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### Magic workshops and Participatory illusionism

This report is a summary of the workshops and activities conducted by CONIL Association for the first and second phase of the We Need Illusions More Than Reality ERASMUS+ project. CONIL organized the magic workshop in July, with some of the special needs children from CONIL School. This report presents the testing of this workshops. Additionally, we will include our personal feedback and our kids impresions regarding this activity.

For CONIL, this was the first time we tried to integrate magic in the process of education. We collaborated with the magician Magitot. He created a card trick magic show designed to stimulate children's minds.

This was the children's first opportunity to make contact with the world of illusionism, this representing their active participation in card tricks. In Romania, fascination, magic and illusionism are treated as magic show tools. Within this project, we noticed a new way of approaching them. They represent a real opportunity for psychological development.

The illusionism of the magic show managed to cause an extraordinary thing. The children's urge to find possible solutions to elucidate the mysteries behind the tricks. They not only arouse curiosity and amuse, but motivate the brain to find countless solutions. Involuntarily, the child is subjected to a complex mental exercise.

### Creation of magical effects to attract children's attention;

We payed special attention to the way the children received the information throught the show. They actually started to make connections and tried to think as much as they could in order to understand something that even tipical children don't fully understand. For us, listening to their answers and seeing that they do their best to overcome their psychological limits was very special. We are very proud of our kids.

Thanks to this project, we become aware of the added value that magic can bring to education. The ultimate and indisputable advantage is the very fact that it requires thinking, reasoning and logic from the children. The fact that they reacted so fascinated took us by surprise, because we did not expect them to be so focused, so curious, so aware of what happens in front of their eyes. They usually get bored or distracted very fast, they stop paying attention even to important or fun staff. So the fact that they remaind amazed and focused at the magic tricks all throughout the show, was trully amazing.

## Our impressions and feelings

We were impressed by the immediate effectiveness of this activity. The fact that the students reacted so interested and enthusiastic proved to us that the children are trained physiologically in an interesting and engaging way.

One of the most important advantages we find in this new schooling method is the fact that children find solutions on their own, without the guidance of teachers. Their minds create their own ideas out of the desire to solve a mystery that, at first glance, left them in complete uncertainty.

We are really impressed with how this activity went and how this new method of schooling seems to positively affect the minds of the students.

#### The students' emotions

The students' emotions ranged from excitement to curiosity and hunger for knowledge. At the beginning of the show, they reacted like any child faced with unprecedented tricks, with great joy, amused and fascinated by what was happening. But very quickly their minds began to judge, to create connections between tricks and possible solutions. So they didn't just watch a magic show, they thought about it!

They thought through everything that was happening in front of them in detail so that they could create possible solutions. Even they were impressed that they couldn't help but think of possible answers regarding the tricks.

We can say that the strongest emotion they experienced during this activity is the great joy of thinking!