ERASMUS+ • PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# Preserving Nature: Teaching Sustainability Skills

São Miguel, Azores | 10–15 August 2026

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# Learning through nature and experience

- One-week Erasmus+ course on sustainability and environmental education.
- Learning took place indoors and outdoors, through observation, discussion and practical activities.
- The Azores offered real examples of biodiversity protection, marine life, volcanic landscapes and water management.
- An international group made it possible to compare environmental challenges and teaching ideas.



# Protecting the endangered Priolo

- We learned about the Priolo, the Azores bullfinch, an endangered bird found on São Miguel.
- We visited an ecological centre focusing on the bird and the native plants that provide its food.
- We saw how the protection of one species depends on protecting its whole habitat.
- Key learning: biodiversity conservation needs connected action, not only the protection of individual animals.



# Whale and dolphin watching

- We went on a boat trip to observe whales and dolphins in their natural environment.
- The experience showed the richness of the Atlantic marine ecosystem around the Azores.
- We considered why marine habitats need protection and how tourism can affect wildlife.
- Responsible wildlife watching can combine education, nature experience and sustainable tourism.



# Geothermal energy, food and plants

- We visited a volcanic hot spring and experienced the use of natural geothermal heat.
- We tasted a traditional local dish cooked in a volcanic fumarole.
- We explored Terra Nostra Botanical Garden and observed its rich and varied plant life.
- The day showed how volcanic features are part of local culture, tourism and everyday life.



# Sete Cidades: water and Land Art

- We explored the Sete Cidades area and learned about water management.
- We completed a group task in the natural environment.
- We created a Land Art piece using fallen leaves and other plant materials found on the ground.
- The activity connected creativity, teamwork and respect for nature.



# Ideas for my teaching

- Use local examples to make global environmental issues easier to understand.
- Bring biodiversity, water, oceans and responsible tourism into language lessons.
- Use outdoor observation, group challenges and creative tasks such as Land Art.
- Compare the Azores with Hungary: different landscapes, but shared responsibilities.
- Encourage students to discuss practical choices and take small actions.



FINAL REFLECTION

# Nature is not just a topic.

# It is our classroom.

The course reminded me that sustainability becomes meaningful when people can observe, experience and discuss it together. I would like to bring this approach back to my students and colleagues in Budapest.

**Thank you!**