ERASMUS+ STEM IN SCHOOL DAYS

Project Code 2024-2-AT01-KA210-SCH000260815

Mobility Report Austria

Host School: Musikmittelschule Traun

Dates: 24th - 28th March 2025

Focus Area: STEM Education, Problem-Solving and European School Exchange

April 10, 2025

Author: Ahmed Dervisic

Table of Contents

1 Introduction

This report documents the Erasmus+ mobility week hosted by Musikmittelschule Traun in Austria from 24th to 28th March 2025. The mobility formed part of the Erasmus+ KA210-SCH project *STEM in School Days'*and brought together the partner schools for a week of school-based exchange, STEM-related learning, collaborative project work and cultural discovery.

The Austrian program combined pedagogical input, school presentations, practical STEM activities, lesson observation and visits to important regional learning sites. The focus of the week was not limited to technical skills alone. It also included questions about gender equality, problem solving, school systems, classroom practice and the role of digital and scientific education in different European contexts.

The host institution, Musikmittelschule Traun, welcomed the international delegations at its school site in Traun. The program began with an official welcome by the school's headmaster, Mr. Blumenschein, and the Austrian Erasmus+ team. Contributions from the music classes provided an authentic introduction to the specific profile of the school and created a culturally meaningful opening to the mobility week.

The week was structured around a combination of academic, practical and intercultural activities. Participants were able to compare school systems, discuss STEM approaches in their respective

schools, observe lessons, continue working on the joint Erasmus+ project and explore important cultural and educational sites in Upper Austria and Vienna.

As this was the first mobility of the project, the Austrian meeting primarily served as a foundational and coordinating phase. Unlike later mobilities, which placed stronger emphasis on direct student participation and hands-on international workshops, this initial mobility focused on establishing the theoretical framework of the project, clarifying shared objectives, discussing key STEM-related themes, and coordinating the structure of the following project meetings. For this reason, the delegations mainly consisted of teachers and project coordinators rather than student groups from all participating countries.

The following report provides a chronological account of the Austrian mobility. It is based on the official program schedule and therefore limits its descriptions to activities that were part of the documented program. Where reflective interpretation is included, it is kept closely connected to the stated aims and contents of the project week.

2 Daily Program Summary

Monday, 24th March 2025: The mobility opened with the official welcome at Musikmittelschule Traun, including contributions from the music classes, a presentation of the program, a school tour, presentations on PISA 2022 results, gender equality and problem solving, and school education system presentations.

Tuesday, 25th March 2025: The second day focused on practical STEM learning through an Arduino workshop, followed by lesson observations and continued work on the Erasmus+ project.

Wednesday, 26th March 2025: Participants travelled to Linz, where the program included time in the city center and a visit to the Ars Electronica Center, connecting digital learning, technology and cultural exploration.

Thursday, 27th March 2025: The fourth day was dedicated to project reflection, planning of the next mobility in Italy, certificate presentation and a dinner in the evening.

Friday, 28th March 2025: The final day consisted of a cultural exploration of Vienna, including Schönbrunn Palace and its gardens, the Old Town, St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Graben, the Hofburg Palace and a traditional Viennese café.

2.1 Monday, 24th March 2025

09:00: Official Welcome at Musikmittelschule Traun

The mobility week began with an official welcome by the school headmaster and the Austrian Erasmus+ team. This opening established the formal framework of the week and introduced the visiting delegations to the host school.

A contribution from the music classes formed part of the welcome program. This element reflected the specific profile of Musikmittelschule Traun and offered the international guests an immediate impression of the school's musical and cultural identity.

The Austrian team then presented the program schedule, providing an overview of the planned school-based activities, project work, lesson observations and cultural excursions. A tea and coffee break followed, allowing participants to begin informal exchanges with colleagues and students.

09:45: School Tour

Participants were guided through the school building and introduced to the learning environment. The school tour allowed the visiting teachers and students to gain a practical impression of the host institution, its facilities and its everyday educational setting.

10:25: Presentations on PISA 2022, Gender Equality and Problem Solving

The late morning session focused on educational reflection. Presentations addressed the PISA 2022 results as well as the topics of promoting gender equality and problem solving. These themes connected the STEM orientation of the project with broader educational questions, including equal participation, competence development and the role of schools in preparing students for future challenges.

The discussion of gender equality was particularly relevant within the context of STEM education, where equal access, motivation, and representation remain important issues. The topic of problem-solving further supported the project's emphasis on practical, competence-oriented learning. In addition, the discussion highlighted both differences and similarities among European school systems, offering valuable insights into how STEM-related topics are approached in different educational contexts.

12:00: Lunch and Coffee Break

The lunch and coffee break provided time for informal professional exchange among the delegations. Such informal phases supported the development of working relationships and helped strengthen cooperation between the partner schools.

13:00: School Education System Presentations and STEM in Your School

In the afternoon, the partner delegations presented aspects of their respective school education systems and shared insights into how and to which degree STEM is approached in their schools. This session created an opportunity to compare educational structures, teaching practices and school-based STEM initiatives across the participating countries.

The exchange made it possible to identify similarities and differences between the partner institutions. It also contributed to a deeper understanding of how STEM-related learning can be implemented in diverse school contexts.

2.2 Tuesday, 25th March 2025

08:30: Welcome by the Austrian Erasmus+ Team

The second day began with a welcome by the Austrian Erasmus+ team. This short opening helped frame the practical and observational parts of the day and prepared participants for the planned STEM workshop and lesson observations.

09:00: Arduino Workshop

The main activity of the day was a workshop on Arduino. The session introduced participants to *microcontroller-based learning* and provided a practical framework for exploring programming, electronics and problem-oriented tasks.

Arduino-based work is particularly suitable for school-level STEM education because it links abstract programming concepts with visible and tangible results. Within the context of the project, the workshop supported hands-on learning and encouraged participants to see technology as something that can be constructed, tested and adapted.

10:00: Lesson Observation

After the Arduino workshop, participants observed lessons at the host school. The program listed lesson observations involving several teachers at the host school. These observations offered visiting teachers the opportunity to gain insight into classroom practice. Lesson observation allowed participants to compare teaching methods, classroom organization and student engagement in a real school setting rather than only through formal presentations.

12:00: Lunch at School

Lunch was held at school, creating a further opportunity for informal exchange between participants. This helped maintain the connection between the professional program and the social dimension of the Erasmus+ mobility.

13:30: Continued Work on the Erasmus Project

In the afternoon, the participants continued working on the Erasmus+ project. This phase supported coordination between the partner schools and allowed the delegations to build on the presentations, workshop experiences and observations from the first two days.

The continued project work contributed to the overall continuity of the partnership and helped prepare the next steps within the mobility cycle.

2.3 Wednesday, 26th March 2025

09:20: Linz / Landstraße

The third day moved beyond the school setting and took participants to Linz. The day started at the Landstraße, one of the central urban areas of the city. This part of the day gave participants an impression of the regional context surrounding the host school and introduced them to Linz as an important cultural and educational center in Upper Austria.

11:00: Visit to the Ars Electronica Center

The central educational element of the day was the visit to the *Ars Electronica Center*. As a site strongly associated with technology, digital culture and future-oriented learning, the visit was closely connected to the aims of the STEM in School Days project.

The Ars Electronica Center provided a meaningful extension of the school-based STEM activities. It placed digital technologies, scientific developments and creative approaches to innovation into a wider public and cultural context. For the participants, this offered an opportunity to connect classroom-based STEM learning with broader questions about technology and society.

12:30: Lunch at Klosterhof

The group lunch at Klosterhof concluded the Linz program. It also served as another informal setting for intercultural exchange and reflection on the educational visit.

2.4 Thursday, 27th March 2025

08:30: Welcome by the Austrian Erasmus+ Team

Thursday began with another welcome by the Austrian Erasmus+ team. The day was primarily dedicated to reflection, planning and formal closure of the school-based part of the Austrian mobility.

09:00: Project Resume

The project resume session allowed the participants to review the work completed during the mobility week. This included reflection on the presentations, the Arduino workshop, the lesson observations and the shared project activities.

Such review sessions are important in Erasmus+ partnerships because they help transform individual activities into common project outcomes. They also provide a structured space for discussing what was learned and how the experiences could inform future work at the partner schools.

09:30: Planning of the Next Mobility in Italy

The program then turned to the next mobility in Italy. The planning session helped maintain continuity within the project and ensured that the partnership moved from the Austrian mobility toward the

following phase in a coordinated way.This planning element strengthened the collaborative character of the project, as the mobility in Austria was not treated as an isolated event but as one part of a longer shared process.

11:00: Coffee Break

A coffee break provided time for informal discussion and helped support the professional relationships established during the week.

11:30: Certificates

Certificates were presented to the participants, formally recognizing their contribution to the Austrian mobility. As the program continued in Vienna on the following day, this session also served as the official closing moment at the host school. After the visit to Vienna, the delegations travelled on to Vienna International Airport in Schwechat for their return flights to their home countries.

13:30: JKU – Scientists Future Lab

In the afternoon, the program continued with a visit to the JKU Scientists Future Lab. This activity added a university-based STEM perspective to the mobility and allowed participants to gain insight into current scientific approaches, research-oriented learning, and possible future developments in science and technology education. It also complemented the school-based program by connecting classroom STEM activities with higher education and applied research.

19:00: Dinner

The evening dinner gave participants a final opportunity for exchange in a more informal atmosphere. It supported the interpersonal dimension of mobility and helped consolidate the professional and intercultural contacts made during the week.

2.5 Friday, 28th March 2025

08:00: Departure from Linz to Vienna

The final day was dedicated to a cultural program in Vienna. The group departed from Linz in the morning and travelled to the Austrian capital.

10:00: Arrival in Vienna

After arriving in Vienna, the participants began the final excursion of the mobility week. The visit provided an opportunity to experience Austria's capital as an important historical, political and cultural center.

10:30: Schönbrunn Palace and Palace Gardens

The group visited Schönbrunn Palace and walked through the palace gardens. This part of the program introduced participants to one of Austria's most significant historical sites and gave the cultural program a strong historical focus.

12:45: Lunch

A lunch break was included before the group continued with the afternoon walking tour through Vienna's Old Town.

13:30: Walking Tour of the Old Town

The afternoon program consisted of a walking tour through central Vienna. The route included St. Stephen's Cathedral, a walk along the Graben and the area around the Hofburg Palace.

This part of the mobility offered the participants a compact overview of some of Vienna's central historical landmarks. It complemented the school-based and STEM-related activities of the previous days by adding a cultural and European dimension to the overall experience.

15:30: Coffee Break at a Traditional Viennese Cafe

The coffee break at a traditional Viennese cafe created an informal setting for exchange. It also introduced participants to an element of everyday Austrian cultural life.

16:30: Visit to the Easter/Spring market at the Schönbrunn Palace

The team visited the Easter and Spring Market at Schönbrunn Palace, where participants experienced a festive Austrian setting with traditional crafts, seasonal food, beverages, and informal cultural exchange.

20:00: Return to Linz

The program concluded with the return journey to Linz, marking the end of the Austrian mobility week.

3 Results and Findings

1. Academic and STEM-related Learning

The Austrian mobility supported STEM learning through presentations, practical work and visits connected to digital and scientific education. The Arduino workshop was the most clearly practical STEM component of the school-based program. It introduced participants to microcontroller-based learning and showed how programming and electronics can be used in classroom contexts.

The visit to the Ars Electronica Center added an important external learning dimension. It connected school-based STEM education with broader questions of technology, digital culture, innovation and society. This helped participants see STEM not only as a set of school subjects, but also as an area linked to public life and future-oriented thinking.

2. Educational Exchange and Professional Learning

The presentations on school education systems and STEM in the partner schools created opportunities for comparison and professional reflection. Participants were able to learn how different schools structure STEM learning and how national or institutional contexts influence classroom practice.

The lesson observations at Musikmittelschule Traun gave visiting teachers insight into everyday teaching at the host school. This made the professional exchange more concrete, as participants could connect discussions about education with direct classroom impressions.

3. Gender Equality and Problem Solving

The inclusion of presentations on promoting gender equality and problem solving broadened the scope of the mobility. These topics connected the technical focus of the project with educational values such as equal participation, critical thinking and competence development.

In the context of STEM education, the discussion of gender equality was particularly relevant because it addressed access, motivation and representation. Problem solving, in turn, supported the project's emphasis on active, hands-on and competence-oriented learning.

4. Intercultural and European Dimension

The program encouraged intercultural exchange through school-based cooperation, shared meals, project work and cultural visits. The welcome activities, including the contribution from the music

classes, helped present the identity of the host school and created an accessible opening for the international participants.

The visits to Linz and Vienna strengthened the cultural dimension of the mobility. Participants experienced regional and national cultural sites, including the Ars Electronica Center, Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna's Old Town, St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Graben and the Hofburg Palace.

5. Project Continuity

The Austrian mobility also contributed to the organizational continuity of the Erasmus+ partnership. The project resume and the planning of the next mobility in Italy helped ensure that the activities in Austria were connected to the broader project timeline.

The certificate session formally recognized the participants' involvement, while the concluding dinner supported the professional relationships and personal contacts developed during the week.

4 Conclusion

The Erasmus+ STEM in School Days mobility in Austria successfully combined school-based exchange, STEM-related learning, professional reflection and cultural exploration. Hosted by Musikmittelschule Traun, the program gave the partner delegations an opportunity to experience the Austrian school context and to continue their collaborative work within the Erasmus+ partnership.

The week included a carefully structured balance of activities: official welcome sessions, school presentations, an Arduino workshop, lesson observations, project work, visits to Linz and Vienna, and planning for the next mobility phase. The topics of gender equality and problem solving added an important educational dimension, linking STEM learning with broader questions of participation, competence development and future-oriented education.

A significant strength of the Austrian mobility was its combination of practical STEM learning and cultural context. The Arduino workshop and the Ars Electronica Center visit supported the project's technical aims, while the visits to Linz and Vienna contributed to intercultural understanding and European awareness.

Since the Austrian mobility represented the first meeting within the project cycle, its main purpose was to establish a common organizational and pedagogical foundation for the entire partnership. In line with this initial focus, the mobility was attended by the project teams and coordinators rather than student groups from the partner countries. This structure allowed the participating schools to concentrate on coordination, scheduling, the clarification of shared project goals, and the discussion of key educational themes such as STEM education, problem-solving, gender equality, and European school systems. In this way, the Austrian meeting created the basis for the later student-centered exchanges in Italy, Spain, and Türkiye, where practical workshops, intercultural learning, and international student collaboration became the focus.

In summary, the Austrian mobility contributed to the overall Erasmus+ project. It strengthened cooperation between the partner schools, supported professional exchange among teachers, offered meaningful learning experiences for participants and helped maintain the project's momentum toward the following mobility in Italy.