

# A book club with a difference

Once Upon A Time In... Europe, a Europe-wide book club, has been helping people from disadvantaged groups to develop a love of reading... and to better understand Europe!

Co-ordinator Jesús Montero explains how European funding helped to create a book club that would connect readers all over the continent.

“ European funding was absolutely necessary to make this project happen... It allowed participants to travel and get to know each country's culture and traditions, which meant they could better understand the books they read and European culture.”

Once Upon A Time In... Europe's project partners, from nine countries, were all educational institutions or organisations who work with people from vulnerable social backgrounds, including young people who are not in mainstream education, migrants, older people and disabled people.

Each country took turns to host, suggesting a book for everyone to read in their own language. Readers took part in online activities and discussions about the books; then, when everyone had finished reading, they met up in the host country to discuss the book in person.

By the end of the project, the 600 students and teachers who took part had read nine books and visited nine countries. During the 20 meetings of the book club, friendships formed as the books provided a focus for intercultural and intergenerational conversations about literature, history and culture.

This project aimed to improve people's literacy, social interaction and the use of technology, but also to increase their awareness of other European cultures and languages, and their sense of European citizenship. To help others benefit in a similar way, the organisers also produced a number of guides on how to develop similar activities.



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## Erasmus+

Field: Adult Learning

Action: Strategic Partnerships

### Key facts and figures



Participants:  
600



Countries:  
9



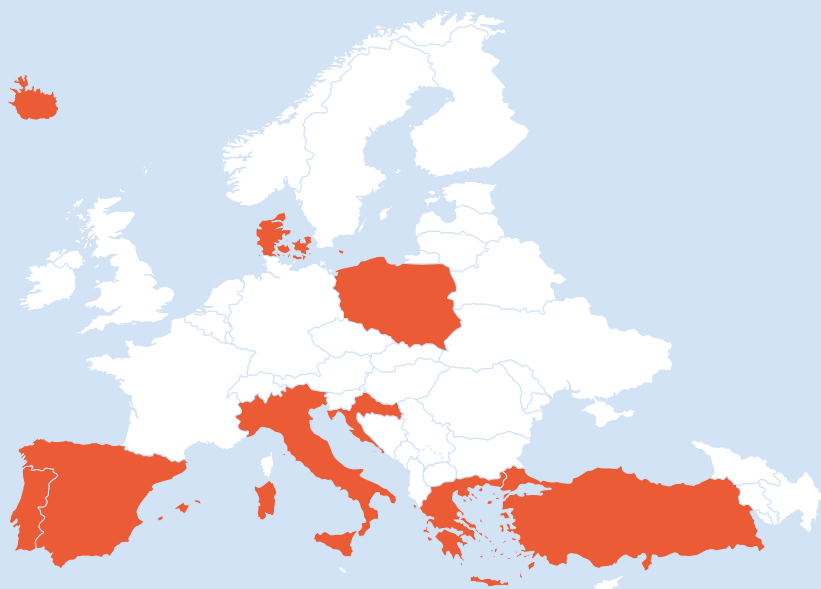
EU grant:  
€157,000



Project duration:  
2012-2014

### Project title

Once Upon A Time In... Europe



### Lead organisation

Name: IES Campo de San Alberto

Location: Noia, Spain

Website: [www.edu.xunta.es/centros/iescamposanalberto](http://www.edu.xunta.es/centros/iescamposanalberto)

### Partners

Aquilonis – d.o.o., Croatia; Slagelse Sprogcenter, Denmark; Second Chance School of Volos, Greece; Jafnréttishús Equality Centre, Iceland; IIS Galileo Ferraris, Italy; Międzynarodowe Towarzystwo Świadomości Kryszny, Poland; Socialgest and Consultadoria Em Economia Social Lda, Portugal; Erenköy Zihniye Halk Eğitimi Merkezi, Turkey

### More information

Project website:

[users.sch.gr/Vigklas/2012\\_2014/index.html](http://users.sch.gr/Vigklas/2012_2014/index.html)

The Erasmus+ Project Results Platform:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects>