



Croatia Journal

“The Future Begins Today”

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  **Giovanni Malafarina**
Istituto Tecnico Tecnologico 

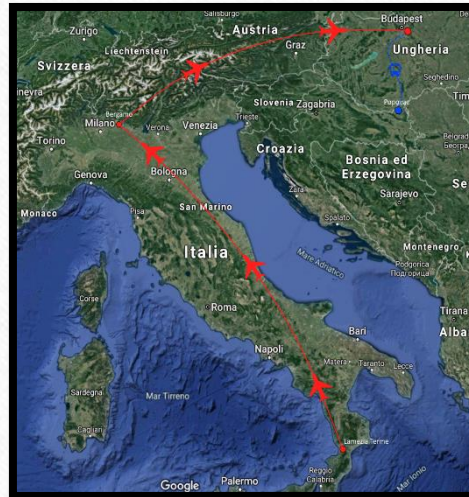
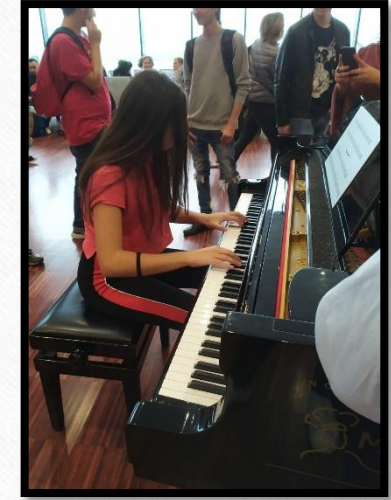
via Trento e Trieste 88068 – SOVERATO – Cz
☎ centralino 0967 21693 - presidenza 0967 522082 - ☎ fax 0967 526595
✉ mail: cz806000d@istruzione.it - email certificata: cz806000d@pec.istruzione.it
🌐 itmalafarina.edu.it - 📄 Codice Fiscale 97087900799



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Day 1:

- The first day of our Erasmus + trip to Croatia was made up exclusively of travel. We left from the airport of Lamezia terme in Calabria around 08:30 and arrived at the airport of Bergamo (near Milan) at around 10:20. Following a lunch break, Chiara played harmoniously at the airport piano, then we took a flight to Budapest in Hungary at 3.55pm and arrived in the afternoon around 5.30pm. Once we arrived we got acquainted with the students of a Spanish school of the same Erasmus+ project. We have chosen Budapest airport as it was closer to the destination in Croatia. From the airport we were taken on a bus for about 5 hours of trip to Croatia in the town of Popovac. Once we arrived at the school we were greeted with a rich buffet and after dinner we were assigned to the host families.



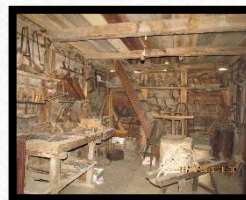
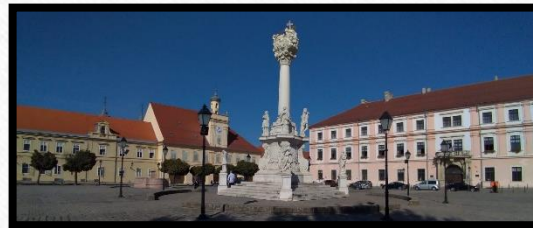
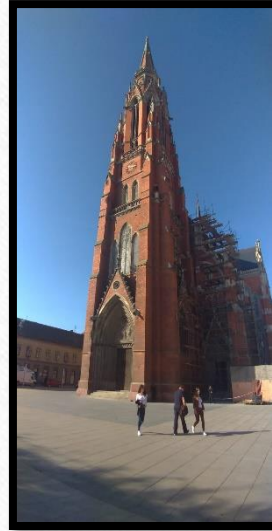
Day 2:

- On the second day we carried out activities in the village of Popovac. At around 10:15 we went from school to the house of culture in a large theater-like hall. There was a welcome ceremony with performances and choreography performed by Croatian students, with typical dances and songs in traditional costume of the place, then the hymns of the various country participating in the project Croatia, Poland, Italy, Spain (Catalonia) were sung. Once finished we returned to school where we found a series of typical dishes and delicious typical desserts made for a local celebration. We also assisted in the kitchen of the school, at all the preparation stages of these typical dishes. Afterwards we participated in a game in the gym consisting of a series of activities whose purpose was to break the ice among the students of the various countries, showing that in reality we are all very similar, sharing the same hobbies and passions. After lunch we explored the Popovac village, we visited a local church and saw a sort of open-air museum with all the past and current activities of the place and how typical local houses were built long ago.



Day 3:

- On the third day we visited Osijek, a large city not far from Popovac. Through the words of a guide we have explored more about the city's past wars. In fact, from a structural point of view, the city is made up of houses with different architectural styles. We visited the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, it has a new Gothic style, we can understand it because the shape of the cathedral is structured towards the sky as if to reach God. Afterwards we went to the historical center of the city and visited a museum of local culture. The guide told us why the coin is called Kuna, or the Kuna is a kind of ferret that saved the inhabitants of Osijek from the black plague because it ate the rats. After having lunch with typical food in Karanac we visited a sort of exhibition of all the ancient crafts that were done in these adorable little houses. In the evening, once back at Popovic, after dinner we had a party with music in the school hall, dancing and singing..



Day 4:

On the fourth day we carried out activities at school, in the morning we planted a tree as a symbol of the union among people, as a symbol that the future begins today. All the students were then divided into 4 different clubs:

- -Sports (a series of activities in the gym: Basketball, Paddle, Ping Pong, Darts)
- -Creative (creation of musical instruments through recycling and manual work)
- -Music (rhythm games, orchestra creation, chair play)
- -Art (dough modeling for the creation of a mini stop motion movie about a fable)

Each student took part in all these clubs in turn. In the afternoon in the gym after the activities of the various clubs we did some tests for the recording of the film with props and evidence of the theatrical script.



Day 5:

- On the fifth day we finished recording the film, each country prepared a skit about visiting another country and we Italians imagined a trip to Japan during which we tasted the typical Japanese tea, and the Japanese tasted Italian coffee. After lunch we created a poster concerning all the hobbies of the project + 2 clubs which are theater shows presented by the Polish school and the architecture club presented by the Italian school. After the creation and the presentation of the various posters, there was the assignment of the Erasmus + certificates of this mobility.



Day 6:

- On the sixth day we finally visited Zagreb, the capital of Croatia. In the morning we left from Popovac around 06:00 to arrive in Zagreb around 10:00 where we met the tour guide who would accompany us all day. With the guide that explained us in every least detail the history, we went in all the most important tourist places such as museums and cathedrals. Then we had two hours of time to buy the souvenirs and go shopping. As soon as we met again we greeted the Spanish guys, because unfortunately they could not come back with us because they departed from Zagreb by plane the day after.



Day 7:

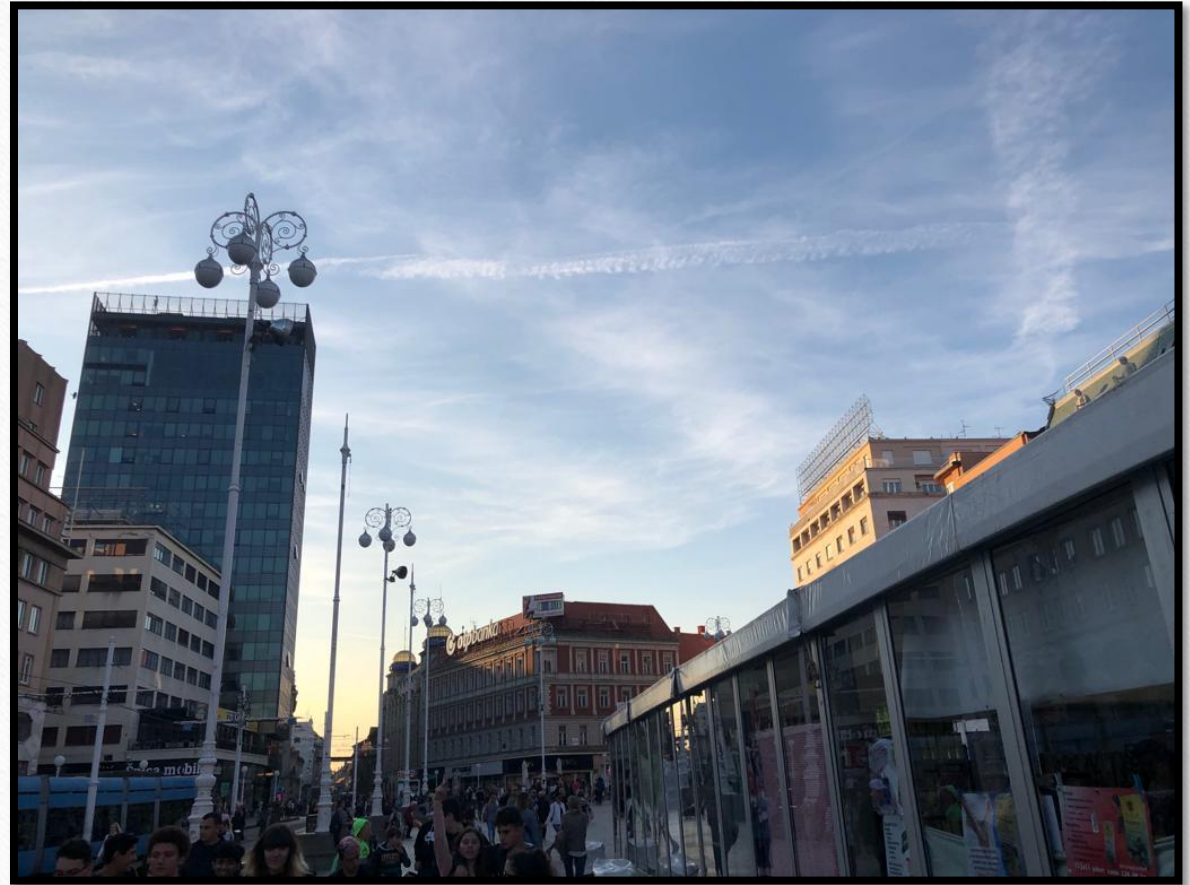
- Finally we find the seventh day a very sad day because we had to say goodbye to the Croatian guys and to the host families. We will meet some people from the project in Italy in the future but it is always sad to say goodbye. We left early in the morning and arrived in Budapest in Hungary at around 10am, took the flight to Rome (Fiumicino) and then after lunch, from Rome (Fiumicino) to Lamezia Terme where we arrived around 18:30.



Final

- This experience was very beautiful and meaningful, it helped us to get to know new places with their cultures also thanks to all the excursions and all the activities organized. Every day we learned something new, from the typical dances to the local dishes, and the free time that remained to us we spent to know each other better among ourselves and with the Croats, the Spanish and Poles. As soon as we arrived we were greeted with friendliness both by the school and by the families who hosted us who managed to never miss anything.

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Favarò Christian Bartolo and Andrea Pittelli