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My Experience with Erasmus+
Gimnaziya s prepodavane na tchuzhdi ezitsi
“Jordan Radichkov”, Vidin, Bulgaria

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Naples, Italy -1st Learning activity – 14-20.02.2018



My impressions of Naples

Bozhidara Zhivova 10 b

This year I had the opportunity to travel to Naples, Italy from the project I participated in with 4 other students. It was a real adventure starting from the journey with the plane from Sofia until the end. When we arrived in Naples it was gloomy and rainy but this didn't prevent us from seeing the beauty of the city. From the moment I saw the family I was staying with in the school I understood that they're very kind and hospitable. And yes, the whole family was like that. They were so positive and were smiling so wide. It was contagious and I'm glad that they made my stay there so comfortable. I got to know more about the Italian culture and cuisine, the way they have fun or the way they communicate to each other when I was around them.

And no joke, Naples is an incredibly beautiful city. The palms, trees and plants they have are so interesting. The architecture is really nice too.

We saw 3 Catholic churches. Two of them were from the Gothic era and the other one was from the Baroque. We went to Pompeii and it was awesome. I've always wanted to see it. I took a numerous number of pictures during this week. My first impressions of the people remained the same. They always ask you if you're feeling okay or if you need anything. I personally had a lot of fun. I enjoyed the first time we went to play bowling the most. We played, ate and talked, I got to learn things in Italian. One day when we were walking around the city a man with a woman asked me to take a picture of them and I asked them how it turned out and without realizing it I had a whole long conversation with them and they even complimented my English skills. Overall, everything was on point. I will keep contact with the people I befriended there and with the family I stayed with. Hopefully we'll see each other again in the future.



My impressions from Naples

Beatris Borislavova Sashkova 9 b

Every wonderful experience has an end. We do not want it to end but it happens. And then you understand that everything was worth it...

Right now, all these unforgettable memories and impressions from our travelling to Naples, Italy are the most beautiful things on my mind.

First of all, it was a great way to meet new people. The friendships which we continue are one of the best things which happened to me. We miss each other a lot and hope to meet again. It was and it is a wonderful thing to be part of some long distance friendships.

It was very useful for me to get to know some Spanish people. I could practice my Spanish, I like learning about this country because my parents live there.

We also learned so much about Italy, especially its culture. Our tour guide made everything possible to give us some information about the past of the country and some amazing places. The visits of Pompeii, Ercolano, Pozzuoli, many landmarks in Naples... Some things cannot be forgotten as easy as being experienced.

Staying in a host family's house for one week was the best way to learn more about the culture of these people and enjoy your time with them. I did it and I feel very satisfied.

Eleonora was my host. She and her parents made everything possible to make me feel like I am at home with my parents. We spent our free time with the other families-talking about our countries, laughing, playing bowling, eating pizza, listening to music and playing cards. At all, there are many reasons to miss them.

What about the food? I cannot miss to recommend it...The pizza was more than delicious, especially in front of the TV while watching a football match. The ice cream in the afternoon and the slices of bread with chocolate for breakfast in the morning... And many kinds of pasta and spaghetti with tomato sauce. The food was very tasty, there was a wide variety of it.

The weather was warm and a little bit rainy but it did not change our programme.

The people were friendly, polite and full of positive energy. Maybe it was the reason why we enjoyed so much our company. Having fun and taking photos... Thanks to these photos, videos and apps we can revise all these moments. We also improved our English by communicating with our friends, their teachers and our host families.

“Stereotyping Stops Creativeness”. Being creative is not difficult if all we stop stereotyping. There are many stereotypes and most of them are not true, so we do not have to count on them. Everyone is individual and unique in its own way.

"Wherever you go, this place becomes part of you without realizing" - Anita Desai

If it is true, I am proud of me. I would like an impressive place like Naples, Italy to be part of me together with the people I met during our stay there...

Thanks a lot! (for the chance to take part in this project)





My Impressions on the Erasmus+ Project

Martin Lyubomirov 9 a

This year I had the opportunity to visit the city of Naples, (“Napoli” in Italian), because I participated in an Erasmus + project, and found it to be a very worthwhile and enriching experience. The name of the project is “Stereotyping Stops Creativeness”. I went from Vidin to Sofia by bus, and then by plane from Sofia to Naples. I stayed in a family. When I arrived, two hours later, they picked me up from the school, because we were waiting all participants to arrive. At first I was worried, but I got used to the family. They were very good and hospitable.

In the first day at school we had to show our presentations of the schools, then we played games. After lunch we went to Virgilian Park by double decker bus. It was the most beautiful park I’ve ever seen. It was large We were there for about 3-4 hours. In the second day we had to show our presentations about “Stereotyping Stops Creativeness”, then we were divided in multicultural groups. In my group were one Spanish girl, three Italian kids – two boys and one girl.

We had to do a project about stereotypes, and we decided to make a comics. It was talking about that we don't need to discriminate people, if we don't know them. During the third day we were on the international and traditional school show, and we had to take part in it. Me and two more girls from my team decided to tell a poem "Bulgarskiyat ezik" by Ivan Vazov.

In the fourth day we had guided tour of Pompei and Ercolano. Pompei and Ercolano are ancient Roman cities, buried under a layer of volcanic ash after the eruption of Vesuvius. Pompei is large and beautiful city, there is so much more to see. In the fifth day we had guided tour around Naples. We visited several churches and we walked around the city. In the last day all of the other teams were left expect us, because in that day there weren't flights. We were lucky, because we had one more day there. I learned their culture. They eat a lot of pasta. The children are a little bit noisy, but that wasn't a problem. For the first time there I was playing bowling and I tried octopus.

I think it was a great experience with Erasmus+.



My impressions on the Erasmus+ project “Stereotypes stop creativeness”

Blagovesta Petrova, IX g

This year I had the opportunity to travel to Naples, Italy on the Erasmus+ project “Stereotypes stop creativeness”. I gathered some experience throughout this journey and I am glad I made new friends from other countries.

My hosting family was very hospitable and good to me the whole time. I felt comfortable and safe in their home and they did everything to satisfy my needs. They even took me to play bowling and I really enjoyed it and had a lot of fun. The only problem was that they didn't know English very well and we had to use Google Translate to understand each other.

The school was called “Giovanni Falcone”. It was very big, we spend the first two days there and we did a lot of activities and communication games, related to the project.

Of course, we had a few trips around the city. We visited a park from where you could see a magnificent view to the city and the volcano Vesuvius. It was very beautiful. We also visited Pompeii and Ercolano. There we saw the remains of the ancient cities, which were buried by the eruption of the volcano. We had a whole day of sightseeing Naples. Our tour guide took us to 4 catholic cathedrals which I found extraordinarily beautiful and stunning.

All in all, Naples can be noisy, sunny, dusty, cloudy but it is above all amazing. I am very thankful that I travelled to such a wonderful city, met such kind people and had the chance to learn from their culture and lifestyle.

Galati, Romania 2nd Learning activity – 06-12.05.2018



My experience with Erasmus+ in Romania

Rosen Kinov 10 v

06.05.2018

Our trip started at 7 in the morning. I was sleepy and didn't know what I was about to see. Originally I thought Galați is a little city and nothing special at all, and when the teachers said that at the end of every of those projects kids, teens and even adults sometimes cry a lot I wasn't sure if to believe them or not...but let's get back to the start of the trip: so, it was 7 and we started travelling after I drunk a pill against my sickness.

Half of the travel I slept and the other half listened to music while reading. At 13:00 we arrived in Bukurești, and took some photos of the Parliament, and of course the one I took has a very strategic and professionally placed finger in the bottom right corner but leaving that it's beautiful and huge, this is one of the buildings on the left of the Parliament...there are a lot of huge constructions all around the Parliament and when you stay in the middle you feel so little.

All of the people I was with were amazed by this thing, and I am no exception; we all started taking a lot of pictures.



Here the teacher tells us interesting facts about the Parliament area.

And there we go again. This was only the beginning of our incredible trip and you'll see what I'm talking about.

5 hours later, around 18 we see the first signs of a big city, turns out it's Galați. I am amazed by the size of this city and surprised of how good and clean it's architecture looks. The streets are large and the buildings are not obnoxiously bothering the eye, they are an enjoyable view.

5 minutes later we were in front of the hotel the teachers were staying in. In front of it we see a particular building.it turns out it's a medical cabinet or something like that...didn't understand a lot really.

After we waited for a little bit at the entrance our new families came. Venzi was going to stay with a boy called Ștefan and I was with his best

friend, Ștefan. Now, I get you, you could be confused, so here are Ștefan N.1 and N.2

The one on the left was the guy I was staying with. The 3 Bulgarian girls we were with stayed with 3 Romanian girls: Geanina, Diana and Mihaela.

After we arrived at Ștefan's home, that I expected to be an apartment or something like that, it happened to be a villa! My room looked better than the ones in the hotels.

After I left my luggage on the left side of the bed I went in the guy's room and we played Mortal Combat XL and Overwatch for the rest of the evening. For dinner we had a bbq and some mamaliga. Fantastic food!



07.05.2018

The next morning I woke up at 6 and made some pancakes for my Romanian family. They enjoyed them a lot and I was glad I made something for them after they opened their home's doors for a stranger like me.

After breakfast we went to the school where almost all week we would have had activities: a huge territory with 5 or 6 buildings and a football camp in the middle. Beautiful like Galați itself. We went inside a hall, the Sala Multimedia, where we watched a presentation showing the fantastic country that Romania is. I started talking at Ștefan making ironic comments on some of the castles and the statues and after a while something caught my attention: a girl that was laughing at all of the comments I pronounced. I took a look at her and found out that she was pretty cute. Later, in the coffee break she was staring at me smiling from the corridor outside of the Sala and I went there "by coincidence" and said a "hello" after that I went to the table to pick some juice. Her reaction was starting giggling and whispering something to her best friend, another girl next to her. I smiled and drank from my cup of juice. Later I went to her and picked her number finding out her name was Mihaela, one of the girls that hosted one of our girls.



After that we went back inside and she sat next to me. We started watching presentations made by the kids and teens from the other countries taking part in this project and this time there was no comments for me to make, I already had what I wanted.

When Bulgaria's turn came I went in front of them all and took a look: people from Turkey, Bulgaria, Spain, Italy and Romania were sitting together chatting and laughing. I smiled at this sight. I started talking about Bulgaria, Vidin and especially, our English school. At the start of my speech, accompanied with slides of a presentation, I was nervous, but after 1-2 minutes I got some confidence and started talking freely, doing what I can best: entertaining people with my humor and persona. All of them were listening, absorbing every word coming from my mouth. After I ended I got back to my place while everyone was applauding and Mihaela gave me 5 saying "good job".



I got to know a lot of people the first day, like Sebastian, that everyone called Geesus for his long hair, Andrei, also called G-man, because his surname is Geman, so read with English pronunciation becomes G-man. Also another Andrei that I called Bran, from Stan & Bran, and he called me Stan, of course. I got to know the Italian people as well. Never got to know the Spanish girls thought.

It was like 12, and we had 2 and a half hours before lunchtime, so we put some music on and started dancing. I was the one to open it up on

the dance floor with an Italian teacher and some hip-hop. After 2 exhaustive hours of dancing we got to the canteen.



At 14:30 it was lunchtime, so we ate, then got back inside and relaxed for a while, then got home for a break until 18:00 when we got back to the school and I was looking for one person then...you guessed it, Miha.

We had a socializing activity that involved us dancing traditional dances from every country. We danced for a while, then, when the Romanian one came, I invited Miha to dance with me. At the start she said no because she was not used to dance with and in front of so many people, but then she accepted encouraged by her best friend and we got with the others in the thing they call "horé" that is exactly like our Bulgarian "horo" but at the same time so different. At the middle of the dance Miha pulled me in the middle and we started dancing there, having the others looking and giving us approving smiles. I felt so good in that moment. After this we went to out sits and I chatted a little bit with her, and she laughed at every little stupid thing I said. After our pleasant chat we took a goodbye with each other and everyone got to their families. But for me didn't end there: Ştefan came to sleep to Ştefan's house and me and Venzi were with them for the evening.

Ştefan's father, Niku, came to our room and put some music on, and we started.

08.05.2018

So there comes Tuesday...we met at school at 9:30, then said hello to my still sleepy friend G-man, then got inside and started the day with some presentations about "Gender and racial equality" and "Tolerance, discrimination and stereotypes". After all of the presentations passed we had a workshop on the theme "United under the European sky" .My contribution was, of course, a drawing.



That tree I draw in less than 10 minutes and even though it could have been better than this I'm still happy with my result. After the workshops we had a 3 hours pause in which we should have prepared for the evening, and for the last dinner all together. Me, Miha and the Italian girls went to the mall, which was relatively close to school, and was huge. went into a books' shop, then into some clothing shops and then ate something at the fast food on the third floor.

Then the workshop started. It should represent a group of friends different one from the other: one is from Spain, another one from

Italy, Romania, Turkey...and they are all together having fun and taking selfies, because after all we are all equal under the sun.

The workshop was a lot of fun and I enjoyed making this drawing, then we had lunch, ate mamaliga and some chicken, then got to the Sala Multimedia for continuing our day activities and we had to present a theme on which to debate, in this case there was a question from my friend Bran: "if you had a child, how would you explain to him what racism is?" I went in the center of the hall next to him, though a little bit about it, then said that is the science of classifying living beings and sat down. Miha smiled at me when I looked at her and I have to be honest, for the rest of the day I didn't pay any attention at the others, my mind was totally concentrated on Miha. I tried to start drawing her, then the day ended and I didn't finish the drawing. Once home I started chatting with her and after a little bit went to bed.



09.04.2018

Wednesday: a day completely different from the others, but exiting nonetheless. At 6:50 we had to be in front of the school where a bus would have taken us to the Castelul Bran, or how it got presented to

us: The castle of Vlad Dracula...even though it was not. Our trip started good, I took a pill against sickness and gave one to Miha, because I found out that she has car sickness as well, then started talking with G-man, until we left the city and I started listening to music and he fell asleep.

...After all he was still sleepy.

The bus itself was pretty comfortable, and had wi-fi, which I used to watch some youtube to make time run faster.

We arrived firstly at a museum 3 hours after we left Galați, and this museum of wildlife was incredible: it had it all!

A little bit of flora on the outside...

...just to fulfill the fauna inside!

After the lunch we went up walking 20 minutes to the entrance of the castle, said about that was once the home of Dracula.



Once everything was paid, we had the chance to walk for another 500 meters before reaching the front door.

From there we were able to see almost every part of the "village", to call it so, and it was wonderful, I felt like an eagle...

...at least until I saw the highness of the castle, then I felt like a mouse
Getting inside was a little bit more difficult to be honest, due to the fact that the place itself was so tiny I couldn't fit in. I almost developed claustrophobia in there!

Time passed and we already had to go! Travelling 5h for a 40 minutes visit to a, in my opinion, pitiful castle was everything but worth it.

Once we had to walk down to the bus it was nice and sunny for 15-20 minutes, then it started raining from nowhere...got us in the middle of the road and we were all wet once in the bus.

It was overall enjoyable...the trip back to Galați passed fast because I sat in the front and chatted with the Italian girls all along the trip.

Once home I took a shower and went to sleep after chatting for a while with Miha. Wednesday was perhaps the most interesting day of the week maybe because of the bus trip.



10.05.2018

There comes Thursday...the most exciting day for me, because in the evening something too wonderful to seem true happened...but let's start from the morning. I woke up at 6 and started drawing a picture of Jace, a TV series character, for Miha, finished around 8 and went in the bathroom for some hygiene. We went to school and I thought we would have had activities there, but it was for short: we started travelling by car almost immediately to a place I wasn't expecting to be brought at: the botanical garden and aquarium of Galați, Romania.

Even for a botanical garden there was a lot of green, a lot of flowers and...well, a lot of nature! We had a walk and then arrived in front of a building that turned out to be the aquarium I was talking about above

Inside it was magical: a lot of fish, some of them I never had the chance to see live. Once finished inside the aquarium we went on the roof of it, and we took some photos all together. It was still rainy that day so no good light conditions for pictures



Coming back to school I sat next to Miha during lunch and the "sarmale" were very tasty. After lunch we had a half an hour of rest

before going to a "trip with a ship" which was wonderful. After that we went back to school and had a fantastic meal with sushi.

I ate most of it before taking the pic...sorry about that...but before the actual meal we had a ballet dance performance and then a girl, Geanina, sang for us some songs in the different languages, one for each country that was present in the hall.

My friend G-man was about to cry even before the final presentation...which by the way almost made me cry, but I promised Miha I wouldn't and I didn't. As background music for the slideshow they put the song "7 years" and man was it hard not to cry...everyone was crying in there, I felt...sad.

11.05.2018

The last day. The day I was hoping would be the best of my life and turned out to be the saddest of the week. The day no one was ready for. I suppose you never are...ready to say goodbye to all the fantastic people you met and in only a week they made you better, they became your friends.

In the morning I woke up early enough. I had mixed feelings: I was ready for a fantastic day with Miha but at the same time I knew that it would finish as soon as Ștefan's mother had arrived in the evening, so that motivated me even more to use my time wisely. At Ștefan's place I made pancakes...the last of the week. Then we went to school. The last day was programmed to be a workshop day: we went in different classes and then had to do different activities, like riddles, drawing classes and much more.



At this everyone, and I mean EVERYONE in there did a "awww" at which I became red and Miha hid her face behind Diana. That...I didn't see coming. After everything finished we had a last dance that was more of a sad one because even though we danced at the exact same songs of the day before on the ship, no one was actually having fun. Everyone was crying or just finished crying and started again. Ştefan said that we should go because of the time, and I called Miha to say goodbye to her.

We went outside and as we were going I was thinking "ok, now you just hug her for a sec and then leave, turn around and get in the car". Before even noticing I was already hugging her, and the worst part? I was crying like a baby. I wasn't ready for that like I said in the beginning...I didn't want to let her go, I didn't want to lose her, live without her. But I had to...we went back at Ştefan's place and I continued crying...just to get a picture, that was me after the last dinner...



12.05.2018

Ok, now I'm just going to tell you about the next day right quick because it was short: we woke up extremely early on Saturday, we went to the hotel and then I saw her once again: Miha was smiling at me, and I went to her and gave her a hug, but this time it was a short one. I knew I should just get in the bus and go and that's what happened. We said not "goodbye" but..."see you later" as I refused to think I wouldn't see her again. Pss, hey, you...stop crying...

I hope you liked my diary. I am so happy with my new friends I made!

Thanks to Erasmus+ everything that happened to me was possible. I am so happy to be part of Erasmus+ project! I wish I could work on another Erasmus+ project too!

Disclaimer: These articles reflect the views of the authors, and the European commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Done by: "Yordan Radichkov" Foreign language high school

<http://radichkovls-vidin.org/>