The Monster project improves literacy and cultural awareness

The 'Virtual Museum of Monsters' project helped young children in six countries to express themselves, improve their literacy and learn about European identity

Teacher Mariano Suárez has a very distinct memory of the project he co-ordinated, which brought together six schools and libraries in the Czech Republic, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

> The postman brought into our school a package: inside was the 'pet monster' from another school, with passport, travel book, information, photographs, surprises … The kids were giddy and wanted to open the package immediately, eager to "meet" their European friends…"

The idea behind Virtual Museum of Monsters was to help young children to express and overcome their fears by creating, sharing and learning about fun "monsters".

Over two years, 48 teachers and more than 500 children took part in 'Virtual Museum of Monsters'. The idea was to improve children's literacy and ICT skills, but also to give children and teachers a chance to learn about Europe and broaden their cultural understanding.

As well as reading books like Maurice Sendak's 'Where the Wild Things Are', creating their own "monstrous" stories, and taking part in exhibitions in local libraries, children designed six pet monsters who travelled around the participating schools with a suitcase, European passport and a travel diary.

Although the project has ended, it leaves two legacies. One is an online "museum" full of collaborative stories, photos, blog posts, videos and a multilingual dictionary. The other, of course, is a group of participants full of new knowledge about Europe. Or, as Mariano says, "smiling faces who recognize that they are no longer afraid of monsters!"

Photo: © Shutterstock

Erasmus+

Field: School Education

Action: Strategic Partnerships

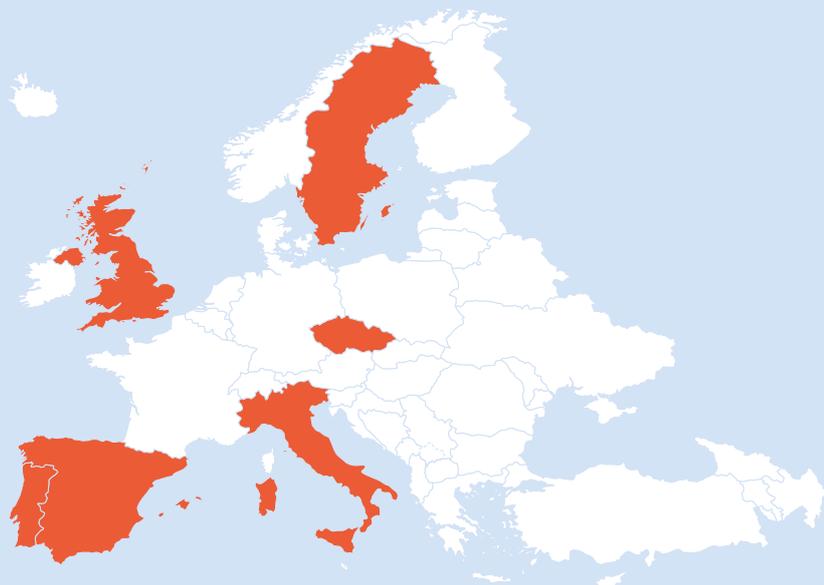### Key facts and figures

Participants: 500

Countries: 6

EU grant: €14,000

Project duration: 2012-2014

Project title
Virtual Museum of Monsters

Lead organisation
Name: CEIP Tremañes
Location: Gijón, Spain
Website: web.educastur.princast.es/cp/tremanes

Partners
Základní škola, **Czech Republic**; Circolo Didi. di Opera – Scuola F.lli Cervi, **Italy**; Agrupamento de Escolas de Porto de Mós, **Portugal**; Bifrosts förskola, **Sweden**; Cossington C of E Primary School, **United Kingdom**

More information

Project website:
vmmonsters.eu

The Erasmus+ Project Results Platform:
http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects