



JOINING HANDS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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REPORT ON C2 LEARNING/TEACHING/TRAINING ACTIVITIES AT LICEO CARACENSE, GUADALAJARA SPAIN

MAY 2018

On Sunday 6th the French, Italian and Portuguese partners were welcomed at Madrid Airport and in Guadalajara by the host families. Since they all arrived in the early or late afternoon there was the opportunity to go for a walk in the town centre and the public gardens in the evening.

The following day, **Monday 7th**, the participants went to Liceo Caracense. The students took part in a workshop on climate change and climate refugees while the teachers held a meeting. First, all the recent activities, such as exhibitions and reading out loud events, were discussed. Then the weaknesses were highlighted: 1. the blog – the necessity of encouraging all the students to communicate through posts, photos and videos was stated; 2. the TwinSpace – all the partners were invited to upload the activities onto it for the dissemination of the results. Finally, Mrs Olivieri showed the students' replies to the ex post questionnaire concerning the LTTA in Segré. The teachers focused on the final comments: the students complained about the lack of time to visit Segré, its region and Paris. Moreover, they wrote that communication in English was not fluent because some participants did not know English well.

Later on, the students joined the teachers. The headmaster of Liceo Caracense, Mr Fernando Prada Bergua, made a welcome speech. Then Mr Sanchez did a presentation on the current refugee situation. At the end of this very interesting talk the students started to prepare the MUN debate to be held on Wednesday, they revised the countries' positions they had studied in advance and exchanged ideas.

In the afternoon there was an event with Ultramarinos de Lucas, a theatre company, in the school cloister. Two actors involved the students in games based on individual and group dynamics. The

second part of the event with Ultramarinos was meant to help the students understand the plight of asylum seekers: people who depend on the decisions of third parties to escape war and find safety.



On Tuesday 8th the group went to Madrid. The walking tour started in Plaza de España and the participants saw the city centre, its lively streets, Plaza Mayor, Puerta del Sol, the Spanish Parliament. They also did a quiz on the main sights along the tour. There was plenty of time to do shopping and have lunch before the visit to the Prado Museum. They spent approximately two hours seeing the permanent collections and some of the great works of art that are displayed there. What remained of the afternoon was spent in Parque del Retiro, a beautiful park where there are, just to mention some attractions, an artificial lake, a glass pavilion and paths and benches where to relax.





On Wednesday 9th the whole morning was devoted to the MUN debate on “Today’s refugee crisis: what governments should do”. The students were involved in a simulation of the United Nations work sessions, they were split into groups of three and took on the role of the delegations of the USA, Russia, Syria, Germany, Iran, Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, China, Italy, the UK, Hungary, Israel, Mexico and Venezuela. Therefore, they had to make an initial speech, act like real UN delegates representing values and interests of countries, negotiate, obtain the approval of documents.

The debate, which lasted almost five hours and was very demanding, was a success. The session and its preparation contributed to increasing the knowledge of migrations and the students’ negotiating skills in a formal context.



On Thursday 10th the group left for Sigüenza to visit a refugee centre where families and individuals are accommodated. The students and the teachers were split into two mixed-nationality groups, in separate rooms, and they listened to the stories of some asylum seekers who were forced to leave their countries for different reasons. A couple from Colombia had to flee because of the violence and the threats of a criminal gang; a family from Russia had to migrate to escape persecution against Jehovah's witnesses; a Palestinian couple fled from a refugee camp in Lebanon; a young woman from Cameroon was persecuted because of her sexual orientation. The students asked them questions and were deeply moved by their stories. The visit was very useful, listening to the witnesses helped the participants be sympathetic and more informed about the causes of current migrations.

Then there was time to visit the old town and the Cathedral of Santa María with its beautiful *Capilla Mayor*, the cloister and the vestry whose ceiling is adorned with hundreds of heads.





The afternoon was spent outdoors, in a natural park. The partners tasted *paella* and then went on a hike through a wood.



On Friday 11th the students watched a documentary on refugees while the teachers held their second meeting. All the main activities to be done until April 2019 and their deadlines were discussed.

1. Study of current migration and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: it was decided to tell the students to read newspaper and magazine articles on current migrations, and the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights www.un.org/universal-declaration-of-human-rights in the summer.

2. Preparation of an exhibition of art, photos and headlines. During the summer holidays the students have to choose headlines, paintings and photos for the exhibition to be held in Portugal. The partners must send the Portuguese school the contributions (max 10 per country) by 17 September.
3. Lead-in on Portuguese culture: late September. The Portuguese partner was requested to send links to the education system and the Douro region.
4. C3 LTTA in Portugal: schools' presentations; schools' presentations of recent activities; workshop on migration and globalisation.
5. Digital Diary «A day in the life of a today's migrant». All the students have to contribute to the activity either individually or in pairs; the texts must be typed, in modifiable PDF format and with photos/pictures and sent to the coordinating school. Deadline: end of October.
6. 2019 Calendar «Places of the soul». 3 months per country (France: Jan, Feb, March; Spain: Apr, May, June; Portugal: July, Aug, Sep; Italy: Oct, Nov, Dec). The photos and descriptions/quotations must be ready by the end of November.
7. Event on International Migrants Day 18 December «We are all travellers – the future»: writing compositions – either essays or creative writing. The texts must be displayed in each school on 18 December and uploaded onto the TwinSpace.
8. As concerns the final outcome, a handbook with reflections on migration and proposals of inclusive education, it was suggested holding a MUN debate in Potenza (C4 7 – 13 April 2019) and collecting the documents in the handbook.
9. Reading out loud event «The rights we lack» (originally planned in each school on 23 April 2019): it was suggested holding the event during C4 LTTA in Italy.

Then the students joined the teachers and there was the short presentation of the LTTA in Portugal, from 30 September to 6 October 2018. Basically, the Portuguese students proposed that the participants should debate how each partner school tries to integrate the human rights contained in the Universal Declaration into their school system and syllabuses.

Later the group went to Guadalajara Town Hall where they were received by an official who led them on a visit to the building. The Mayor welcomed them in the Council Hall and he spoke about the European Union and its priorities: unity, welfare, education. Then he mentioned some initiatives promoted by the Council such as the Book Fair or the ones in favour of sport to be held in 2018 to celebrate Guadalajara as European City of Sport.



At night the students, the host families and the teachers gathered at Liceo Caracense for the farewell party. There was good food, fun and the chance to talk to several people.



On **Saturday 12th** the French, Italian and Portuguese groups left in the morning.