictionary



Good morning	-	Bon matin
Good evening	-	Bon soir
Good afternoon	-	Bonjour
Cheers	-	A votre sante
What's your name?	-	Comment vous appelez –vous?
Nice to meet you	-	Je suis tres content(e) de faire connaissance
Where are you from	-	D'ou venez-vuos
Thank you	-	Merci
You're welcome	-	Pas de rien / de rien
Please	-	S'il vous plait
How are you today?	-	Comment ca va?
Goodbye	-	A bientôt/ a tout alors

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