

Blended Intensive Programme : a rich international experience in CPRP

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From April 1st to April 5th, La Salle St-Louis Ste-Barbe hosted an intensive week dedicated to a unique Erasmus+ project. The BIP (Blended Intensive Programme) is a pedagogical approach that combines both online learning and intensive in-person sessions. This initiative brought together students from Germany, Finland and France to design and manufacture hand and forearm muscle training devices, during this collaboration adventure, creativity and innovation flourished in our Ste-Barbe workshops.

Blended Intensive Programme at LaSalle: Genesis and Organization of the BIP

Initiated by La Salle Saint Étienne, this project was launched within the framework of the Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme (BIP), in collaboration with Niederrhein Hochschule in Germany and Centria University of Applied Sciences in Finland. Under the coordination of Florence Gallego-Hiss and Sergi Boix, it engaged our students in an innovative design and manufacturing process.

The challenge? To remotely design and conceptualize solutions for strengthening hand and forearms, before producing them on-site in less than a week! Divided into three groups, students focused on three areas where their final creations would be necessary:

- Climbing practice, particularly rock climbing
- Physiotherapeutic rehabilitation for adults

- Physiotherapeutic rehabilitation for children

The university collaboration began with a remote design phase, where our students contributed to the development of plans and models for the muscle training devices. This preliminary stage which lasted two months, established common specifications and laid the groundwork for the upcoming intensive week. Each group, comprising both design and manufacturing specialists, aimed to design parts that would be more easily achievable than if there were no communication between the two poles from the start.

This stage allowed our students to discover group work with diverse specialists, remote planning, and most importantly, English practice in a professional context!

PHOTO

Jaan Unger (Allemagne), Florence Gallego-Hiss (France), Guillaume Boucher (France) et Mika Kumara (Finlande)

Blended Intensive Programme at LaSalle: A busy week!

From April 1st to April 5th, our Ste-Barbe workshops were the focal point for the manufacturing phase of the muscle training devices. Under the supervision of teachers involved in the program (Jaan Unger For Niederrhein Hochschule in Germany, Mika Kumara for Centria University of Applied Science in Finland, and Jean-Paul Lac and Guillaume Boucher for la Salle Saint-Étienne), students used CNC machines and 3D printers to produce the necessary part.

Bringing the prototypes to life was no small feat! In less than 4 mornings, the goal was to produce over thirty different pieces. This meant, for each of them, designing the manufacturing program, finding the right tools, and implementing them on the machines.

The intensive week was not only dedicated to practical work but also to cultural and professional visits in Saint-Étienne and its surroundings. After visiting the *Cité du Design* exhibition and the old city in *Lyon*, participants had the opportunity to discover the local industrial history and meet specialized companies such as Dara, a mechanical subcontracting company for the automotive industry, and Bonnavion, specialized in the production of mechanical subassemblies for nuclear and petrochemical industries.

Blended Intensive Programme at LaSalle: Student Feedback

We gathered testimonials from Xavier, Giulia, and Antii, three students who participated in this project. Their comments reflect the positive impact of this experience on their personal and professional development, By working alongside their international peers, they acquired new technical skills, strengthened their teamwork abilities, and broadened their horizons!