

BEING AN ERASMUS STUDENT

Azores Mobility 2020



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Introduction

Within this project, we will talk about the trip we made in February of 2020 to Azores, touching topics such as how we prepared for the trip, the experience lived in Azores, as also what we took from this unique journey.



Firstly, we will start by talking about our expectations and the euphoria we felt when we were told that we were given that opportunity. Afterwards, follows the report about the several weeks of hard work, always giving our best to make a great impression and make our school, Camilo Castelo Branco, as proud as possible knowing that they made the best decision on choosing us as their representatives. Moreover, we will talk about our favorite topic, the experience that we had on the island of São Miguel, telling about our group experiences. Lastly, we will discuss how this journey contributed to making us much better European citizens.

First Expectations

We still remember when we were told that we were going to part of the Erasmus+ project to Azores, our bodies were filled with excitement and euphoria for being granted this amazing opportunity.

However, we also knew that it was not all rainbows and fairies, and that we would have to work hard to deserve it.

The part that we were most looking forward to, and at the same time afraid of, was meeting the families, “Will they like us? Will we get along?” were some of the questions that went through our minds. Luckily, most of us had an incredible experience with their families, making friendships for life.

Preparation for the Mobility Azores 2020

In order to deserve all that sightseeing throughout the island, we had to work hard on our projects. We were told that we had to split in groups on two, and each group had a subject to develop from scratch, from research to the preparation of the presentation. At that point, the hardest part of the whole experience had started, but we pushed through with great enthusiasm since we knew that the reward was much better.

The subjects that we talked about were the following: Pelhe river and TMG; Ave river and Continental Mabor; Ave river and Eco Ibéria; Devesa park and the project “our rivers”; the impact of the textile industry on the Ave river.

As we finished our projects, we felt immense pride and satisfaction, as well as relieve. However, the work was not finished yet as we still had to prepare for our presentations to the students in Ribeira Grande, as well as the preparation of the trip itself.



Our Experience with the Erasmus+ Mobility

By the time we landed in the island of São Miguel, in the Azores, none of us had an idea of how incredible that week would be and how it would contribute for our lives' change. Starting by the interaction among the Portuguese team members, although the different ages and different paths we follow at the same school, the truth is that the Erasmus+ project has brought us together since the very first moment, as we were boarding on this adventure. Actually, there was a week full of intense emotions ahead, from joy as we were discovering a whole new place to some discomfort, as we were far away from home, enhancing all our bonds as a group while were supporting one another. The same happened as we met our Azorean, Macedonian and Turkish colleges even because apart from the linguistic barriers, we were all on the same boat and all working with the same purpose.

What has touched us the most during the mobility cannot be properly described, for being what each one of us has felt, experienced and eternalized together with their hosting families. These represent, without the shadow of doubt, what São Miguel and all the Azores



mean for us, for having been our real home for one whole week. Each one of us has established friendships which certainly will last for many years and that could only be possible thanks to the Erasmus+ project.

Yet, we have all become friends with our teachers. Being far away from the school's serious environment made our friendships come tighter! Nothing in this project would be possible without our teachers and right here we want to thank teacher Fedro, Teresa, Marta and Elisa for this life-changing opportunity which has made us not only greater citizens, but also greater people.

Finally, we owe the huge amount of moments we've spent enjoying ourselves together to our Azorean, Macedonian and Turkish friends. Together we have laughed, sung, enriched each one's culture, visited fascinating and breath-taking places which created inside our hearts a huge will to come back to São Miguel.

Contribution of the Mobility to make us better citizens

This experience made us grow in a way we were not expecting at all, starting from the great friendship bonds we've built with our colleges to our own personal growth as European citizens. Throughout that week we all learned with one another about cultural respect and equality, which made us become more comprehensive and tolerant. All these meant an important key towards becoming greater citizens and understanding what being European is all about. Now we, more than ever, appreciate the advantages of being members of the European Union, which grants us freedom, not only of movement, but most importantly, freedom of speech and thinking.

Conclusion

Finally, it has to be said that all our goals have been accomplished and this project has brought a lot of deep change into our lives. We would like to invite everyone going through high school to apply for this project and become part of this big and great family, which has taken the schools' name to many countries. Once again, we would like to thank all the teachers, hosting families and each student who marks presence on the project for all these opportunities and for making this project the important it is today. Nothing would be possible without you! Thank You!