**ERASMUS PROJECT: MEETING IN ALCALA DE HENARES NOVEMBER 4th-9TH 2019**

**Report by Luca Galante and Ferdinando Papale, accompanying teachers of the Italian group**

* The meeting held at Alcalà de Henares, Spain from 4th to 9th November 2019 within the Project Erasmus + “*Virtual Reality in Education’* was attended by 30 students and 10 teachers from 5 different countries.
* The Italian team included two accompanying teachers, Mr Luca Galante and Mr Ferdinando Papale and six students: three girls from the Science Course (Martina Artusato, Filippa Allegra Mian and Francesca Zanetti) three boys from the Technical Course (Daniele Cancian, Alessio Niero and Luca Vedovato) of our school.
* On the days following the group’s arrival – after the meeting with the rest of the participants and the hosting families, the programme unfolded according to a well-organised set of initiatives, efficiently managed by the Spanish team
* On Nov 5th, after being welcomed at the school and the ice-breaker games held in the school gym, the first workshops on the use of the Web started and went on till early afternoon. The rest of the day was spent either at home with the hosting families or around the city with the other students.
* On the third day the group went on a tour of Madrid (about 30 kms far away), with a visit to the Museum of Robotics in the morning and sightseeing in the afternoon, which was particularly pleasant due to the attractions of the capital and sunny weather.
* Just as interesting and intense was the following day, with a visit of campus of the ancient University of Alcalà, with lessons on the digital media and amazing virtual experiences in the morning and a guided tour of the historic centre of the city, where the presence of the spirit of the great writer Cervantes is still palpable.
* On Friday 8th, the workshops and activities ended , with the presentation of the PPTs each group had prepared, discussions on the themes of the meeting and a final assessment of the experience. Late in the afternoon the very place was transformed into a venue for the goodbye party, with food, music and dancing.
* On the Saturday, the day of home-going, there was room for greetings, promises to stay in touch and some nostalgic tears
* Considering the aims of the project, we believe the experience was extremely interesting and gratifying, thanks to the entire group’s cooperative and enthusiastic attitude and the spontaneous readiness to share and enjoy the activities on everybody’s part
* The use of English as the language of communication among the participants, though the result of different levels of competence, was never an obstacle to participation and commitment: in fact it became a chance for growing and reflecting.
* Needless to say that the success of the meeting was mostly due to the enthusiasm and efficiency of the Spanish group, who chose a wisely-devised programme alternating challenging activities with moments of relaxation and occasions for pursuing personal curiosity and consolidating friendly relationships. The exploration of the territory was an invaluable experience, as a foreign country should always be for the people who travel.