

## Erasmus+: Rheine, Germany

the last week of March, I and some of my classmates with our headmaster and two teachers, took part in the Erasmus plus project "united in diversity, traditional sports" which saw us engaged with our Spanish and German friends in a project that valued sport as enrichment and knowledge and which has also given us the opportunity to deal with different educational and training systems.



This event allowed us to learn more about traditional German sports and games, for example a game with a small rubber ball that has to be thrown along a game path. The aim

is to get the finish line first. Thanks to this adventure ( experience) we are now able to compare, to know and to appreciate the personal experiences of young people who we thought to be different from us but who are basically like us, and to expand, moreover, the concept of multiculturalism and interculturality inherent in each of us. During the week in Germany , the Rheine school organized a very intense program of educational and recreational events for us. We stayed in classes in the morning, and we had excursions to the city. The visit to the Rheine zoo was exciting: the animals were well kept in large enclosures; there were monkeys, seals, tigers and camels.

Then we visited Münster, an important city in north-eastern Germany, famous for its university, the signing of the Peace of Westphalia and for being the "bicycle capital". For this reason, we had the tour of the city by bike even though it was snowing that day. With over thirty museums dedicated to different sections, from art to science and technology to history, it is also one of the main cultural centers of the region.

The historic center, almost completely razed to the ground during the Second World War, was rebuilt following the ancient conformation and today is considered one of the most beautiful in Germany. In addition to numerous buildings, churches and monuments of great historical importance, including the cathedral and the town hall, you can find a wide choice of restaurants and shops.

In Cologne we visited its cathedral, a Catholic church, whose official name is the church of Saints Peter and Mary. With its 157 meters high spires, it is the second tallest church in Germany, after the Ulm Cathedral, and the third tallest one in the world. The current cathedral was built to house the relics of the Magi.

Finally, what allowed us to deal with different cultures and let us touch the customs and habits of German families were the dinners organized in their homes. We were welcomed with great affection and enthusiasm, their willingness to satisfy our requests and their courtesy towards us were great. The week ended with the goodbye party, organized by the host school, the students and their families.

In conclusion, this was an experience that helped me to expand my cultural background, which allowed me, because of the distance from my family, to become more independent, helped me to learn more about two cultures, the German and the Spanish, of which I appreciated various aspects that I did not know.

Salvatore Manta

