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*More than the Sum of its Parts- Our diverse Cultural
Heritage as Building Blocks for European Unity*

A WEEK IN MÁLAGA, SPAIN (18TH – 25TH NOVEMBER)

Report from the Italian Students

We all remember the anxiety we felt about meeting the host families and we also remember the two hours we spent in the air-plane talking constantly to drive away the worry.

This was for us the beginning of a fantastic experience: Erasmus + KA2 project. It is an exchange project between six different European countries (Croatia, Spain, Italy, Germany, UK and Finland) composed by several mobilities to these countries throughout the years. It gives to guys like us the opportunity to appreciate other cultures, countries, traditions, customs, foods and languages. We went to Malaga in Spain, as first mobility of this project, from 18th to 23rd November. Throughout the week we went on some trips such as the ancient archaeological sites of Archidona and Antequera on Tuesday,

the Malaga historical centre guided tour by the Spanish history teacher and the visit to the complex of palaces of Alhambra in Granada. We spent the first and the last day in Malaga at school: during the first day we showed other guys and teachers our presentations about our beautiful cultural heritage, during the last day our task was to create a monument with different scraps, and it had to represent the union of our countries and of Europe. It has been wonderful to work in multi-ethnic groups because we always had the opportunity to learn words from specific language and to deal with other people. We spent a week there as guests of some Spanish guys: their names are Paula, Ángel, Javier and Francisco (Curro). They treated us like we were their brothers and sisters and they offered us a lot of typical food from Spain and the last day they brought it at school and we had a lunch with typical Spanish food like paella, tapas and tortillas. We spent a lot of time with their families too. We had a lot of free time to go shopping and go out to meet other people.

We still can't find the words to describe this amazing experience of our lives because the week we spent in Malaga changed us completely and even if you spend only a week in another country, you come back home you are a different person. We have never had such an experience like that.

Travelling and facing a lot of boys and girls made us richer because everybody brought with himself a part of his culture and country. In the project we were very different people and each of us reflected his culture and learnt words, proverbs, traditions and customs.

This experience let us create a lot of new friendships we never thought we could create. It's not

important to speak the same language because the most important thing is trying to use your abilities to explain your point of view and to face different situations. We are trying to keep in touch with the we met and we will never forget them. We want to thank all the people who have worked to make this experience work in the best way. It has been a really precious and exciting little chapter of our lives and we will never forget it for sure!!

I am one of the members of the project 'Erasmus + KA2', in other words an exchange project between six different European countries (Italy, Spain, Finland, UK, Croatia and Germany), composed by several mobilities to these countries throughout the years.

I went to Malaga, Spain, as first mobility of this project, from 18th November to 25th November. I spent a week there as guest of a Spanish guy called Francisco, who gave me the opportunity to sleep, eat and live into his house for five days. We all had a lot of fun spending time together and exchanging our own different cultures and habits. Throughout the week we went on some trips, such as to the archaeological sites of Antequera and Archidona and to Granada and I found them interesting and exciting. We also spent little time at school, being divided into multi-ethnic groups and working on our own to debate about our different cultures; we worked together to make a creative sculpture of Modern Art as well, in order to win a very challenging and demanding competition.

Just to sum up, I believe that this one was one of my best life experiences ever, because it made me feel more mature, but it also permitted me to improve my English and my speaking competences. I've found it well-organised, because there was a detailed and very interesting timetable (that we managed to follow, luckily) and it was a good way to let different countries' people exchange their own cultures, languages and ways of living as well. We weren't so lucky in terms of weather too, but it was part of the game...

I really want to thank all the people who have worked to make this experience work in the best way and who followed my mates and me in this mobility to Spain. It was a fabulous chapter of my life and I hope it won't be the only one.

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