

A Trip to Italy

Lots of things to tell have piled up in this trip to Italy the first week of October. The one-week journey of this project started with our landing in Italy's sweet town, Giulianova. During our time there, outside the activities to bring our project to life, tours were organized to places far and near. Although at times we were with the teachers, we spent most of our spare time with our new friends there. We connected very warmly with our Italian housekeepers and students from other associate countries, starting our first Sunday. Especially the Italian students and families were with us every moment in Italy, and we were met and greeted with a remarkable hospitality. Though we didn't stay with the families, we visited their homes a couple of times. Sometimes they helped us with transport, sometimes we talked with body language since our languages didn't match. It should have to do with the similarities between the cultures of Italy and Western Turkey that I barely felt any foreignness in their nation. From how they were at home to their experiences as a family, lots of things reminded me of my very own home. Certainly, the difference, including in national perspectives, gave me chances to think about my own social life and cultural approaches. Of course, I can't thank my Italian friends enough for this to be done. They treated us as one of their own and gave us the best experience possible. In this regard, we had grown strong bonds with every attendee and friendships that made all of us break out in tears leaving Rome.

We had reserved 2 days for our project in Italy. We spent this time in Marie Curie High School, and we did several activities here, chiefly robotics studies. Among these activities were many, from leaving an Erasmus memorial on their school's walls, to playing music from each nation. Doing these activities with my friends were much more fun than they'd usually be, and I witnessed students without even a little experience in robotics be engaged in the robotics tasks with curiosity. Also, the rich campus of the school welcoming us was perfect. In these walls covered with the students' colorful sketches, we got an idea of Italy's educational system and met lots of Italian students that weren't the project's attendees.

Taking part in an Erasmus projects provides you much more than an airplane ride and a stay in a hotel. If you're aware enough of the situation you're in and the opportunities you get, new doors are opened in your mind, and you reach new heights in evaluating your own life and societal condition. Especially for a student going outside their own country, like me, this project, carrying a special significance, was full of moments I was frightened of, and in the end, I had a week where I made friends I'd never want to stop talking to in my life.

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