Employability - "A challenge for youth - Dreams and Reality"

Travel journal

Today was the first day when all involved in this project met.

We visited Marmolejo, apparently a small town but with a lot of spectacular places. We visited their school and I was impressed by the silence in there and by the teachers' kindness and openness. They organised for us an artistic programme comprised of country dance and presentation of traditional country costumes. Nearby school was a little animal farm very well taken care of.

The Major of Marmolejo welcome us in the City Hall, a building remarkable by its cleanliness and also by its mural mosaic arrangements.

In the afternoon we socialised, being together (Italians, Greeks, French, English, Turkish, Spanish and Romanians) and playing different games. We had a lot of fun. Later that day we went to football arena and some of us played volley.

It was a long day and I felt tired but I was so touched by everything I saw and by the kindness of the people.

Second day

We left Marmolejo early in the morning and we headed to Baeza, a town one hour drive from our departure point. We admired the Oil Museum and we were presented pieces and described the old technological process of obtaining olive oil. To mark the evolution of oil production our guide took us in a long walk to the current olive oil factory showing us the modern technology. Further we were driven around the town with a little touristic train. Coming back to Marmolejo I noticed an impressive olive tree orchard alongside the road.

We spent some time with our new friends, visiting more of the town in the evening. I was fascinated by their streets which were guarded both sides by orange trees full of oranges. It was an amazing view.

Third day

We spent time in the classrooms, precisely in the IT department and we were taught about team work from distance. The whole programme was very attractive.

Later we travelled to Cordoba and we visited the Mosque in the center of the town. The Mosque had an impressive open court surrounded by arcades. It fascinated me by its countless columns, the coloristic diversity, the multitude of materials used: gold, marble, mosaic, stone.

As part of our programme it was organised a sort of "treasure hunt" - to be able to orientate ourselves in an unknown town. We found all the objectives indicated: "Corredeza Square", "Christ of the lanterns", "Slope of the Bailio", "Roman Temple", "Potro Square" and I took a lot of pictures.

We enjoyed a show involving all sorts of acrobatic numbers with horses. I think a lot of work and soul was put in achieving such performance.

Fourth day

We continued the programme "team work from distance". Later, we went to the forest and we planted a tree, bringing our contribution to ecosystem.

As a continuation to the horses show from previous day, I took some riding lessons from my marvellous host.

Fifth day

We visited Granada with its famous Castle and its magnificent views.

We had our last meeting as a group on a big platform were we enjoyed ourselves singing and listening to the music and talking like old friends.

I had a great time in Marmolejo, Spain and I think that many other students would benefit from this programme, either physically visiting the places or working in teams from distance.