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Erasmus+-KA229 SCHOOL EXCHANGE PARTNERSHIP
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There's sea and sea... there's an entire ocean to take care of!

Words from the coordinating school

For all teachers and students from the different partner schools involved in this Erasmus+ KA229, the days in Italy were intense. We shared experiences, visited beaches, rivers, learned about different marine ecosystems and we walked around the surrounding localities.

We were very well received by our Italian friends. In all the schools we visited, teachers, parents, students and municipalities left us with hearts full of emotion, joy and a desire to return to Italy. We learned from the ways of being and protecting the Italian people. We have admired the differences and seen that the similarities and difficulties in teaching and learning Ocean literacy are many and common to all countries involved in this project. We realized that together, through projects like Erasmus+ "OCEAN CARE", we can do more and better so that our young students grow up loving and protecting the seas and oceans of our planet.



What marine litter exists on the beaches of the Adriatic Sea? What are its effects in this marine ecosystem?

Istituto Comprensivo Nereto Sant'Omero Torano Nuovo, Italy

28 March - 1 April 2022

Mobility C2 - Italy

DAY 1

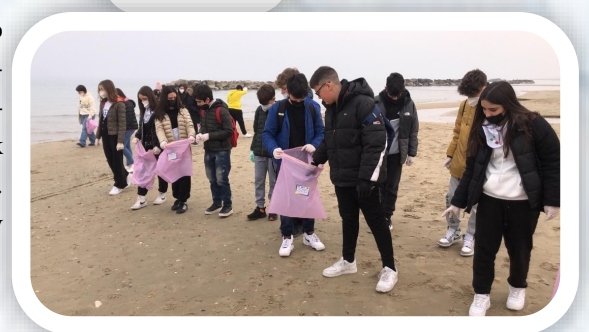
The first day of our meeting in Italy surprised us not only with bright sunlight, but also with radiant smiles of colleagues from our partner schools. There was a wonderful reception at Nereto school, where we were greeted by pupils and school staff. All the guests received gifts, and enjoyed the performance with songs and dances. We then visited Nereto kindergarten and Nereto Primary school which both were brightly decorated with a nautical theme. The young talents under the supervision of their not less talented teachers showed a legend about San Martino, the Parton Saint of Nereto. We all were delighted!



Then, at the City Hall we were greeted by the Mayor of Nereto which was followed by the presentations performed by the pupils of the partner countries. Also, the draft of the project sight was introduced.



Afternoon activity included a trip to the Coastal Biotope Area in Martin-sicuro beach where "Ecological brigade" teams collected litter and took samples of sand to be later analyzed. All the given tasks were successfully completed.



Day two of our stay in Italy started with a visit to the Sea Museum in San Benedetto del Tronto. It was a cultural and historical exploration of the Adriatic Sea and it was interesting to know that the museum lies within the wholesale fish market complex.



A nice walk along the land, river and lake areas in the Sentina Nature reserve followed. It stretches for about 180 hectares in the Municipality of San Benedetto del Tronto, between the town of Porto d'Ascoli to the north and the river Tronto to the south and it is home of many species threatened with extinction.



After lunch we were warmly welcome by students and teachers in the Primary School of Sant'Omero. The welcome greetings by the Mayor of Sant'Omero and the short coffee break were followed by some hard work. All the waste collected on the beach was analysed and the data was recorded on the MARINE LITTER WATCH APP. Identification, description, analysis and comparison of natural elements collected on the beach followed and the results were recorded on GOOGLE EARTH.



While the analysis took place, the coordinators had a meeting to discuss future project activities, the project website, the forthcoming mobility to Turkey and other current issues.

On Wednesday 30 March we moved to Rome, where we lived a wonderful experience of knowledge and fun. This is the story of an exciting trip. Very early in the morning we left for **Ostia**, a city located on the Tyrrhenian Sea, near Rome.



The sky was cloudy and rainy at times but fortunately the boat was covered, so we still had the opportunity to observe the river landscape and all the sights of the beautiful "Eternal City". A tourist guide illustrated its history and monuments and during the breaks we had a great time traveling on the river while listening to the music.



The tour guide told us about the history of Ostia, the ancient port of Rome, and the importance of the river in the development of Roman civilization and illustrated the River's typical flora and fauna: birds, fish, plants and other organisms living in an environment seeking a balance with urbanization.

When we reached the mouth of the Tiber, we observed how its fresh waters enter the salty ones of the Tyrrhenian sea. It is a delta estuary, in which two arms are formed, one natural and the other artificial which was excavated by the ancient



After a short stop for lunch, we left for Rome by bus to discover the most beautiful places in the city. We visited the **Colosseum**, where gladiatorial games were held. Then we went to **Piazza Venezia** and observed



the monumental "**Altare della Patria**" and finally stopped to the famous **Fontana di Trevi**.

Here, despite the rain, we respected the tradition of throwing pennies behind our backs to make a wish. The tour continued to **Piazza di Spagna** and to the **Pantheon** and ended with an exciting visit to the **Vatican** and the church of San Pietro. After a short stop for lunch, we left for Rome by bus to discover the most beautiful places in the city. We visited the **Colosseum**, where gladiatorial games were held. Then we went to **Piazza Venezia** and observed the monumental "**Altare della Patria**" and finally stopped to the famous **Fontana di Trevi**. Here, despite the rain, we respected the tradition of throwing pennies behind our backs to make a wish. The tour continued to **Piazza di Spagna** and to the **Pantheon** and ended with an exciting visit to the **Vatican** and the church of San

In the evening, going back to Nereto, the hearts of the students, who had seen Rome for the first time, were full of joy and emotion. Rome is truly an open-air museum,

an incredible concentration of art, history and beauty. So we are grateful to the Erasmus+ project for this extraordinary gift of knowledge and wonder that has enriched the "OceanCare" mobility program in Italy.



Istituto Comprensivo Nereto Sant'Omero Torano Nuovo, Italy

DAY 4



We visited the Primary School in Torano Nuovo and met the Mayor of Torano Nuovo Municipality.



The teachers, students and some parents extended us a warm welcome. The students performed their games for the visitors. At the school in Nereto, the teachers and students had some socialization activities, played some traditional games and Bocce.



The teachers walked around the vineyards in the region.

The students had a workshop on the use of the 3D printer and did activities to transform the natural elements collected into art.

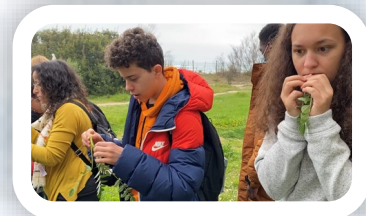


On the 1st of April, the last day of our activity plan, the delegations from the various partner schools were looking forward to all the experiences they would enjoy. The daily plan started at 9am with a trip to the national protected area of "Torre del Cerrano", the first marine area to gain "protected area" status in Europe! Here, we observed all the surrounding natural diversity, in a biotope where the human hand interferes very little.



In this activity, which is expertly guided by monitors from the tower, we will get to know the biotope's ecosystem, coming into contact with the plants and animals living in this place along the Adriatic coast. This is a marine area with important dune vegetation, an area of pine trees and is also home to a good number of species of marine animals: crabs, sea bass, sole and sea bream, Adriatic clams (known as *paparazza*).

We cannot fail to note here also the unusual "tasting" experience: eatable plants!



We also contemplated archaeological evidence that is part of the history of this place. The tower we visited is an ancient historical vestige that now houses the Sea Museum. We enjoyed, among the various items on exhibition, a collection of shells and whelks, fish skeletons, boat structures...

At 1pm, the delegations returned to their starting point, Nereto, and after an invigorating lunch, we had a free afternoon to enjoy the ambiance of this wonderful town.



At 6 p.m., the delegations all gathered again in a small pavilion for a (big) **Goodbye Party**. The event started with a speech by the Italian teachers, which really touched us. Then we watched a lovely video, produced by the Italian delegation, about the five days of the mobility. This "film" caused many emotions in all those present, as it contained images of all the friendships made between all the delegations. After watching the video, the food stands "opened" and we all enjoyed the Italian cuisine!



Besides tasting a huge Erasmus+ cake, the teachers from each country spoke about the mobility and hospitality of the Italian host school, we also sang the anthem of each partner school country and danced/sang traditional dances/songs of each country.

The party ended at 10pm, this being the last time we were all together. We all went home, but always with the hope of meeting again and with our hearts "full" of so much affection received. The mobility to Italy will remain marked in all of us!



Portuguese Students' Impressions

"The trip to Italy was a fantastic activity and an unique experience to any student. Certainly, it helped to expand the academic and cultural horizons of every student."

Francisco Vilela, 14 years, 9th grade

"The trip to Italy was very enriching and amazing. Not only because of the amazing families that made us feel at home, but also the inspiring and organization of Italy."

Rita Dores, 14 years, 9th grade

"The trip to Italy, apart from being very enriching, was a way to learn, a great help to our personal and social development. The Italian families received us with joy and care, which made us feel at home, and this made this experience even more unforgettable."

Daniel Bogalheiro, 15 years, 9th grade

"The trip to Italy was the most enriching experience that I ever had, I expanded my ocean literacy knowledge and I saw the importance they give to it. I also learned about Italian gastronomy and culture, in general. The family that received me was awesome, lovely and gentle. I was a lucky boy for staying here. The knowledge will stay with me forever."

Tiago Costa, 13 years, 8th grade

"What I liked the most was going to Rome, I loved to see the colosseum. I also loved the Italian food, although it was different from the Portuguese one. The schools were different from the Portuguese ones. I liked to participate in the divulgation action of the Ocean Care, with the delivery of flyers for the people that was walking near the beach that we went to clean."

Wilson Fernandes, 14 years, 8th grade

"In Italy, I loved everything. I really enjoyed going to Rome. I thought that just the Portuguese people took care of the sea, but I learned that the Italians also do that, cleaning the beaches and creating maritime conservation areas."

Leonor Quinta, 14 years, 8th grade

"In this trip to Italy, I learned about new places and cultures. I discovered that the beaches are similar to the Portuguese ones, but less polluted. The family that received me was very nice and was an incredible experience."

Matilde Silva, 12 years, 6th grade

"The experience in Italy was great. We discovered new cultures, such as, one of the families habits is helping each other cooking the meals. The beaches in Italy are less polluted than the Portuguese ones. Staying with families was incredible, they received and treated us very well!"

Daniela Costa, 12 years, 6th grade

"In this mobility to Italy, I developed my english communication competence. It was very interesting to observe the different sand grains, the Italian beaches and their marine ecosystems. The italian language is very melodious! It was amazing to meet new cultures and different people."

Inês Nunes, 12 years, 6th grade



“Going to Italy was a wonderful experience, we were very well received by our Italian colleagues. During our visit, we learned a lot of things, like experiences, separating the trash... We went to a lot of beaches and museums. The Italian culture is very large, the first dish of the meals was always pasta with tomato sauce. Some foods were different from the Portuguese ones and some were similar. I loved going to Italy, it was one of the best experiences I ever had as a Moinhos da Arroja student. The Italian beaches are way cleaner than the Portuguese ones.”

“In Italy, we met some incredible traditions, like they always eat two dishes, one is pasta, and the other one is the main dish! The Italians were very kind to us.”

Mafalda Roseira, 9 years, 4th grade

“I understood that instead of soup they eat pasta and then they eat the main dish. The students wear uniforms, because it's mandatory. In Italy there is more farming than in Portugal. There is a museum of the sea, but they also have protected areas. The Italian beaches are also cleaner than the Portuguese ones. The Italian language is very similar to the Portuguese one.”

Sofia Grechulkh, 9 years, 4th grade

Portuguese Teachers Impressions

“For the Portuguese teachers, the days in Italy were intense. We shared experiences, visited beaches, rivers and the surrounding localities. We were very well received by our Italian friends. In all the schools we visited, teachers, parents, students and municipalities left us with hearts full of emotion, joy and a desire to return to Italy. We learned from the ways of being and protecting the Italian people. We have admired the differences and seen that the similarities and difficulties in teaching and learning Ocean literacy are many and common to both countries. We realized that together, through projects like Erasmus+ "OCEAN CARE", we can do more and better so that our young students grow up loving and protecting the seas and oceans of our planet.”



Portuguese teachers and students in Italy.



Portuguese teachers with the Mayor of Sant'Omero, Andrea Luzii, and the School Director of the Istituto Comprensivo Statale Nereto Sant'Omero Torano Nuovo, Laura D'Ambrosio.



Turkish Students' Impressions



It was a very good experience. From making new friends to visiting new places and learning more about different countries' cultures, histories, traditions, cuisines and more, it was so nice. I learned more about the sea, the importance of recycling and what plastic does to our world, to us, to animals and to our future. Our teachers and host families worked a lot to make great things. It was great to make new friends. We laughed, cried and spent time together. And after a week of spending time together, it was hard for us to say goodbye. But I hope to see everyone again. And I hope one day, when we see each other again, we can chat for hours and make up for the time passed. Thank you everyone for this magnificent experience, hope to meet you again...
(Tezel MERT)

Going to Italy was an unforgettable experience for me. The family that hosted me was very kind to me. When I went there, they welcomed me very warmly. They taught me many things about Italian culture such as their traditional food and national sports. My friend that hosted me, Ludovica, was extremely friendly and hospitable. We got on very well and we noticed that we have a lot in common. I met many people from other countries involved in the project and we became friends. We attended many events there. We visited some schools in the area and watched the shows that the students prepared for us. We collected and separated the waste on the Adriatic sea. We visited the Tevere River by boat and explored the river ecosystem. We went to museums and learned a lot of new things about the oceans. I had a very enjoyable time. I was very excited to see the capital city, Rome. There were historical buildings everywhere. We visited the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, and the Colosseum. Italy is a very beautiful country. I'm looking forward to visiting Italy again.
(Bade BERKETOĞLU)

In Italy, it was very fun. I was very excited because it was the first time I went abroad. I made new friends there, I learnt a new culture, I visited interesting places where I had fun a lot. I ate different food that I didn't even know before. I had fun with my friends there, it was very enjoying in home too. We went outside to play football, we played online games at house, we ate dinner together. I played games in Italy with my friends in the Thursday's dinner and some more. We went to Rome and Vatican. We visited some interesting historical museums and also three schools at Nereto, Torano Nuovo and Sant'Omero. We did some activities about saving the seas: we collected thrash, we counted them and entered the information to Google.
(Arhan ÖZTÜRK)

My trip to Italy was great. This trip was full of firsts for me. I boarded a plane for the first time. I went abroad for the first time. The family that greeted me was amazing. They always checked up on me in case something was wrong and they made delicious foods. The activities we did with the group was very good too. Although the bus trips made me dizzy because of the long and bumpy roads. I really liked Nereto. Even though it was a small province it was very beautiful with its buildings and so. I didn't liked Rome that much though. It was big and crowded and there were graffities all over the place. So overall my trip was pretty good and I liked it a lot.
(Ogün Çağdaş TOKATLIGİL)

Turkish Teachers Impressions

First of all, we would like to thank everyone who contributed in this short-term exchanges of groups of pupils, especially to Mrs. Laura D'ambrosio and Mrs. Francesca Marziale. Despite being a busy program, it was successfully completed. There was a good harmony between administrators, teachers and parents. Everyone was trying to help each other. The teachers were working selflessly and diligently. The constructive cooperation between the municipality and the school was remarkable. We will always remember the kind parents, the respectful students, the green fields, the olive trees, the vineyards and the beautiful hotel in nature with friendly staff.



Estonian Students' Impressions

Daria: I love this project very much. It was very good experience in communication. I liked my host family and other kids and teachers in the project. I want to take part more times in such projects. For me, all activities were fantastically organized.

(From the diary: I have a feeling that our visit to Italy lasted for much longer than only 1 week. I will never forget it. We became very close to the kids and teachers. I am ready to keep on working and travelling in this project!)



Elina: I love that trip very very much! I enjoyed when we spent time with our families as we could do whatever we wanted. Also, I liked Wednesday because we went to Rome. I'm happy that now I feel that I have three families: my family, host family and my group from Tallinn. I'm excited that I had an amazing and inspiring trip to Italy but I'm sad that I can't go to Italy again. Also, I am delighted that the kid from the project will come to me next year. (I want Martina to come as we are good friends and it will be easier to be together) P.S. We chat with Martina a lot and we send a lot of photos to each other. If Martina reads this mail..."I miss you very much and I enjoyed to be with you. Love you♥"

Ivona: Traveling to Italy was very exciting and interesting! I liked the trip to Rome very much. All Italian people are very friendly and gentle. My host family was pretty big and all family members were nice. Italian food is also very tasty. Thank you, Italians, it was very great!

Rodion: I felt so lucky that I took part in OceanCare project. On the first day we visited many schools, where children showed us a very interesting performance. This was so cute! On this day we got many presents, such as bags and bottles with the project logo, a little book about the legend of San Martino that children had made themselves.

My family in Italy was so kind to me that is why I felt almost like at home. I will remember them forever! I got many new friends there. All was so good that I want to repeat this project one more time! :)

(From the diary: The visit to Italy was unforgettable! I will remember it forever. The host family was wonderful! I am waiting to host guests! I am sure we could save the ocean!)

Estonian Teachers Impressions



The second meeting with our amazing partners, who had already become our dear friends, was "unbelievably unforgettable"! The Italian team made us feel so welcome, warm and pampered as all our wishes and desires came true immediately. (As a result, it was hard to get back to the reality at home). The meeting was extremely productive and entertaining at the same time. It was so interesting to watch our enthusiastic children being involved in various activities. We would like to thank all our Italian friends and express our special gratitude to Laura and Francesca for preparing such an amazing week for us.



Bulgarian Students' Impressions

When we arrived in Italy, we were greeted very warmly. The family I was staying with made me feel at home. Nicolò, who also participated in the program and whose family hosted me, became my very close friend. We ate very tasty food, typical for the country, we even made pizza ourselves once.

Every day our project group visited different places and performed various activities: we cleaned the beach, analyzed the waste collected, visited different museums, visited Rome, played traditional Italian games and many other fun and useful activities. I can say I made many new friends.

I am very happy with the experience, because Italy is an extremely beautiful country that I would like to visit again.

Borislav, Varna

During my ERASMUS trip to Nereto, Italy, I was very happy. I felt accepted and loved by the people I interacted with. I was especially impressed by the way we were welcome, how much efforts they had involved with the decorations and all the preparation.

The family I was staying in was unique and I felt it like mine own. They also treated me exactly as their child. They prepared delicious Italian food for me, they had organized various gatherings and parties.

I also really enjoyed visiting Rome, although the bad weather was a real challenge. I saw the Colosseum and many other interesting places.

My favorite moments were when we had to go to school - clean, tidy, with beautiful classrooms and funny activities.

I am glad that I was able to visit Nereto and I'd like to thank Mrs. Petrova for selecting me for this trip. I wish her many more such wonderful moments!

Gabriela

I was very excited before the trip to Italy because I could not even imagine what would happen there.

The family I was staying with took such a good care of me that I felt at home. Giulio and I became very close friends.

Every day they took us to different places - to museums, nature reserves, the beach (which we cleaned), the capital Rome and others. I really enjoyed our visits to primary and secondary schools, as well as the typical Italian relay games which we participated in.

I was very impressed by the way we were greeted. I really liked all the Italian food I tasted and it will definitely be one of my favorites.

During the project I met interesting new people and made many friendships, which I think is one of the greatest and most valuable treasures in the world.

After this trip Italy will have its place in my heart forever.

Pavel

Hello. My name is **Chris** and I am from Varna. In April I traveled with tree tea teachers and several classmates to Italy.

I was most impressed by the people there. They were amazing. I had never met such kindhearted and thoughtful people before. I would never forget them, no matter what.

The trip itself was also quite interesting. It was my first time leaving Bulgaria. And I had never flown by plain before. Quite fun, ah? It may have been a long and tiring trip, but it was so cool.

I was able to learn a lot, as see some places I had only heard of. Since history is one of my favorite subjects, I was curious to hear stories about old buildings and various legends.

The family I was staying with was very friendly. The coolest thing I've learned about the Ferrante family is that they've had a clothing and shoe store for a long time.

I hope that the friendships that my classmates and I made there will last forever. It was an unforgettable journey, like a fairytale.



Bulgarian Teachers Impressions

Italy - An Ocean of Emotions

There are many reasons to fall in love with Italy - the country of pizza, pasta, haute couture, Renaissance, architectural wonders ...

We love working on Erasmus + projects. In addition to knowledge and personal growth, they offer you a unique opportunity for pure human empathy – acquaintance with people who give you their warmth and hospitality, views and landmarks that remain in your mind better than just a photo in an album.

The meeting in Nereto started for us with the sparkling light of the Bengal fire! It awoke our tired of travelling eyes and hinted us all that awaited us would be glow. The children, parents and colleagues who greeted us smiled and hugged us to make us feel we were at home even being in Italy. Five days were too short to get enough of the sweets, lovingly prepared by parents and colleagues, to taste traditional Italian dishes, to enjoy the beautiful flora of the Tiber with neat fishing boats or the amazing charm of the sea and the spectacular view from Cerano Tower, the fascinating history of The Eternal City combined with the vivid modern rhythm. All those were unique moments spiced with the aroma of dense Italian espresso and the taste of homemade pasta, pizza, gelato ... and more, and more ... Maybe Beauty and Tasty were invented in Italy!

A month has passed since our return, and our souls have not yet arrived back. They will probably return later, along with the eyes, the sense of smell and touch, the rejoicing, the admiration, the enchantment, the astonishment, the words, the rapture, and all of them will settle back in us again.

We realized what a wonderful team we are - partners from all over Europe, doing so many useful activities which helped us love the ocean and encouraged us to care for it even more.

Thank you, Italy!



Italian Students' Impressions

Ilaria Calzolaio

The Erasmus activity has been an eye-opening experience for the people who took part in it. Or at least, it was, for me. Encouraging students to keep the ocean clean, while giving them the chance to improve their English is clever; it covers different subjects without seeming heavy.

I got along with most foreign students and still text with some of them.

Most of the activities were sea-related. For example, we would collect and recycle trash found on the seashore or visit sea-themed museums. There were also some sport-related ones or off-topic trips so it wouldn't only be focused on sea subjects.

The overall experience was fun, even if the weather wasn't the best on some days.

Alessio Ciammariconi

The Erasmus experience was very exciting.

I hosted a Portuguese boy, Tiago, and he is very nice. Thanks to Tiago I knew all the Portuguese students better and we enjoyed a lot together.

It was great to let him visit our country and let him taste our culinary specialties: I had funny time to explain how arrosticini should be eaten.

I am very proud to be part of the Ecological Brigade and all the activities carried out during the week were interesting, especially the day in Rome.

The most beautiful thing was finding new friends and I hope to see them again soon!

Matteo Cimiconi

Hi, I'm Matteo and I am very happy to have participated in the Erasmus activities and to have met many new friends from other countries: Bulgaria, Estonia, Portugal and Turkey.

In particular I made friends with Rodion, an 11 years old, Estonian boy.

The activity that I liked the most was the boat trip on the Tiber river.

I really hope that the foreign guys had a lot of fun and loved our beautiful country: Italy.



Martina Tassoni

The week of Erasmus activities in Italy was the best week of my life.

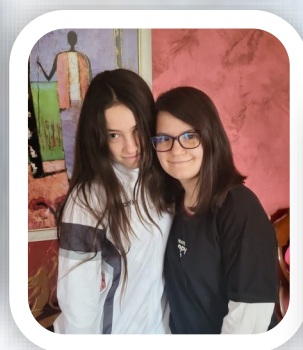
I hosted a girl from Estonia: Elina and we had so much fun together!

I will never forget this amazing experience.

I can't wait to visit Elina and her family in Estonia, I'm already counting the days left!

Giulia Agostini

This experience, born from the desire to save our seas and oceans from pollution, gave us the opportunity to meet boys and girls of different nationalities with whom we could share exciting experiences and adventures. Moreover, speaking one universal language, English, has made everything more precious and unforgettable.



Annalaura Bacà

Hi, I am Annalaura and I am from Nereto.

I participated in the Erasmus week and I think it was one of the best experiences of my life.

I was scared at the beginning, I thought I wouldn't be good at speaking English with the other students, but it was easy. They immediately opened up to us and we made friends from the first day. We made many trips on the bus and they were moments I will never forget. Time passed quickly and on the last evening we had to say goodbye, promising to meet again. This experience helped me a lot with my English and I made friends I will never forget. Thanks to all the Erasmus teachers and thanks to all my friends, I love you all ♥

Giada Florà

It was a wonderful experience. I hosted a Portuguese girl with whom I immediately made friends and thanks to that I learned English better. All the activities were very educational and fun and when we had free time enjoyed talking and playing at home with Rita, the girl I was hosting; in short, you never get bored.

Sara Colella

I was very lucky to have the opportunity to be part of the Erasmus project. I hosted two Portuguese girls, Matilde and Daniela, and we spoke English, because it was the only language we all understand. This project has not only given me the opportunity to meet new people, but also to be aware of the importance of respecting the Earth. Thanks to this project I was able to learn about new cultures from other countries, that allowed me to open my mind.

Italian Teachers Impressions

OK!!! Everything is ready... The schools are decorated with waste material, **C**arefully converted by our students into small fish, colorful flowers and flags; everywhere the voices of children are doing rehearsals to cheer guests up with sweet melodies.

The **E**cological brigade is ready! So...3...2...1 Welcome to Italy!!!

All the images bring to mind with a load of positive emotions. **N**o one could imagine what it was: our minds retrace what has been lived, the heart is filled with joy and gratitude! Is it possible that a beautiful friendship was formed between people from different countries who have never seen each other before? Yes, it is possible! This miracle happens when you are bound by the same passion. **C**hildren have overcome every obstacle and, as always, they have shown that every distance can be bridged by the will to achieve a common goal. **A**nd so, day after day, we rejoiced, worked, laughed, ate (too much!) and played together. It is **R**eally impossible to find the right words to thank those who made this possible: the resourcefulness of our head teacher Laura D'Ambrosio and also the stubbornness and competence of our project coordinator Francesca Marziale.

In the **E**nd, thanks to all those who have worked tirelessly for the success of everything.

We will carry in our hearts everything we have experienced together and then we will embrace .



Project activities

Agrupamento de Escolas Moinhos da Arroja Portugal



Blue School Day and European Maritime Day –

A Human Chain for the Ocean

At the request of the National Coordination of the Blue School, the Moinhos da Arroja School Complex (Kindergarten Dr. João Santos, Primary School Porto Pinheiro, Basic School 2,3 Moinhos da Arroja) participated in the celebration of two dates: the Blue School Day (19 May) and the European Maritime Day (20 May).



Somos Escola Azul, Somos Eco-Escola

600 students, from pre-school to 9th grade, got involved in the Blue School Day celebration.

So, to mark these dates, the challenge proposed was "Let's join hands for the Ocean and create an Ocean Chain that links all the Blue Schools". This was the challenge that was set so that, together, we could create a symbolic moment that united our Blue School community.

This initiative involved around 600 students, from pre-school to 9th grade.

To watch the video of this moment, click here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/search?q=v%C3%ADdeo%20corrente%20oceano>

Rise Up - All Together for the Ocean

Responding to the challenge/ invitation launched by the BLUE SCHOOL, the Sea Ambassadors students of the Moinhos da Arroja School Complex (Odivelas) got actively involved in the "Rise Up - All Together for the Ocean" initiative.

To this purpose, they presented the initiative in their classes and encouraged their classmates to vote for the three most important priorities, out of six, for the protection of OCEAN 2030.



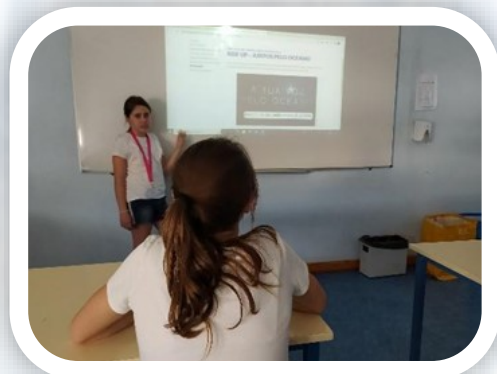
Students of 9th grade present in their class the Rise Up initiative.



Students of 6th grade present in their class the Rise Up initiative.



Students of 4th grade present in their class the Rise Up initiative.

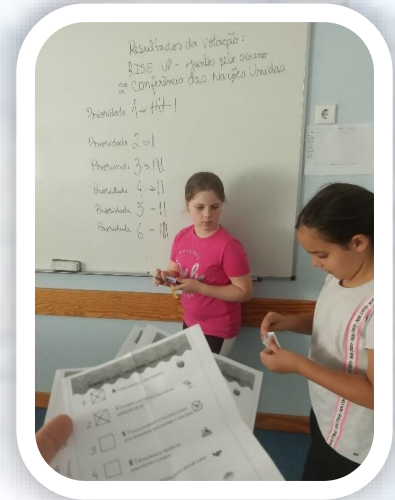


Students of 5th grade present in their class the Rise Up initiative.

The aim, in addition to collecting the "blue" wish of each of the colleagues, through a specific ballot paper, is also to collectively assume a set of actions that aim to operationalise the selected/ voted priorities.

Naturally, and because the context allowed it, statistical literacy was worked on, in addition to the curricular contents of Natural Sciences/Environmental Studies.

Eight classes were involved (4th grade of Porto Pinheiro Primary School; 5ºD; 6ºA; 8ºA; 8ºC; 9ºA; 9ºB; 9ºC of EB 2,3 Moinhos da Arroja) and a total of 157 students. The sessions were presented by the Sea Ambassadors Mafalda Roseira and Sofia Grechukh (4th grade), Catarina Augusto (5th grade), Matilde Silva and Daniela Costa (6th grade), Tiago Costa, Joana Santos and Dinis Malaquias (8th grade) and Daniel Bogalheiro and Rita Dores (9th grade).



Students of the 4th grade count the votes from the Rise Up initiative at AEMA.

Having counted the votes by our ambassadors, the result at AEMA was as follows:

- Priority 1: "Recovering marine life" - 136 votes;
- Priority 2: "Investing in a future with less pollution" - 89 votes;
- Priority 3: "Accelerate the shift to an economy that protects nature" - 67 votes;
- Priority 4: "Empowering and supporting coastal populations" - 19 votes;
- Priority 5: "Unite to decide on the ocean" - 49 votes;
- Priority 6: "Protect at least 30% of the ocean by 2030" - 108 votes.

It can be seen, then, that the AEMA Blue Community elected as priorities: 1st - "Recovering marine life", 2nd - "Protecting at least 30% of the ocean by 2030" and 3rd - "Investing in a future with less pollution".

On 19 and 20 May, i.e. on Blue School Day and European Maritime Day respectively, the Sea Ambassadors "downloaded" this vote, by class, from the online questionnaire provided by the Blue School.

The next step is to define what commitments our community can make in order to contribute to the effective implementation of these priorities.

This is one way that the Blue School has found to bring the voices of children and young people to the United Nations through the delivery of a letter of commitment during the 2nd OCEAN Conference, which will take place in Lisbon between 27 June and 1 July 2022.

To learn more about the Rise Up initiative, watch this video:

<https://escolaazul.pt/escola-azul/novidade/rise-up-juntos-pelo-oceano>

There's sea and sea... there's a whole ocean to take care of! - OceanCare :))

Public Presentation of the ROV4All Underwater Robot

On May 25, the AEMA Sea Ambassadors students presented their underwater robot ROV4All, at the Instituto dos Pupilos do Exército, in Lisbon.

This is a project work that took 2 months to build! Every week, the students of the 6th grade, with prof. Susana Serra, and the students of the Erasmus+ project KA229 from the Lower Secondary prepared and tested, in stages, this robot in the School Library.



AEMA Sea Ambassadors at the entrance of the Army Pupils Institute, in Lisbon.

The construction of underwater robots in a school context is a project funded by the Blue Fund of the Ministry of the Sea, through the Directorate-General for Sea Policy, and was inspired by the EDUROVs programme of PLOCAN - Canarias Oceanic Platform. ROV4ALL is coordinated by ARDITI - Regional Agency for the Development of Research, Technology and Innovation, through the Madeira Ocean Observatory, and has the collaboration of six partner entities: IMAR - Institute of the Sea, OMA - Azores Sea Observatory, CCVT - Tavira Ciência Viva Centre, IPMA - Portuguese Institute of Sea and Atmosphere, IST/ISR - Instituto Superior Técnico/Instituto de Sistemas e Robótica, IQ-IPRAM/EPFF - Institute for Qualification through the Francisco Fernandes Professional School.

The main idea behind ROV4ALL is to enable the construction of small ROVs - Remotely Operated Vehicles - by students from schools in Madeira, the Azores, Lisbon and the Algarve, using a kit developed by the ROV4ALL project and with the support of the project team, which is made up of ROV technicians and pilots, engineers, marine science researchers, marine educators, science communicators and teachers. The main goal is to enhance learning about technologies for the study and exploration of the ocean, emphasising its potential and also raising awareness about the valorisation of marine resources, their sustainable exploration and conservation. ROV4ALL is, in this context, a project that promotes teaching based on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) competences.

On 25 May, all the schools involved in this project presented their artefact, demonstrating how, by means of a command, their vehicle moves forwards and backwards and from top to bottom. Our ROV4All did not fail and successfully performed all the movements!



AEMA's ROV4All robot operating underwater.



Students - AEMA Sea Ambassadors who presented ROV4All at the Army Pupils Institute: Matilde Silva, Daniela Costa, Mariana Clara, João Belo, Andrei Dirtu (students of 6th grade), Dinis Malaquias, Tiago Costa and Joana Santos (8th grade), Rita Dores, Francisco Vilela and Daniel Bogalheiro (9th grade).



Seahorse Performative Show

On 25 and 26 May, 230 pre-school children, divided into 6 sessions, attended the show entitled "Seahorse - dance and music show for early childhood", by Madalena Victorino, Ana Raquel and Alice Duarte.



This is a short dance and music piece for young children. With a very portable and very participatory design, children between 3 and 5 years old got in touch with the materials of a hybrid universe, between the sea and the mountains. This seahorse was the result of the love between a starfish and a horse. The children ran like horses, sang like children and plunged into an imaginary oceanarium made of nothing and of a contagious joy that the two interpreters imprinted on this delicate and strong performative moment, at the same time, captivating, the children's attention at every moment.

This show, with a true philosophy of education through art and inclusion, is a delicious synesthesia of sounds, colours, flavours and emotions, raising awareness about the protection of marine ecosystems, in particular seahorses, a species also at risk in Portugal.

You can watch a moment from this play by clicking here:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=809130016670005>

This show was funded by the Erasmus+ project KA229 OceanCare.



Project activities

Sakala Eragümnaasium (Sakala Private School) Estonia



Spring 2022 Activities in Estonia:



On the 13th of May, as part of the 'OceanCare' project, the Ecological Brigade members from the third and fifth grades attended an exciting lesson at the Museum of Nature. They studied the peculiarities of the inhabitants of the Baltic Sea, got to know how micro-plastic enters the Baltic Sea, how it affects its inhabitants and what needs to be done to protect them. The children learned how to use microscopes, then they analyzed the composition of seawater and used simple filters in the search for microplastic.



May 20, 2022, the first raid of the Ecological Brigade of Sakala Private School took place along the Pirita beach in Tallinn. The cleaning-up brigades were formed by students of different ages and grades. During the beach cleaning-up campaign our children collected about 25 kg of litter, sorted out and analyzed the components of the waste.

Project activities

Arkas Bilim ve Sanat Merkezi, Turkey

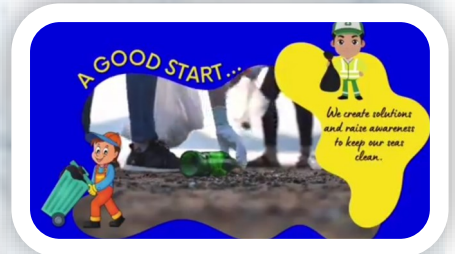


Activities of 2nd Semester 2021-2022

February 2022

An online game about threatened marine species was created by one of the students.

An English animation was created by one of the students.

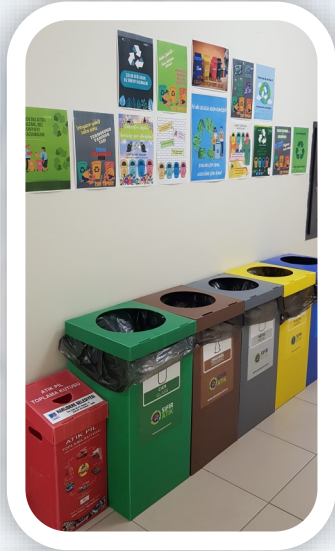


March 2022

Brief video presentations about our country, city and school were created by the students.

Remarkable slogans were written about the use of waste and its harm to the environment and hung on the wall above the waste recycling bins in our center.

An advertisement spot was created by the students to appeal to the non-pollution of beaches and to raise awareness of the decrease in the use of plastic (in Turkish and subtitled in English).



April 2022

In English lessons, animated films "The Beauty" and "Selfish" were watched on the impact of wastes on marine biodiversity by student groups of each cycle from secondary school. After watching the video, a debate was followed.

A board game about threatened marine species was created by the students.

May 2022

The program of the short-term exchanges of groups of pupils (LTT) activity to Turkey was prepared.

The students created posters about European Union on Europe Day (9th May).

A brochure was prepared by one of the students to be distributed when raising awareness in the local community.

For the creation of stories in e-book format, the students wrote stories in Turkish Lesson about the characteristics of the threatened species, food, environment, predators, impacts of the human threat. Among stories, the story titled "Kareka" has been chosen by the teachers.



June 2022

The video presentations about our country, city and school were uploaded to twinspace.

The story "Kareka" was translated by one of the students and sent to our Bulgarian partner in order to be illustrated.

News about the project works were written in order to send to the country newspaper.

Erasmus+ corner, Twinspace, Facebook and Instagram page updated every month.

Project activities

Our School "I.C.S. Nereto- Sant'Omero- Torano Nuovo" Italy



Students of the Comprehensive Institute Nereto Sant'Omero Torano Nuovo have carried out numerous activities to develop the aims of the Erasmus+ project "OceanCare" and, in general, to raise awareness of the respect and protection of the entire planet.

22nd March 2022 World Water Day – Torano Nuovo Primary School (2nd grade)



World Water Day, held on 22nd March every year since 1993, focuses on the importance of freshwater. World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis.



22nd April 2022 Earth Day – Primary Schools

The celebration of this date in our schools was carried out in many different ways, depending on the creativity of the students and teachers, but with the same purpose that is to highlight the importance of safeguarding the environment and take care of it.

Following the slogan "Be the change you want to see in the world!", students of the Primary School in Torano Nuovo have cleaned the school garden, making it more beautiful and welcoming. They have become aware that everyone can play an important role with small actions in the protection of the environment.



Students of Primary and Secondary School of Nereto held a demonstration in the square to involve the community in the respect and protection of public places.



Students of the Primary School of Sant'Omero did a singing show. The children's choir, directed by the music teachers Simona Iachini and Paola Ciaffoni, proposed songs on the theme of respect for the environment, eco-sustainability and love for nature.



20th May 2022 World Bee Day – Primary Schools

World Bee Day is celebrated each year on 20th May to raise awareness of the importance of bees as pollinators, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development. Bees are renowned in facilitating pollination for most plant life, including over 100 different vegetable and fruit crops. Without bees, there would be a huge decrease in pollination, which later result in reduce in plant growth and food supplies.

Using CLIL methodology, students did craft activities and prepared **seeds bombs**,



Visit to the beach and to the mouth of the Vibrata stream – Primary School Torano N.

Students went to Alba Adriatica and visited a beach recognized as a protected area by WWF. This area is dedicated to a bird, *Charadrius alexandrinus*, which is on the verge of extinction due to climatic change and because of the anthropogenic activity that has modified the habitat. It can live in this beach because the ecosystem is intact and suitable for its survival. Students had the opportunity to learn more about the environment, vegetation and animals typical of this ecosystem.



Workshop on aromatic plants – Primary Schools Torano N. and Nereto (1th and 2nd grade)

Students attended a seminar and held a botanical workshop at SVAL, a local company that deals with agriculture and gardening. The topic of the seminar was the main aromatic herbs used in Italian cuisine: rosemary, basil, parsley. In the workshop they prepared a jar to bring a gift to their families.



“Let’s protect the places of our hearts!” – Primary School Nereto (1st grade)

Following the motto “Let’s protect the places of our hearts!”. Children created beautiful drawings in which they wrote the correct rules for respecting our territory, their wishes and dreams for the future of Earth.



“The planting trees man” – Primary School Nereto (3rd grade)

In line with Goal 15 of the 2030 Agenda, classes worked on the story of the man who planted trees, written by Jean Giono, in which a great message of love for nature emerges. Students practiced the technique of retelling through illustration of the main scenes of the story and, using the software Google Earth, they searched and virtually visited the places described by the author.



“Environmental eco-sustainability” – Primary School Nereto (5th grade)

Students analyzed and studied the functioning of modern plants that produce clean energy from renewable sources, such as water, wind, sun, etc... They built beautiful models of photovoltaic systems using recycled materials.



Classes read several texts related to this topic and, by the narrative technique of Kamishibai, which is a kind of theatre of Japanese origin, very suitable for children because it creates a very engaging and fun atmosphere, students did a dramatization of the stories, experiencing them with great participation.



In order to disseminate the wonderful mobility in Italy, Bulgarian team created this eBook. Enjoy

P.S. Thank you, our Italian friends, for the unforgettable moments!!!

<https://read.bookcreator.com/p4PRtCy7m7Y5Br3sFYmaHLfoozEz/R7hLJ9GgSuKuaFBRP1ofmA>

Water is a unique part of the surface of the earth. Life on our planet depends on the rational use of water and its purity. We all use water, so each of us is responsible for it. Children from Angel Kanchev Third Secondary School, especially the Ecological brigade are aware of the importance of this problem and therefore eagerly took part in observing World Water Day. Students from the primary and secondary classes prepared drawings and posters about pollution and water purification, including some useful tips on how to save water at home. Sixth and seventh graders made beautiful books full of riddles and poems about water and the sea. Christiana and Magdalena from seventh grade drew a poster about the environment and asked their classmates to think of a suitable motto for it. Samantha's motto was the one which was chosen. Her message is: Without water, there is no life. Without blue, there is no green ". On March 22 children arranged a beautiful exhibition in our Erasmus + corner.



Another part of "Marine Plasticology sessions" was held at Angel Kanchev Third Secondary School. It was a practical lesson on the topic "Sand on the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast". Children from the primary were in action. The questions that the students had to answer were the following:

1. What does sand consist of and what types of sand are there along the Black Sea coast;
2. What is the color of the sand grains and why they have different colors;
3. What is the origin of the shells in the sand;
4. What are the main pollutants on the beach near Varna.

The students were divided into groups. They examined sand samples with the help of magnifying glass. They found that the sand consisted of:

- shells of marine organisms;
- black mussels and white sand mussels, mussels Venus Gallina, Cardium edule snails, rapani;
- green and brown algae.

They examined samples of rocks and minerals from which most of the sand was formed - limestone, basalt, transparent and yellow quartz.

Students found that in addition to quartz sand, along the Black Sea coast there is also black magnetic sand, which contains the mineral magnetite.



It was interesting to compare the Black Sea sand with a sample of sand from the Sahara Desert in Africa, pointing out several differences in the color and size of the sand.

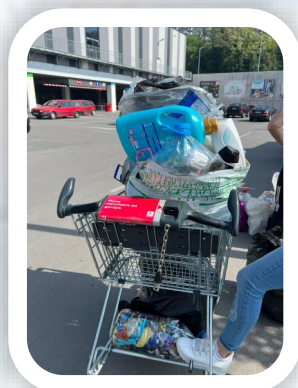
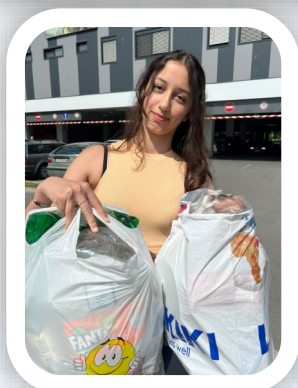
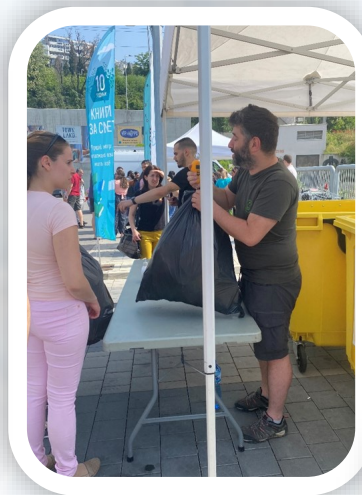
Children presented information about the black mussel and rapana. *Rapana venosa* is a biological invader of the Black Sea and destroys the black mussel *Mytilus galloprovincialis*. The white sand mussels of the species *Venus Gallina* and *Cardium edule* have already been destroyed by *Rapana venosa* and we find only shells on the beach.

At the end of the class the main pollutants on the coast and on the beach sand were discussed:

- plastic /plastic packaging, bottles, cutlery/;
- paper /mainly packaging/;
- cigarettes;
- glasses and glass bottles.



In accordance with the main project idea, Ecological Brigade from our school was in action. They took part in the national campaign “Books for garbage”. This is a national environmental initiative which encourages both – recycling and reading. Everyone who brings a kilogram of recyclable plastic will receive an optional book in return. Our Ecological Brigade students involved their classmates, friends and families.



What garbage hits the Aegean beaches? What are its effects on marine ecosystem?

Arkas Bilim ve Sanat Merkezi, Turkey

30th May - 3rd June 2022

Mobility C4— Turkey

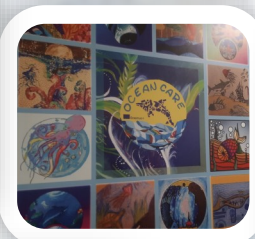
DAY

1

When the first rays of the gentle Turkish sun warmed the frozen Estonian travelers, they realized that the next stage of the *OceanCare* project had started in the wonderful city of Izmir. One of the best schools for talented children greeted us with a musical performance and a solemn meeting. After exchanging presents, we enjoyed traditional Turkish coffee, tea, and homemade cakes. Then the students from the partner schools gave presentations on the education system and peculiarities of their schools. The Turkish school impressed us with their modern well-equipped classrooms and laboratories. The children got to know each other in ice-breaking games.



All the participants of the project went on a tour of the city of Izmir. A traditional Turkish kebab was waiting for us in one of cozy restaurants in the eastern market of Kemeralti. At the end of the day, we visited the ruins of the ancient Agora.



Arkas Bilim ve Sanat Merkezi, Turkey

DAY 2

Day 2 of our mobility in Izmir, Turkey was full of activities. It started with a trip to “Izmir Katip Celebi University Faculty of Fisheries Marine Creatures Collection Center”. In the center, examples of many species living in the seas are displayed – turtles, crabs, jellyfish, bi-valves, starfish, lobsters. Along with the exhibition we were also able to get to know about some of the scientific work they do at the center.



Izmir Bird Paradise was our next stop. It is a sanctuary which hosts about 30 000 flamingos. It was interesting to observe them closer with a telescope. The globally endangered crested pelican breeds in the same area. We also drove along the salt ponds in the area and enjoyed the view of the beautiful white crystals shimmering under the warm sunshine.



After having lunch in Kasiyaka, we headed back to school. While coordinators had their meeting to discuss future activities, some workshops for students took place – Music workshop “Let’s Play and Sing for Oceans and Seas”, Art workshop “I design my own shopping bag”, Technology and Design workshop “Sea Cleaning Robot”, Chemistry workshop about Bioplastics.



Arkas Bilim ve Sanat Merkezi, Turkey

DAY 3

8.00 a.m. We reach Arkas Bilim ve Sanat Merkezi school and in the courtyard, students and teachers are ready to go. Today our activities will be done in Kum Denizi beach, in Urla, a seaside place where we'll go to collect, separate and weigh garbage.

9.00 a.m. We are ready to start our journey.... oh, oh someone is missing! The Portuguese team is late... Mrs. Hatice, the coordinator call them. They had an adventure with the parking but finally they drop in the bus very quickly.

At 9.30 a.m. we arrive in Urla. It's windy and hot. The place is marvelous. Kum Denizi beach fascinates us with a magnificent sea and a unique view of the Ae-

gean Sea. 10.15 a.m. We meet the students of the Maritime Vocational School. They will participate to the garbage challenge too. We wear latex gloves and take bags to collect plastic stuff, cigarettes butts, paper, glass. After 10 minutes walking, we arrive to the beach called Kum Denizi. In front of the beach, we observe islands where people were taken for quarantine. History repeats itself!



Students, divided into 5 groups work very hard to win the competition (to collect more garbage).

We had a great experience in cooperation with TURMEPA "Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association", the Municipality of Izmir and Aegean University - Urla Maritime Vocational School. The "Shore and bottom cleaning activity" is a community awareness action in public space for teachers and students.

We collect, separate and weigh a lot of garbage on the beach. The subs collect natural elements for observation, identification, description analysis and comparison (water, sand, algae, coast rocks) to verify the presence of plastic.



At 12.00 we sit at the restaurant, eating Katmer and drinking Ayran, typical Turkish food and drink, delicious and very tasty.

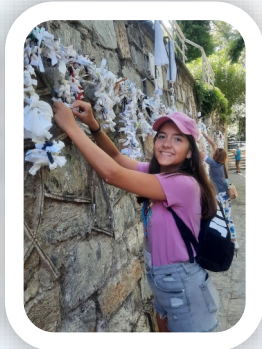
In the afternoon we return to school, where students have a laboratory activity to analyze the elements collected on the beach and to measure the pH of the Aegean Sea water.



On the 4th day, we visited The House of Virgin Mary and then the Ancient City of Ephesus, which is on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List. After having a lunch of traditional Turkish meals in Selçuk, we visited Ephesus Museum. Then we went to Pamucak beach.

The House of Virgin Mary

The House of Virgin Mary, 9 kilometers from Selçuk, is located on Mount Bülbül. It is known that 4 or 6 years after the death of Jesus, St. John brought Virgin Mary to Ephesus. In 1891, Lazarist priests discovered that this is the house where Virgin Mary spent her last days, upon the dream of German nun A.Katherina EMERICH. This event has been a brand new discovery in the world of Christianity and has shed light on the world of religion. This cross-planned and domed structure was later restored. After the visit of Pope Paul VI in 1967, rituals are held every year on the 15th day of August in the house, which is also considered sacred by Muslims, and these rituals attract great attention.



Ephesus Ancient City

The first establishment of the ancient city of Ephesus within the borders of Selçuk District of İzmir Province dates back to 6000 years BC. In the researches and excavations carried out in recent years, the mounds (prehistoric hill settlements) around Ephesus and the settlements belonging to the Bronze Ages and Hittites on the Ayasuluk Hill, where the castle is located, were found. The name of the city was Apasas in the Hittite Period. The port city of Ephesus, where immigrants from Greece started to live in 1050 BC was moved around the Temple of Artemis in 560 BC. Ephesus, which is visited today, was founded by Lysimakhos, one of the generals of Alexander the Great, in 300 years BC. Ephesus, which lived its most glorious times in the Hellenistic and Roman periods, had a population of 200,000 as the capital of the Asian state and the largest port city. Ephesus was relocated again during the Byzantine Period and came to Ayasuluk Hill in Selçuk, where it was founded for the first time.

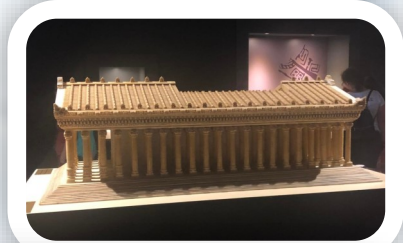
The port at the end of the Harbor Street of the Ancient City of Ephesus moved away from the sea due to the accumulation of alluviums brought by the river over time. With the Ephesus Antique Canal Project, a 600-meter-long canal and a 100-meter-wide and 250-meter-long marina are being built that will provide boats short-term accommodation. The first phase covers the area on the Kuşadası-İzmir road from the Pamucak coast.

Selçuk Ephesus Museum

The Ephesus Museum is one of the most important museums in Turkey as well as important artifacts from the Mycenaean, Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman periods in Ephesus and its surroundings. Since the Ephesus Museum is a museum that mainly exhibits the works of an ancient city, it was preferred to exhibit the works according to the places they were found instead of a chronological and typological display. Accordingly, the halls were arranged as "Slope Houses and House Artifacts Hall", "Coins and Treasure Section", "Grave Artifacts Hall", "Ephesus Artemis Hall", "Emperor Cults Hall".

Pamucak Beach

Pamucak Beach has a very large plage with a length of 7 km and a width of 80 m. With this feature, it is one of the longest beaches in Turkey. The beach is located 9 km away from the town of Selçuk, to which it is connected. In addition to being blue flagged, it is also the natural habitat of sand lilies.



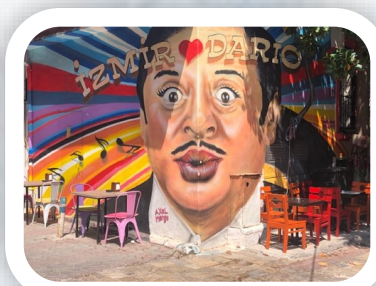
The last day of our mobility in Izmir: an already nostalgic farewell

On our last day in Izmir, in the morning, we met all our partners again at the host school and had the opportunity to observe (and experience) the workings of an *Interactive Topographic Map*.

The map includes cities, water features, physiographic features, contours, parks, landmarks... overlaid on shaded relief imagery for added context. Using this setup of a Microsoft Kinect, digital projector, and a sandbox, we can make an interactive topographic map that will show contour lines and elevation in real time and respond to our students' actions. The sandbox in its natural state gets transformed when the Kinect and the digital projector are turned on and display the graphics from above. A tool of high pedagogical interest.



Presentation of the *Interactive Topographic Map*.



Dario Moreno Street, in Izmir.

After this presentation, and on a guided tour, we went on a cultural walk through one of the historic quarters of Izmir, a Jewish quarter. Here, we got to know the magnificent street known for Dario Moreno, a Turkish singer and actor with great success in the French-speaking countries in the early 1950s until the late 1960s. It is an artistic street, very colourful and that leads us to the historical elevator.

Entrance to the Historical Elevator.

The historical Elevator building connects two streets –Mithatpasha and Nihatbey - which are 58 meters apart. It was built by the Jewish businessman called Nesim Levi. Before he built it, people accessed the higher street with a stair with 155 steps. The Elevator building's construction was finished in 1907. This lift, at the top of the street, presents us with a stunning view of the city!

At the same time, while this cultural visit for teachers was taking place, students participated in workshops: Music Workshop - "Let's Play and Sing for the Oceans and Seas", Art Workshop - "I design my own shopping bags on hand-crafted bags", ICT/Technology and Design - "Sea Cleaning Robot", Chemistry Workshop - "Bioplastics", Science Workshop - "Water filtration".

After the morning program, all of us, students and teachers, went to Narlıdere Uğur School for lunch and certificate ceremony. The certificate ceremony started with the speech of Hatice Buket Yereli, the English Language teacher and project coordinator of Arkas Science and Art Center. The participants from Portugal, Italy, Bulgaria, Estonia and the participants from Arkas Science and Art Center who participated in the short-term exchange of student groups held students sang the project song together. Music Teacher Yaprak Hazman and Music Department students "Kağan Demir Demiray, Pelin Uğurlu, Yunus Emre Özkan and Aysu Gencil accompanied them with instruments.

It was an emotional farewell, due to the love and hospitality we were showered with, throughout the five days of our mobility, by our Turkish partners.



Farewell Ceremony in Narlıdere Uğur School.

Arkas Bilim ve Sanat Merkezi, Turkey

Our impressions

Bulgarian Teachers Impressions - Turkey

We know that Erasmus meetings are always interesting. Because of people we don't know, and then we get close to them. Because of the children full of energy. Because of the new places to explore. Because of the emotions and impressions which enrich us.

This time it was a little different. We were going to Asia. We all thought Izmir would look like an aquarelle - colorful, cheerful... We were greeted by a metropolis with wide boulevards, modern infrastructure, glass buildings that quietly share the space with the traditional tiled roofs of houses dating 10 centuries ago and old mosques and churches that preserve the spirit of antiquity. The children were nervous about staying in families. But the surprise was warm and pleasant. The host families greeted them more than warmly - with flowers, smiles and hugs. The tension disappeared quickly.

There is no exact recipe how to fully enjoy your stay but yet here are a few useful tips for those heading to this exotic and hot country:

1. Blend with the vivid crowd - it's fascinating because of the many languages and the colorful experience.
2. Visit many of the natural and historical landmarks - it is worth immersing yourself in the antiquity and architecture which can be seen in all major buildings in the city - the clock tower Sahat Kulesi, City Hall, Konak Mosque, historic elevator /from the top you can see the whole bay of the Aegean Sea/. Cool off in the clear waves of the sea, walk along the marble paths of Ephesus polished by thousands people's feet...
3. Enjoy the ritual of making Turkish coffee and remember forever its taste and aroma.
4. Try the local culinary "symbols" - manta, baklava, kunefe...and all the spicy dishes prepared with hot peppers.
5. Enjoy watching the floating pink flight of flamingo birds over the river Gediz ...

Saying goodbye on the last day is sad and touching. We are grateful to the hosts for their great effort to make the meeting interesting, beneficial and unforgettable

Turkey has definitely found its place in our hearts!



Bulgarian Students' Impressions - Turkey

I am really happy that I got the opportunity to participate in the Erasmus project mobility to Turkey where I met a lot of new people and got to know the Turkish culture better. I stayed at an amazing family that took care of me and always made sure I was comfortable and everything was fine. We had the chance to go to an Amusement Park and the mall. We took walks every day and had a lot of fun but when we were home we watched movies, played games or simply talked. Even now after the project I still keep in touch with some of the kids.

Yanitsa, Bulgaria

On Saturday we arrived to Canakkale and slept in a hotel. We woke up at 6.30 a.m. and got on the bus at 7 a.m. We traveled for about 10 hours to Izmir. When we arrived to the hotel, we met our hosts there and they picked us up to their houses. My host was Asya. She is very kind and smart girl and her parents are amazing! They have two cats and one dog. The cats are very lovely and cute and the dog is very smart, kind and funny. I loved it so much! When we entered their apartment, they showed me every room and they told me that I'm going to sleep in Asya's room.

On Monday, our first day together every country presented their Education System-Turkey, Portugal, Estonia, Italy and Bulgaria. Then we had Ice-breaking time. We wrote our names on a piece of paper and put it in a box. Then we pulled random names. Everyone laughed so hard because we had to say the person's name we pulled and everyone said the names wrong and that was really fun. Then we went to some museums and parks.

On Tuesday we had school classes- Music Workshop, Art Workshop, ICT, Chemistry Workshop, Science Workshop. In Music Workshop we practiced the project song which we sang at the end- "Leave Nothing Behind". In Art Workshop we drew on bags. In ICT we made robots, cars and others. In Chemistry Workshop we made some Bio-plastics. In Science Workshop we purified water.

On Wednesday we cleaned the beach in Urla. Then we had lunch there.

On Thursday we went to The House of the Virgin Mary, Ephesus Ancient City. Then we had lunch in Selcuk, we walked on Pamucak beach and got back to the Center.

On Friday, our last day, we had the same Workshops as on Tuesday. For Goodbye party we went to Ugur Private School. We sang the project song and cried so much! Then we got back to the high school and said goodbye to all of the friends we made! It was a really sad moment.

Thanks to this program I learned a lot, I changed and made so many friends from the other countries. I was impressed by people's kindness. I met so many cool people who are now like my brothers and sisters. In just one week, I made more friends than I did in 12 years. I'm still crying everyday because I miss everyone. I text and call some of my new friends everyday. I hope to meet them again one day.

Tiana, Bulgaria

My unforgettable adventure in Turkey began with crossing the border. We, all children, were very nervous and uncertain at the beginning but after my host family took me home, I felt better. Idyll's family were very kind and hospitable. I had a lot of fun with them I am grateful for everything they did to make me feel good in their home.

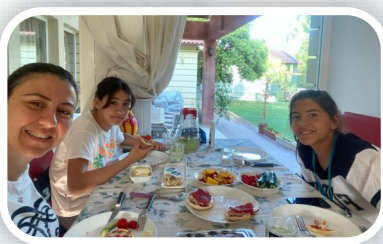
Izmir is a beautiful city, I liked it a lot. I liked all the places we went to - various museums, universities, parks and landmarks, such as the clock tower in Izmir. Ephesus and the House of the Virgin Mary were the most impressive places for me. I also enjoyed being at the educational center. It was lots of fun! We had chemistry, science, music, robotics and visual art workshops.

I found many new friends, I miss them very much and I really hope to see them again!

Kristiana, Bulgaria

It was a long trip to Izmir, it took us two days to go there but we had fun on the road. The programme our hosts had organized was intense. We visited many places of interest and met many new friends. I really liked the city, the food, the history and culture and everything I could learn about this interesting country. It was an unique experience.

Victor, Bulgaria



Since the same beginning we very excited, we played a lot of games along the way and it was fun. Before we met with the host families, we all were very nervous. Once we met them, we felt better.

On the first day we had to present educational system in Bulgaria. We also learned a lot about education in Turkey, Italy, Portugal and Estonia. We visited many interesting places and knew a lot about Turkish culture. All the food I tasted while I was there was very delicious.

On the last day we all were sad and cried because we had to say goodbye to our new friends. I personally really enjoyed the trip and would like to go there again one day.



Velizar, Bulgaria

My trip to Izmir was very exciting and full of wonderful emotions. During this one week I met a lot of people, I got to know a great culture, different from ours. Izmir is a very beautiful and big city. The family I was staying with made me feel at home. I felt their hospitality and kindness when I first met them. Although communication was not easy, we found a way to talk and have fun. Every day they came up with something different for us all to do together and made me feel part of the family. I heartfully thank them for that. All my memories from this trip are unforgettable.

Kaloyan, Bulgaria

I had a great experience in Turkey. I liked the ice breaking games at the center, the interesting workshops we had and the beautiful places we visited. Thanks to this project I improved my English, became friends with so many different people from other countries. They all are such cool people. I am also very grateful to my host family who took such great care of me for the whole week. They were so kind and good to me that I felt as if I were their daughter. Thank you, Zeynep for being such a good host and a good friend. I hope to see you again. I love you all for what you gave me.



Beloslava, Bulgaria

My trip to Izmir, Turkey was a unique and unforgettable experience. At first I was quite worried and didn't know what to expect, but it was definitely worth it. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to be part of this Erasmus + project and to experience all these unforgettable moments. My host family are extremely nice and kind people. They gave me the opportunity to try traditional Turkish dishes, get to know their culture and traditions and fully enjoy my stay there. We cooked together, talked, laughed, played different games, watched movies and learned from each other. During the week we visited many interesting places but my favorite was the old city of Ephesus. It was extremely beautiful! The weather was wonderful and I was able to learn a lot about this place and its history. The workshops we participated in were very interesting, fun and useful. I learned a lot not only about how to protect the environment and the seas and oceans, but also about the Turkish education system. We did a lot of useful and fun activities that certainly enriched us as people and helped the environment! If I have to talk about the other students, my words will certainly not be enough! They are the most wonderful and unique people I have ever met! They are very cute and extremely fun! We all had fun together, sang, danced, told stories and learned words and phrases in different languages. One of the hardest things was that I had to say goodbye to them all. I remain hopeful that one day I will see my new friends again and then I will not stop hugging them!



I don't think a big thank you would be enough to express how grateful I really am to have had the chance to go through all this and make these wonderful friendships! This project taught me to be more communicative, not to be afraid, to be brave enough to face challenges with my head held high! Thanks!

Alexandra, Bulgaria

Portuguese Teachers Impressions - Turkey

"During the week of 30 May to 3 June 2022, the Portuguese delegation went to Izmir/ Turkey to achieve the mobility C3 of the Erasmus + K229 project.

The Portuguese team, composed by 4 teachers and 5 students, was received by the Turkish host school with great kindness and enthusiasm. All the objectives regarding the C3 mobility were achieved, we would even say, exceeded. All partners, students/teachers/host families, had the opportunity to feel and live the Erasmus Project philosophy. The consolidation and development of relationships between institutions was achieved, the exchange of knowledge and teaching methodologies was accomplished.

We can affirm that we all came back culturally and pedagogically richer and with a great will to disseminate the Good Practices among the AEMA educational community.

Finally, we must emphasise that this mobility was characterised by friendship and enthusiasm and we all returned nostalgic for this great experience."



Portuguese students and teachers on their way to Turkey.

Portuguese Students' Impressions - Turkey

"This trip to Turkey was an amazing adventure, I experienced a different culture and a completely different language, we did a lot of unforgettable activities and made some new friends. In summary I loved this trip and I would enjoy to repeat it!"

Francisco Vilela, 14 years, 9th grade

"Doing Erasmus in Turkey was an incredible experience. It is a very important experience for the student's life and that undoubtedly makes us better students. I met new friends that I carry in my heart. Turkey has received us incredibly well. An experience that undoubtedly stays for life and makes us happier!!!"

Daniel Bogalheiro, 15 years, 9th grade

"Hello, my name is Dinis Malaquias and I'm from Portugal. I enjoy very much this trip:)) My favourite place was the Ephesus Ancient City because I really like history. I really enjoyed talking with Bulgarian, Turkish and Estonian colleagues and playing football with my Italian friends. I really enjoyed meeting new people."

Dinis Malaquias, 13 years, 8th grade

"In Turkey I had awesome experiences that i will remember for the rest of my life. The people were very kind and I was received with tons of hospitality. Turkey is beautiful and the Erasmus was again splendid, with all the love, work and care of the teachers."

Tiago Costa, 13 years, 8th grade



Portuguese Students in Izmir: Francisco, Dinis, Tiago, Daniel and Catarina.

"I enjoyed going to Turkey, I made new friends, met a new culture and tried new flavours. I saw mosques and other monuments, I went hiking and I went to the beach to pick up rubbish. I did activities at school like: bio plastic and robotics and we had a music class (among others). At the end of our trip, we had an event where we sang the song about the sea learned in the Music Workshop. Diplomas were given to all participants."

Catarina Augusto, 11 years, 5th grade

Italian Teachers Impressions - Turkey



The mobility in Turkey will remain an indelible memory in each of us. The hospitality, the welcome, the generosity of these people enveloped us in a harmonious embrace from the first day of our wonderful experience in this beautiful country.

Turkey is a land that hardly leaves you indifferent in front of its immense treasures: the city of Izmir that extends along an immense bay lapped by the waters of the Aegean Sea, the promenade full of people, the splendid sunsets with luminous rays that envelop you in a magical atmosphere, the sparkling blue color of the sky...

We were impressed by the excellent organization of the activities and of the workshops for students.

This extraordinary experience has greatly enriched us for the educational and cultural aspects, for the emotions experienced and the images imprinted in each of us.

Thank you to Hatice Buket, the Turkish Coordinator, to the School Director Mr. Erkan and to all the Turkish teachers who were very friendly and helpful.

Italian Students' Impressions - Turkey

Deha Mercuriali: "This experience has taught me so many things: I learned to be more autonomous and independent, I have discovered a wonderful country with warm and kind people. The family who hosted me was really friendly and I thank them for that. I will always carry with me the memory of the activities done together, the tears at the time of the greeting and the many laughs of this exciting week in Turkey."



Ilaria Calzolaio: "Some things are pretty hard to describe with words, and this experience is probably one of them. People were really nice and I got along with everyone pretty well. I really felt at home. I feel the need to end this short thought about this amazing experience by thanking the teachers who gave me the chance to participate, my hosting family and all the other students and teachers from the other delegations that were there. You guys really made it special!"

Giada Florà: "This was a truly magnificent experience. I was hosted by two twins, Aysu and Nilsu, two really fantastic girls. They made me feel at home from the first day. Their parents were very hospitable and kind. The proposed activities were very exciting and original. I had a lot of fun when they proposed a challenge between nations... who would have collected more waste on the beach would be the winner! I was very sad to leave after only a week, I wished this experience lasted a lot longer because it was truly unique."



Lucrezia Calabrese: “This experience was fantastic, meeting and being able to talk to people from different countries was wonderful. I learned a lot of new things and visited a beautiful and fascinating city. I will always carry this city in my heart, the people, the girls who hosted me, who were very kind as well as their family. It was an unforgettable experience!”



During the trip I tasted new dishes and I appreciated them. I hope to come back to Turkey soon because it is a very magical land.”

Jonas Di Blasio: “During the week in Izmir I certainly had one of the most beautiful and educational experience of my entire life. I really felt very welcome and well liked in Ömer’s family. Thanks to all the students, families and teachers who have been very attentive to my needs and responsive in everything.”



Sara Biancucci: “This experience has given me many things such as visiting new places, meeting people from other countries and making friends. The proposed activities were very interesting and my hosting family was very kind and thoughtful; they threw a surprise party for my birthday! I will never forget these fantastic, exciting and above all unique moments.”



Ludovica Di Francesco: “ I enjoyed this experience very much. Turkish people are very nice and helpful and Turkey is really a beautiful country. Günce, the girl who hosted me, and her family were very hospitable and kind, I had a very good time with them. I had also a lot of fun during the various activities we did and I would definitely do again this experience because it was emotional and exciting.”



Estonian Teachers Impressions - Turkey

Except the fantastic beauty of Turkey and the hospitality of Turkish people, this mobility gave us more than we could expect.

The host school team was helpful, friendly, and professional. All the activities offered were incredibly well organised and they brought all the participants a lot of joy.

Estonian Students’ Impressions - Turkey

Our Turkish families were incredible, as we learned a lot about Turkish culture, traditions, and food. We became close to the people we met for the first time.

The mobility programme was very eventful since from every trip we learned something new about places and people in Turkey.



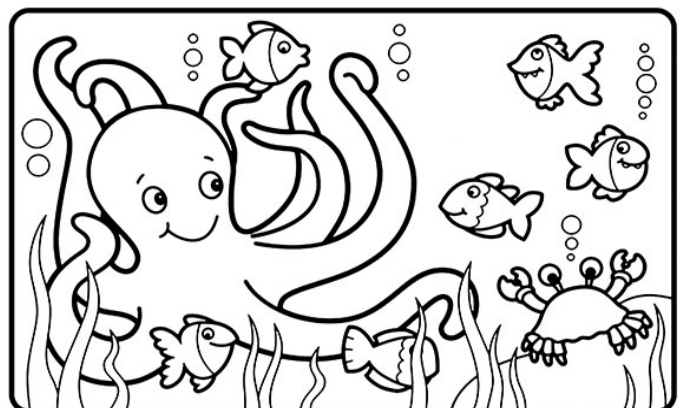
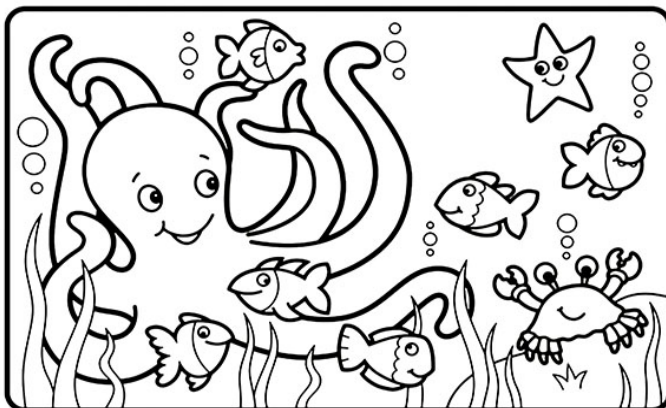
Fun page

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

WATER TRANSPORT



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|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| canoe | kayak | seaplane |
| catamaran | motorboat | ship |
| dinghy | raft | submarine |
| ferryboat | rowboat | surfboard |
| freighter | sailboat | yacht |



FIND 10 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PICTURES