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Lifelong Learning Programme



**VICHO GRANCHAROV SECONDARY SCHOOL
GORNA ORYAHOVITSA
BULGARIA**

LIVELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME A COMENIUS PROJECT - MULTILATERAL PARTNERSHIPS



TEACHING INNOVATIVELY (WITH FOCUS ON ICT) AND ITS IMPACT ON THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

01.08.2011 - 31.07.2013

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**Education and Culture DG
Lifelong Learning Programme**

**ROMANIA
COLEGIUL NATIONAL DE INFORMATICA
„TUDOR VIANU”
BUCHAREST**

The fourth meeting in 2012 –

21.10-26.10.2012

Villanueva de la Torre, Spain



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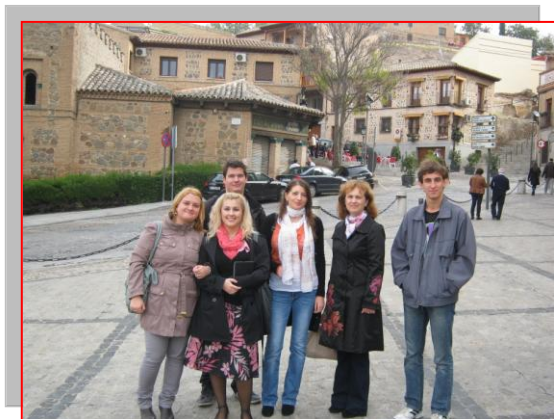
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My Spanish Diary



Being a mere tourist can sometimes be a rather shallow, only half- rewarding business. Like many other things in life, you can't shake the feeling that, although you are in the middle of splendid things and people, you are still missing the multitude of other, more important elements beneath. You find yourselves pacing the streets between famous monuments, diligently covering the sights outlined in your brochure, perhaps ticking them off one by one, and yet, in spite of your sense of wonder, at the end of the day you caught only the surface sheen

of a cultural and social ocean whose depth you can only guess.

That is why projects such as the one I am fortunate to be part of are so important, and unbelievably useful. Not only do they fulfill the professional goals their coordinators set out, but they genuinely bring people closer together. They allow you to peak under the surface, and see what lies beneath.

The visit that took place in November to Spain would be a good example in point. Combining the best of both worlds, as all the project's meetings have done so far, this one was another occasion to work on the project's goals and to get at the heart of what it means to live in Spain and to be Spanish. Although the beginning was less than encouraging – at best, the whole day spent trying to travel to Spain might be described as a series of (really) unfortunate events – things quickly turned a corner as soon as we met our hosts, in the early hours of the night, in a small train station in Guadalajara. We had already met the Spanish teachers on other previous project meetings, so their warmth and friendliness came as no surprise.

The next four days were full to the brim with project activities: visiting the partner school and the logo competition on Monday, the software competition on Tuesday – and I shall refrain from gloating about the fact one of the Romanian software won, since that would be against the spirit of Comenius' projects in general – or the discussions about the website and further steps to be taken on future meetings, which was done on Thursday – and these are just the highlights of a busy work schedule.

Interspersed between work were drops of cultural and historical wonder, represented by our visits to Alcalá de Henares and Toledo. The first city, as I discovered, was the birth place of Miguel de Cervantes, and we visited his home, well preserved and with a traditional inner courtyard, like most houses of that time. I confess I was more impressed by the sight of a statue of Katherine of Aragorn, famous first wife of Henry VIII, where we stopped for a moment before visiting the local museum of history. That, of course, is entirely justified by my personal interests in British history, particularly the Tudor dynasty.

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Toledo was definitely a breathtaking experience, and sometimes you felt transported back in time, caught as you were between the tall, overbearing walls of its churches and the walls of the city – this used to be a fortified citadel, after all – feeling rather small and trapped on its narrow, yet hauntingly picturesque streets. Our hosts took us on a quick visit to three places of worship relevant for the co-existence of the three major cultural and religious influences, the Christian, Jewish and Moor one. I couldn't help shake the feeling that the more bloody occurrences of this clashing of three religious juggernauts was politely glided over. After all, it is much better to admire the stunning interior of The Primate Cathedral of Saint Mary of Toledo and its 13th century wonders as pure cultural artifacts, testaments to brilliant architect and the wonders of man's determination, than it is to mull over other less fortunate aspects of this hodgepodge of cultures, such as the persecution and subsequent expulsion of Jews from Spain, or that lovely organization, The Inquisition.



Our last day in Spain was spent in Madrid, after we had parted from our generous hosts and the other partners in the project. It is impossible to do justice to a city like Madrid in just a day, but I am very glad I got a chance to sample some of the wonders inside the Prado Museum. I never tire of the odd feeling, a mixture of elation, pure wonder and awareness of one's own insignificance on the large scale of time that I get every time I have the chance to stand in front of wonders created so many centuries ago, in the same place many others have stood before me, and to gaze at the unchanged colours of a canvas, and the characters sometimes staring back. It is an unsettling feeling, but one in which you also feel connected to what was before, and what will come after. The highlights of the visit, filtered through my subjective point of view yet again, were the portrait of Antonis Mor's Queen Mary Tudor, as well as Diego Velázquez's Las Meninas, with special mention going to Rubens' Three Graces.

Even after the rollercoaster of events that had been the other days, the visit to Prado definitely allowed me to end things on a very high note. I still don't feel I've gotten a clear glimpse of the all depths of this wonderful country and its people, but the picture I took with me was surely clearer and more alive than the impressions of a tourist. After all, all the work of the people involved, particularly the coordinators – heaps of praise go to our very own Ms. Manicea – is more than just about education, and professional development. It is about bringing people closer together so that in a not too distant future borders will be nothing more than memories, and people will belong to more than one place or one country. Historical and cultural treasures like the ones found in Toledo must be shared – I think they definitely add to one's humanity.

by Andreea Dumitru, teacher of English at "Tudor Vianu" National High school of Computer Science



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The Comenius Meeting in Spain, Villanueva de la Torre

I would like to share with you my impressions about the meeting in Spain. So here's the diary of the Spanish adventure.

It was my third visit to the Iberian Peninsula and after travelling in Valencia and Barcelona areas, I got the opportunity to discover several places of the wonderful Castilla la Mancha, Don Quixote's "kingdom".



We left, Alex, Vlad and I, early in the morning, on the 21st of October, from Bucharest to Madrid. We spent about 10 hours in the interesting Spanish capital, before being reunited with the rest of our group, late, just before midnight, when we took the last train to

Guadalajara. Since the first meeting with our host at the train station had been quite formal at 1 a.m., I got the chance to better know the Spanish team, when we arrived at the school in Villanueva de la

Torre where we were to do all our work on the Comenius project.

They prepared a very nice welcome reception for us and we could already feel the warmth and the generosity of our Spanish partners, not to mention that we found ourselves close to the partners from the other countries.

After discovering many places of the host school during a guided tour and being impressed by the fact that every subject or related subjects had a special room so the teachers could work together and analyze their work in great conditions, we retired to a hall to enjoy a banquet and socialize with the school staff and all the partners.

But it was time to start activities on the project, so we moved to another room to organize the competition for the common logo and to discuss about the online diary. Everything went smoothly, as all the partners showed much involvement and were hard working. I'm glad that one of the Romanian logos is still in the competition for the final logo of the project.

We, the teachers, returned to Guadalajara and visited together with the other teams, the most captivating places of the city. We also spent a pleasant time together during the Spanish style diner, tasting different kind of tapas.

We continued the activities the second day with the exhibition and competition of software, also with the presentation of the booklet created by the Swedish team and the DVD, by the Romanian team. Once again, the communication between partners was efficient and we were pleased to obtain good results from our efforts. This could characterize the following activities as well, as we were productive when disseminating previous Comenius projects on Wednesday afternoon, and on Thursday analyzing the blog and the website and discussing about the next steps, common activities and last meetings in 2013.

We familiarized ourselves with the culture and the history of the region in a visit around Alcalá de Henares. We saw its medieval center where you can find representations of three cultures: Moorish, Christian and Jewish. Here's the birth place of the famous writer Miguel de Cervantes so we visited his old home, well preserved and including ancient



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furniture and different editions of the author's books. We took some group pictures in front of the statues of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza outside Miguel de Cervantes's home. There is also one of the oldest universities in the world: Universidad de Alcalá, which consolidates the fame of the city.

I was mesmerized by the visit of the historical city of Toledo where three cultures met and coexisted: Christian, Jewish and Muslim cultures. An important center of the former Spanish Empire, the city has preserved most of its buildings, so it offers an incursion in the past of the place and you can get enough of its beauty. The Cathedral is impressive and looks like a guardian of the city; it's very large and houses many artistic works. Toledo is also

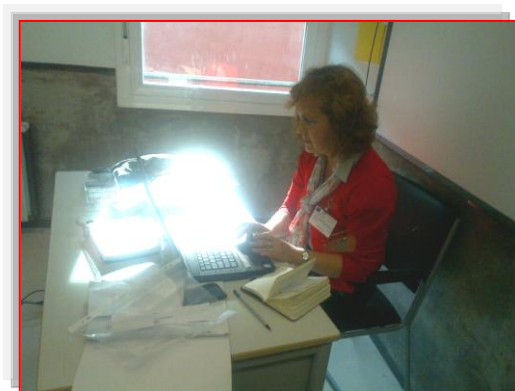
known for the metal industry and for the artist El Greco, who lived here. I had a great time in Toledo, where we found some time to buy souvenirs for our families and friends.

We spent the last day in Madrid; here we wandered the beautiful streets and we contemplated the collections of masterpieces in the Museo Nacional del Prado.

I was honored to enjoy the company of my colleagues and students with whom I had an amazing collaboration; I must point out that Iulia is an excellent coordinator and I want to thank our host for the great organization of the meeting. It's been a fantastic experience and I'm impressed by the reliable people I've met, by the enthusiastic students and the constructive work handled during the meeting.

by Alina Moraru, teacher of French at "Tudor Vianu" National High school of Computer Science

Spain!



Here we are, about to leave for Spain!

The Comenius project became even more of a challenge for me when I participated in a "working" visit to Guadalajara, Spain.

Guadalajara is an important Spanish city, situated in the La Alcarria region, and also the capital of the Guadalajara province. The city is about 60 km away from Madrid, next to the Henares River, and a very popular tourist destination mostly because of its numerous monuments.

After a series of misadventures, mostly due to the airline we were flying with, we reached our destination, safe and sound.

Our hosts welcomed us, and were rather glad and excited to see us, since, through no fault of our own, we had had to delay our arrival quite a bit.

On Monday morning – the first official working day on this meeting – after a fast-paced breakfast, we set out on our short trip to the partner school, Ies Newton-Salas, situated near Guadalajara, in Villanueva de la Torre.

I was most impressed by the newly built school, which could clearly offer students excellent opportunities to study and develop their personalities. Both teachers and students were very forthcoming in all our conversations regarding each country's educational systems.

I think an important

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element in the organization of the school is the fact that all teachers of a certain subject have their own joined offices, where they can discuss and prepare all necessary class items. Equally useful was the fact

that each classroom had its own overhead project, and teachers could easily connect their laptops and provide students with all necessary structured knowledge with just a couple of mouse clicks

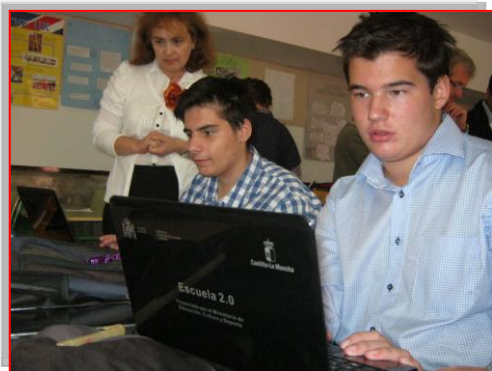
Thanks to our hosts we were able to visit a series of wonderful places: Guadalajara, Toledo, Alcala de Henares and Madrid Datorită gazdelor am putut să vizităm o serie de locuri minunate:.

All these places brimming over with history naturally trigger admiration and an uplifting feeling in the visitor's heart. Toledo, the city state, effortlessly wins you over, enchants you with its history, its beauty and architecture, with the warmth of its people, and the pristine state of its streets. It has definitely won me over, and I agree its renown is rightfully earned, and I fully intend to visit it again someday. Toledo isn't just a part of history, and of Spain, it is undoubtedly a part of the culture and civilization of the world

Words really fail me here, since this experience has been unforgettable. I want to convey my deepest thanks to all those who participated in this project and who dispensed with traditional borders in the interests of children's education.

*by Corina Dobrescu, teacher of Physics at "Tudor Vianu"
National High school of Computer Science*

Impressions from Spain



The meeting in Spain was above all expectations: people were incredibly warm and welcoming, and the outcome of this meeting was surprising. Due to some complications with the booking of our flights, the Romanian delegation was split in two: one part was formed by my brother, Ms. Alina Moraru and me. We arrived in Madrid 6 hours before the rest of our team, thus having enough time to go sightseeing. We went around the center of the city, and then went to the stadium of Real Madrid, since my brother is a huge fan of the team.

Afterwards we waited and went to our hosts somewhere around midnight.

The following day we visited the school and the online diary was analyzed – and there were some questions about how teachers could increase student's interest in posting, or

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what topics should be discussed. After that, we went back to our hosts' home and in the afternoon, we went around the city and had a meeting with students from every delegation.

Tuesday was the most interesting day – the software competition was held. I was presenting one of our country's software and I was excited to receive feedback from teachers and students alike. I learned that even though the software may look intuitive to you, some people will find it quite complex and hard to understand. It was a very exciting experience, and the software developed by my brother and me won 2nd place in the contest. After the software competition ended, we went on a trip to a nearby city, Alcalá de Henares. There we saw the famous university and learned about the culture that formed around it. We also visited the house of Miguel de Cervantes. After going home to have a short rest, in the evening we met with the rest of the students to hang out.

Wednesday was a daylong visit to Toledo where we got to see the three religions that are present in Spain: Judaism, Christianity and Catholicism. We saw a church from each of these religions, each with its characteristic architectural style. Each of them was stunningly beautiful and had breathtaking details, which I have not seen anywhere else in Europe. We also had free time during which my colleagues and I wandered around the city and we were pleasantly surprised by the narrow streets and the stunning view the city offered.

Thursday was the last day of the project, and an analysis of the project so far was done. In addition, the next steps and meetings were discussed. The award ceremony took place and afterwards some of the students left. I went with my host to some of his classes, and I was surprised to see that they did some subjects that are not taught in Romania at high-school level, such as Electronics or Robotics. Afterwards we headed back home and had a rest, because in the evening there was a dinner with everybody involved in the project.

Friday morning we left very early in order to arrive to Madrid. There we visited the Prado Museum and walked around the city center of Madrid. The return flight was very pleasant, and I think that the meeting in Spain was very fruitful and if I could, I would go back there any day.

by Alexandru Stoica , student in the 12th grade at "Tudor Vianu" National High school of Computer Science

The Spanish Adventure



First day

As usual, I don't know what to begin with. In Spain there were a lot of very interesting things and all of them are very important for me. During those days, I saw a small part of what makes this country amazing for me: history, football teams, amazing places, and others.

After a flight with a little bit of trouble, the Romanian team and I arrived in Guadalajara with the last train from Madrid, in the middle of the night. At the railway station, each of us met his host and we went to the small city Villanueva De La Torre, where the meeting was to take place.

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of the meeting meant the chance to get to know the other teams who came in Spain. This happened at the Spanish high school from the project, a very new and nice building. After the opening ceremony (followed by a small concert with traditional music), we were invited to visit the school. The school was really nice and very well equipped, showing once more the status of a real “European school”. In the meantime, we also attended to the logo contest. Each country of the project had to choose 2 people to vote for the logo they liked most. One of the Bulgarian logos won, but the second place was obtained by one of the logos from Romania. In the afternoon, I and the other colleagues visited the city and spent a lot of time, trying to make new friends.

The second day began with a lot of work: the software contest. This one required more time than the logo contest. Each country presented 2 software programmes to the other ones and they voted after this, giving marks to all the software. One of our software was an on-line game, like “Conquistador”, made by my colleagues. The other one, made by myself, was about a literature lesson. In the end, my software was the one which won the competition. There was, however, a small between mine and the on-line one. In the afternoon, we went to Alcala de Henares, a city near the one we were staying in. Here, we visited the main street of the city, the University, the house where Miguel de Cervantes (the great writer, author of “Don Quijote”) was born, the Museum of History, situated in what used to be an old church, with the classical architecture of the medieval age.

The third day was reserved for trip. I and the other students were to visit Toledo, the well-known medieval city. Here I was very impressed by the streets, they were so small. We visited a synagogue, a monastery and a cathedral. The cathedral was a real experience. It was huge, and wonderful. I had never seen a thing like this before and I almost believed that I was in a city, not in a cathedral.

The fourth day was short. We attended the closing ceremony, we received our awards obtained during the competitions and we went to some classes, to understand how the educational system in Spain works (one of the best experiences, now I can truly make a comparison between their system and ours). In the evening, all the students went to the restaurant, where we spent our last hours together.

In conclusion, I consider this week very useful and I hope to meet all of you again.

by Adrian Apostol, student in the 12th grade at “Tudor Vianu” National High school of Computer Science

My encounter with Spain in a Comenius project



We arrived in Madrid at 2 o'clock so we decided to spend some time there before we had to leave for Guadalajara. We went to Santiago Bernabeu, Real Madrid's stadium. After that we wandered around the streets of the city until nine o'clock, when the other part of the Romanian team arrived.

We took the last train to Guadalajara. We arrived there at 0:30. The hosts welcomed us and took us home. They were really friendly and warm with everybody. The next day we went to the school. I was shocked about the

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fact that the school was so big in comparison to the number of students. That day we had a competition for the logo of the project. After the votes had been counted, a Romanian student who was not a part of this meeting, but would join us in Poland had won the second place while the first place was won by one of the Bulgarian logos. Together they will form the final logo of our project. After that, the teachers went back to their hotel and the students went with their hosts. At lunch I had a delicious soup made by the mother of my host. After I had taken a nap we went to the park, where I met a Romanian Girl. She told me more about the city and the school system. I was also able to know more about the other people who came to Spain.

Next day we had a contest for some software made by students. The voting system was really interesting because you would vote on a computer. After everyone had voted, Romanian 1 and 2 took the first 2 places. After that, one of the teachers, Ms. Iulia Manicea from Romania told us more about the Comenius Project and its objectives. She asked us about the forum and the blog. That afternoon we went to Alcala, the city where Miguel Cervantes was born. I was really impressed by the architecture of the town. I was also impressed by Miguel Cervantes' house. I loved the way they had an interior courtyard. I was also impressed by their University. That night we went to a bar where we were able to see Borussia Dortmund – Real Madrid soccer game. Unfortunately the Spanish team lost.

On the third day we went to Toledo, a beautiful city from Castilla. I was really interested by the presence of the three major religions. You could see the styles of the architecture changing from zone to zone. We also visited a huge church. I was deeply impressed by the gothic architecture. After that we went to eat some Spanish traditional food that I didn't enjoy that much. After that we went back to Villanueva de la Torre where we had a dinner with all the students, hosts and guests. It was a sad night because this was the last time I talked to some of the people from the delegation.

The next day we went to Madrid, the capital of Spain. I was profoundly shocked by the quality of the paintings from the Prado Museum. I found some of the paintings breathtakingly beautiful. The streets of Madrid had a special feeling about them with the characteristic architecture and beautiful modern shops.

I will miss everyone from the Spain meeting. I hope I will be able to meet them again in Poland or in Romania.

by Vlad Stoica , student in the 10th grade at “Tudor Vianu” National High school of Computer Science



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TURKEY

HASAN HUSEYIN AKDEDE ANADOLU OGRETMEN

Gudul, ANKARA

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Vicho Grancharov Secondary School Gorna Oryahovitsa

The fourth meeting in 2012 –

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Villanueva de la Torre, Spain

Hello everybody!



I want to share my impressions with you about one amazing country- Spain. On the first day we were so excited, because of the anticipation of one wonderful experience. We were looking forward to seeing the settlement where we would stay for several days and meeting the girl who would host us. On the second day we went on the school. The school is very nice and new. All the people there met us with pleasure and big smiles. Everything was very good. On the third day we had a trip to Guadalajara and Toledo, where we had a great time with the other guys from Turkey, Poland

Italy, Romania and Spain. We saw enormous and attractive buildings, we learned about the history of Spain. It was really interesting. It was already time for the last day there. Of course it was so sad, but also touching, because I met you guys.

We didn't want to come back to Bulgaria, we wanted to stay with the others. I am really happy that I could visit this beautiful country. I really enjoyed myself. And I want to thank all of you for these wonderful, funny and unforgettable days. I hope that one day we will see each other again!

Iulia Nedkova, Bulgaria



The meeting in Spain

The meeting in Spain was fantastic. I spent one of the best weeks in my life there. The contest for the logo of the project and the software contest were really interesting. I had a great time on the excursions to Toledo and to Alcala de Henares because these cities were full of magnificent historical sights. The people in the project

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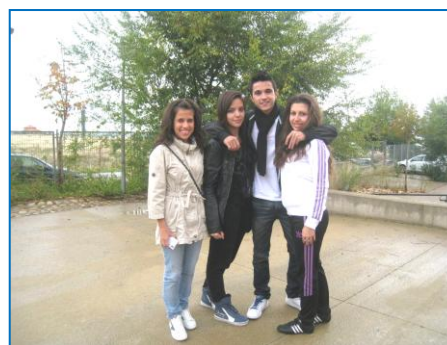
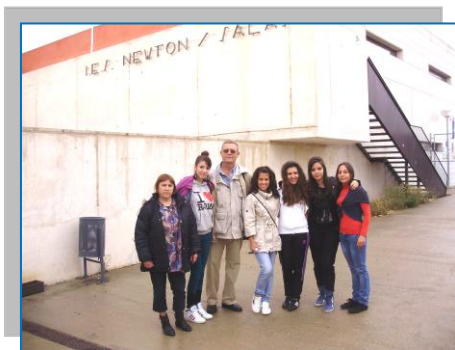


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were amazing. They were really kind and cheerful.

Everyone was smiling at us. The atmosphere in the school was so cozy. I had a great time in the classes which I attended, the teacher and the students were interested about me and my country. I learnt a lot about Spain from them too. I will never forget my friends there and I am looking forward to seeing them in Bulgaria.

Mariyana Savova, Bulgaria



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SWEDEN

Hässelbygårdsskolan

Stockholm

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SPAIN
IES NEWTON-SALAS
VILLANUEVA DE LA TORRE

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POLAND

**II LICEUM OGOLNOKSZTALCACE IM. MIKOLAJA
KOPERNIKA**

CIESZYN

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Istituto di Istruzione Superiore I.P.S.S."M. LENTINI"-

L.S. "A. EINSTEIN "

MOTTOLA, ITALY

The fourth meeting in 2012 –

21.10-26.10.2012

Villanueva de la Torre, Spain

My experience in Spain-21st-26th October 2012



Finally, for the first time in my life, my dream to go abroad with my friends came true! All this thanks to my school that with Comenius project, allowed me to achieve a goal. I knew about my travel one month ago, I was very excited, but I was more than a week before the departure, when me and my friends started to do the countdown. We left Italy on October 21st, at 12.00, and we arrived in Guadalajara at 21.00. We were very tired, in fact, as soon as we arrived in “our” houses, we went to sleep. The family

received me with a big joy, the parents of Alba, my host, were very kind and made me feel if I was at my house. On Monday, next day, we had to wake up at 7.30, like here in Italy, because the school started at 8.30. The first day we were a bit bored, because we saw that the people of that school weren't friendly like in Italy, in fact nobody comes to meet us. We participated at the banquet in the staff room, and after this, finally, many people of different countries met us, so we understood that they were very funny and kind. At lunch we ate “Paella”, typical Spanish food; it was so good! In the afternoon we saw the town where we lived, Villanueva De La Torre: it was a very little town, and the most important thing for me was that the guys didn't need absolutely to do parties to be happy, but they met themselves in a little shopping Centre or at the park. So their important feature was the simplicity. Next day there were the exhibition and the competition of software at 9.00 and at 12.00 there was the presentation of the printed booklet made by the Swedish partner and of the DVD made by the Romanian partner. In the afternoon we went to a famous city, Alcalà de Henares, where we saw in particular, the house of Cervantes. I liked this city very much, but we returned home early, at 19.00. On Wednesday the teachers decided to go to

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**HUMAN
RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT
CENTRE**



another city, Toledo, that I liked more than Alcalà. We stayed here all the day, until evening and we ate at McDonald. We bought different souvenirs and clothes in shops. On Thursday, at 10.00 we showed to the other countries our software that were very appreciated. Also the others were very interesting, the Romania's software won. At 13.00 there were the award ceremony and the meeting closure. In the afternoon me, my friends and my teachers decided to go to Madrid, so we saw the most beautiful city of the Spain. I was very excited, I felt so small in a big city like that! We visited

the "Reina Sofia" museum and we saw "Guernica". We had the occasion to buy the Starbucks, a good drink that is possible to drink in some big cities of the world. In the evening we returned to Villanueva where we went to eat in a pub with all the other guys of the Comenius. It was the last night there, so I was so sad for this, especially because next day we had to leave early. With each passing day, I saw that all the people was so friendly, kind and funny, so much so that I didn't want to return in Italy. Next morning we left at 9.00, we said goodbye to all with much sorrow and with some tears. Unfortunately we had to start again our normally life, but certainly this experience made me more responsible than before and I learned many things that I didn't know and that helped me to grow. We arrived in Italy at 17.00...I want to thank all the people that made my dream real!

Bruno Lara



Electronic Magazine

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