**Erasmus + KA2 Project “Our Diverse Cultural Heritage”**

Palermo Mobility 6-10 May 2019

**First day Monday 6-May-2019**

The students in mixed International groups shared :

* A poem of a National poet . They read and performed it and shared reasons why they chose it
* Information about a National writer who dealt with the theme of migration
* Information about migrants and the phenomenon of migration in their country

In the afternoon they had free time to discover the city together with their partners

Our students write:

Monday was a special day because it was the first day that we met. At the beginning there was embarrassment, but it was also so nice to meet our Eu partners .

There were people from: Spain, Croatia, Finland, Great Britain and Italy.

In the morning we worked in international classes and each student presented a poem in his/her own original language with an accompanying English translation explaining why we chose the poem and the Italian students summarized the plot of 'I Malavoglia' by Giovanni Verga in English without finishing the story. It was very interesting to listen to the various languages and then to communicate with the only language that unites us: English! . After the break, always in the international classes we spoke about the influence of migration in own countries, it was an interesting activity to know how this influence of migration changes from country to country and at the end we did a tour of our school, both the secondary building and the main building facing the Cathedral with its “Spazio Flaccovio”. After this activity, we had lunch in Fod, where we ate some sandwiches.

We would have liked to go to Giardino Inglese (English's garden) but it was closed.

So we went around the historical city centre and then we went to Foro italico to take an icecream and to watch the amazing view. We talked about our personal life and we played with a ball in a a field generally used to play football. Then, tired but satisfied we got home.

**Second day Tuesday 7-May-2019**

We were welcomed at Centro Astalli by the responsible person Giulia Manzella. Centro Astalli is in the city centre of Palermo, in the heart of Ballarò, and it’s a shelter centre for no-EU migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. It is part of an international network, the JRS(Jesuit Refugees Service), which offers protection to people escaping from war and persecutions. Centro Astalli opened for the first time in 2003 in Palermo in order to provide an answer to the needs of the foreign population living in the city. At the beginning it was only an Italian language school but in 2006, seen the requirement of the territory, a shelter centre was opened within the district of Ballarò, in the city centre, characterised by the concentration of foreign population.The main goal of our activity is to give concrete tools to those who are moving the first steps towards autonomy.The work of Centro Astalli is based on donations, voluntary work and a bottom-up approach. Every service that we offer comes from the reception of the needs of our assisted people. Nowadays Centro Astalli assists more than 8700 people, including individuals and families. They offer to them two kinds of services:• Primary services that answer to the basic needs of people: breakfast, shower, laundry, distribution of food, distribution of clothes, doctor office, legal orientation, job orientation, Italian language school, listening, psychological assistance, reception.• Secondary services that have the goal to give instruments for the integration and allow people to live the social life of the centre: language laboratory, after-school club for children, informatics laboratory, road safety course.

In the afternoon the students and their teachers visited the palazzo Conte Federico , one of the oldest and most important building in the city centre of Palermo. It dates back to the 12th century and is Arabic-Norman origin. It underwent many recontructions so you can notice various architectural styles, high painted ceilings from the 17th Century , baroque ceiling frescoes, various sculpturesand a Marabitti’s lion mountain from the 17th Century.

Our students write:

On Tuesday we did lots of beautiful activities.

In the morning we went to visit the Astalli Center, a voluntary association for the defense of rights, integration and inclusion of non-EU immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. There we listened to a volunteer explaining us what the center offers: services of first and second need like the possibility of having breakfast, having a shower, choosing some clothes to wear, studying... We had a tour of the centre and then we asked to the volunteer some questions created with our twin after an activity of sharing thoughts about the situation of immigrants in our countries.

During the lunch break we went to ‘Focacceria San Francesco’ where our twins tasted typical food like ‘pane panelle e crocchè’ e ‘pane ca meusa’ and of course arancine. After lunch we had a walk to ‘foro italico’ the sea front of our beautiful town and then we went to ‘Palazzo conte Federico’ one of the oldest and most important buildings in our city inhabited in the past by important celebrities. We had a tour of the structure guided by the countess that still lives there with her family. After this activity we went home and got ready for dinner. We were all together and ate a pizza . We had a lot of fun there laughing and talking about every type of differences or similarities of our countries and so knowing each other better .

**Third Day Wednesday 8-May-2019**

The students and teachers visited the Department of the University of Palermo Itastra, where they teach Italian as a second language . Here we met the director Mari D’Agostino, two internship students and some foreign minors studying and attending courses at Itastra. We were told of their great projects and experiences and together we visited the work of art created during the courses. It was an inspiring visit well appreciated by everyone.

In the afternoon, some students of our liceo guided the students and their partners around the historical centre of Palermo.

Our students write:

Wednesday was a really dynamic day. In the morning we went to Itastra University Centre, where foreign students study Italian. We listened to some students’ experiences about Itastra’s cultural  projects and after we had a tour of the university structure. It was a really involving and interesting activity, and moreover it was linked to the main theme of the Erasmus project. We had lunch in the Focacceria San Francesco, where all the Erasmus+ guys tasted the characteristic Sicilian food such as arancina, panelle and crocché. We had a tour of the historical city centre in the afternoon, guided by some Italian schoolmates. After the tour was over we went to Mondello, the most famous Palermo’s seaside beach. We played music, cards, sang together and we also took a lot of photos. Even if the weather was windy, the bravest Croatian, Spanish and English boys and girls had a bath. We had a lot of fun and it made us understand that it’s not necessary to belong to the same country and culture to appreciate and enjoy each other, and also that diversity makes us richer. Tired but satisfied, we took the bus (unexpectedly not crowded) and we got home.

**Fourth Day Thursday 9-May- 2019**

Visit of Agrigento, the Valley of the Temples and the “Casa di Pirandello”

Our Students write:

Amazing temples, amazing day!!! Sharing culture and fun with people you love is one of the best thing in the world !!

**Fifth Day Friday 10-May-2019**

The students and their partner entered a poem competition. They wrote some really amazing poems related to Europe , diversity, migration and unity. Even though the jury chose one of the as inning the first prize actually it was a hard job because they were all great!

Our students write:

Friday was the last day of the Erasmus project. It was a really sad day because almost everyone had to leave the day after but we had a lot of fun trying not to think that the day after we had to say goodbye. In the morning we went to school and we stayed in the international groups we were in the first day. We had to write a poem, as the final work of the Erasmus project, which had to represent European ideals and the unity between European countries. Everyone spent about a hour and a half to write the poem and each group wrote really different poems which were presented on cardboards. Our Teachers judged us and they told us the winner and the second classified... it was really interesting to read each poem and everyone appreciated other poems so much. At 12:30 the food fair started. Each Italian guy brought typical Sicilian and Italian food such as pasta, panelle, arancine, cannoli etc.. Foreigner teachers and students loved our typical food and that day we ate a lot of good and well prepared food. In the afternoon, after we waited for some students who went to visit the cathedral with their teachers, we went to Foro Italico, a big park in which we stayed together, we taught each other a lot of typical games of our countries. The Boys played a football match while girls and some other boys relaxed on the grass. But after two hours we knew that the worst moment was coming: we had to say goodbye to some of the guys who had to leave the day after. We knew that we would have seen the other guys that night because we had planned to go to the city center and eat dinner together. Someone went at home and then, at night we met in Zangaloro, where we ate tasty burgers. After that, we stayed together in the city center until midnight. Then we said goodbye to the guys which had to leave and someone cried: it was a really sad moment, but we promised each other we will see in the future. This was the sign that in only one week we had the power to create something too special to leave that still today makes us too sad.