DESIGN THINKING
Malaga, 22nd – 26th July 2024
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A group of 19 participants from Slovenia, Croatia, Italy, Poland, Romania and Hungary took part in a 5-day course to learn about the methodology of 'Design Thinking'. We worked together in groups, gave presentations and redesigned. The planned activities stimulated our thinking and kept us constantly on the move. We also tried out the methodology hands-on, when visiting two museums– Museum of Malaga and the Interactive Music Museum– where we worked in pairs to learn about each other's thinking and at the same time to understand each other's thinking when finding new solutions.

Design Thinking is a user-centred process that encourages innovative problem solving. It consists of five main phases: empathy, definition, ideation, prototyping and testing.
In the empathy phase, creators delve into the needs and challenges of users to truly understand them. Based on these insights, they clearly define the problem they want to solve in the definition phase. The ideation phase is whereas many ideas as possible are generated, regardless of their feasibility. This is followed by prototyping, where the selected ideas are converted into simple prototypes that can be quickly tested. Testing is a crucial phase where users test the prototypes and give feedback. Based on this feedback, solutions are improved and adapted.

Design Thinking is an iterative process, which means that phases can be iterated and refined. This approach allows solutions to be continuously adapted and refined until they are the best fit.
A key advantage of Design Thinking is that it encourages collaboration between different experts and fields. This multidisciplinary approach leads to more innovative and integrated solutions. In an educational context, Design Thinking helps to design learning programmes and methods that are more tailored to the needs of the learners. Successful implementation requires leadership support and a culture that encourages experimentation. In this way, Design Thinking contributes to the creation of solutions that truly meet the needs of users. An active week passed quickly in the beautiful surroundings of the beautiful Malaga.

Photo 1, 2: Some photo highlights from the training