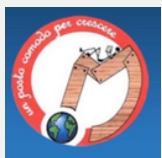


21-25 FEBRUARY 2022

*Short-term exchange of groups
of Pupils*

LIVORNO, ITALY



Cofinanziato dal
programma Erasmus+
dell'Unione europea



Our School

'Giuseppe Mazzini' lower secondary school is located in Livorno with four different buildings in different areas of the town. Being a middle school our students are 11- 14 years old. In Italy students start school at the age of six and they finish primary school at the age of 10-11, then they start lower secondary school and at the age of fourteen they move to upper secondary school. School usually starts on the 15th September and ends around the 10th June, after that date lower secondary school students take their first national exam called Licenza Media, which usually consists of three written texts (Italian, Maths and Foreign languages) and an oral test on all the subjects studied at school. School in Italy is compulsory until the age of 16.

Subjects studied in our school are Italian, Maths, History, Geography, Science, P.E, R.E, Art, English, French or Spanish, Music.



Students usually go to school from Monday to Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm, but they can choose the option to go to school from Monday to Friday from 8 am to 2 pm. In the afternoon we have some extra- curricular activities such as Music (students can choose to play cello, piano, french horn or drums), Latin, Sport clubs or Erasmus+ club. Our school has taken part in several European Projects such as Comenius "Sharing and comparing Cultures via media" in 2012-2014, Erasmus "Eclipse" in 2016-18 and Erasmus+ "Erasmus Tv International" 2019-2022.

We take part in a student exchange project with LaSalle Language Academy a public secondary school from Chicago, IL, Usa and an etwinning project N.I.C.E. with a Norwegian school.

Our city



Livorno is a medium sized town located on the western coast of Italy in Tuscany. Not far from Pisa and Florence, people usually don't spend much time in town but if you are seeking for a real Italian experience off the beaten path of mass tourism you are in the right place.

The city, originally just a small port populated by fishermen, grew of importance when the nearby Pisan port silted up and Pisa needed a new port. Later, during the XVI century, the Medici family from Florence bought the town and its port and decided to make the ideal Renaissance town of it. They called an architect, Bernardo Buontalenti, who designed the town in the shape of a star surrounded by a defensive wall and a moat. Once the town was ready new inhabitants were needed so the Medici family promoted the arrival of people from all over Europe by the Livornine Laws (1591 and 1593). The laws guaranteed religious tolerance to minorities and tax benefits for foreigners setting up businesses in Livorno.

A lot of people who were then persecuted for religious reasons such as the Jewish arrived, but also a lot of merchants and traders: Armenians, Greeks, Dutch, English etc. Livorno still bears witness to their presence with many churches belonging to the different communities. In the early XIX century Livorno became quite popular thanks to the very first bathing establishments built in Europe and it slowly cultivated the concept of a seaside holiday. Unfortunately many of the cultural heritage of the town was destroyed during the II world war bombings. Livorno was also the birthplace of many important people such as the painters Amedeo Modigliani and Giovanni Fattori, the composer Mascagni, one of the Presidents of the Italian Republic Carlo Azeglio Ciampi.



Typical food

Being a multicultural town the cuisine in Livorno is a blend of different flavours, spices and traditions.

Cacciucco is a fish stew that was most likely invented by the frugal fishermen of Livorno who would prepare it with whatever was left in the bottom of their boats after selling more valuable fish at the market.

Traditionally, cacciucco is said to have five different types of fish and seafood in it — one for each "C" in its name- and its name probably comes from the Turkish word *küçük* meaning small, little.

The stew is flavoured with tomatoes, white wine, olive oil, lots of garlic, fresh sage, and dried red chili peppers. For a more substantial meal, cacciucco is most often served over toasted, garlic-rubbed bread.



Cinque e Cinque, or “five and five”. In the 1930s, a serving of bread costed about five liras and a serving of pressed chick peas (called a *torta di ceci*) was also five liras. The Livornesi began to ask for the ceci in a bread sandwich, requesting five lire’s worth of each, and the name was born.



Ponce livornese, or simply ponce (punch), is a hot drink prepared with rum, sugar, and lemon zest. The combination is then heated before brewed coffee is added. As the name suggests, the origins of this warming and aromatic drink are in Livorno.

The story says that it was created in the 17th century, and that it was modelled on punch—hence the name—which was introduced by the British sailors.

SHORT-TERM EXCHANGE OF GROUPS OF PUPILS IN ITALIA



In the week from the 21st to the 25th February 2022, 'G. Mazzini' Scuola Secondaria di I grado hosted a short term exchange of groups of pupils within the 'Erasmus TV International' project. Along with Italian students and teachers 39 students and teachers from Spain, Portugal, Poland, Romania and Turkey took part in the activities.

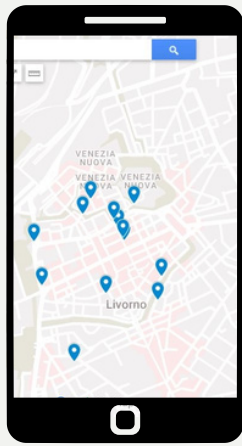
The main topic of the meeting was Fine and Visual Art.



Monday 21st Feb.

On the very first day the foreign partners were welcomed in the school gym where a simple welcome ceremony was held. Each of the team introduced their school and country showing their presentation. After a short break, where Italian coffee was served, students started to mix and work in groups to get ready for the afternoon activity. This was a good ice breaker activity because students started to know each other and exchanged information about themselves and their country.

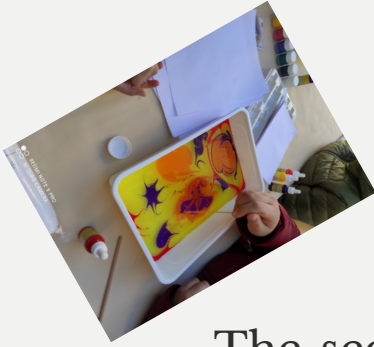




After a quick lunch in the school garden students and teachers walked to the city centre where they took part in a picture treasure hunt. The activity was planned in the previous week by some of the students of the Italian school who chose some of the most significant monuments for the multi-ethnic history of the town and wrote simple descriptions. The monuments were then georeferenced on a google map and the map shared with all the teams. Each of the teams, made up of students, from different countries had to stroll around the town looking for the monuments and once there had to take a selfie and upload the pictures on the group google drive folder. While playing the treasure hunt videos of the activity were taken.



Tuesday 22nd Feb.



The second day of the activity was dedicated to Art and national artists, so in the early morning each team introduced their favourite artist and painting. Then the students were divided in groups and students from different countries worked together in a collage workshop held by Art teachers Graziana Di Filippantonio e Corrado La Fauci. Some students worked on marbled paper with the tools that the Turkish teachers brought from Turkey. After lunch, served in a local trattoria, students and teachers walked to Museo Fattori where they attended a workshop on painting and languages held by some researchers of the University of Pisa.



Museo Fattori houses art from Livorno and Tuscany dating between the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. It unfolds chronologically, starting from the second floor, with the large canvases by Giovanni Fattori and other Macchiaioli painters (Silvestro Lega, Telemaco Signorini, Vincenzo Cabianca, and Giovanni Boldini).

On the second floors rooms are devoted to artists such as the Tommasi (Angelo, Adolfo and Ludovico) and the two famous portrait artists Vittorio Corcos and Michele Gordigiani.the works of Benvenuto Benvenuti and Plinio Nomellini.

Twentieth century art is instead exemplified by artists like Ulvi Liegi, Oscar Ghiglia, Giovanni Bartolena e Mario Puccini



Wednesday 23rd Feb.

On Wednesday 23rd about 60 students and teachers from the six different countries took a train from Livorno train station to Florence. Florence is globally renowned as 'the cradle of Renaissance', wherever you walk you can't stop admiring beautiful buildings and sculptures that date back to the XIV and XVI century. The day started with a guided walking tour through Piazza Santa Maria Novella, Piazza del Duomo with the beautiful Cathedral decorated with coloured marbles and the baptistery and its gate of paradise that end in Piazza Santa Croce. After lunch, in a delicious Italian pizzeria, the students had the chance to visit one of the most popular museums in the world 'the Uffizi Gallery'. The Gallery occupies the first and second floors of the large building constructed between 1560 and 1580 and designed by Giorgio Vasari. It is famous worldwide for its outstanding collections of ancient sculptures and paintings (from the Middle Ages to the Modern period). The collections of paintings from the 14th-century and Renaissance period include some absolute masterpieces: Giotto, Simone Martini,, Beato Angelico, Filippo Lippi, Botticelli, Mantegna, Correggio, Leonardo, Raffaello, Michelangelo and Caravaggio,





The day in Florence ended with a beautiful stroll on the Ponte vecchio, the old bridge, and to Mercato del Porcellino (the wild boar Market) where people were queueing in front of the little bronze statue because of an ancient legend that says it brings good luck when visitors rub his snout and put a coin in his mouth. If the water washes the coin from the pig's mouth and it falls into the grate below, you will have good luck and you will be sure to return to Florence. The day was certainly tiring but rich in beauty and art.



Thursday 24th Feb.

Day four was the day students and teachers took a train again, this time they went to Pisa. Pisa is really close to Livorno, it takes about 15 minutes by train.

First stop in town was in front a contemporary work of art, a graffiti by the American artist; Keith Haring.

The work, a tribute to life and peace in the world, originated from the encounter between the artist and an Italian student in New York who invited him to visit his hometown, Pisa. Keith was deeply touched by the zest of the city, but above all by the pastel colours of the Sant'Antonio District, to the point that he made an incredible mural that became the symbol of Pisa's regeneration in the 90s.

When asked, 'What is the title of the painting?' Haring replied: 'Difficult question, I have never used titles... Nor does this painting have one, but if it had to have one, it would be something like ... Tuttomondo!'

Tuttomondo covers an area of 180 square metres and consists of 30 colourful figures joined together: every character, in a special symbolic pose, dances to the rhythm of an African dance and represents a message of peace



Then the tour continued along the main streets Corso Italia and Borgo Stretto to reach the ancient roman forum that is nowadays the centre of the University life in Pisa, Piazza dei Cavalieri. The square is surrounded by beautiful buildings, the most notable is of course the Palazzo dei Cavalieri that nowadays houses the main building of the Scuola Normale di Pisa. It was decorated by Giorgio Vasari (the same artist that frescoed the interior of the inner dome of the Cathedral of Florence) between 1562–1564.



Friday 25th Feb.

Friday, the last working day of the meeting, was dedicated to greetings, handouts of certificates of participation and farewell. The Italian team presented a photo slideshow of pictures taken during the mobilities and one of the Polish students presented a video she took during the week and students and teachers filled the evaluation questionnaire. Mazzini school orchestra also played a short concert for foreign partners.





Testimonials



Italy... the country that I wanted to go to most. When I heard that I was selected for that, I became the happiest person in the world. We couldn't stay that much but I am so glad about the things that I experienced. Culture of Pisa, Florence and Livorno, their people and food, everything was like a dream. Pasta sauces were different from our cuisine but they were nice. The only problem was most of the people couldn't speak English here but even though they tried to help us somehow and that shows their helpfulness. Except that we had so much fun with our new friends and I am pretty sure that our friendships are gonna be much stronger than that after years. It was so amazing to be in a place where we can see different cultures and places. We learned new words from their languages, some dances and music. I really would love to repeat that again one day and I really recommend everyone who has a chance to participate in such activities. I feel so thankful to my teachers who gave me the chance to experience all of these.

Nilsu Eflal Ergül, Student, Turkey 

My Erasmus journey started when I was a university student and my memories as an exchange student are still as vivid to me as they were back then. I have been a teacher for 15 years and now I have the pleasure of seeing the same expression of thrill and satisfaction as I had once as a student on my students' faces. We had a disappointing start to the week when one of my students tested positive and couldn't make it to Italy but once we were in Italy, all the nice people and rich culture welcoming us enabled us to get rid of that bad mood at once and lifted our spirits. We all got fascinated by the beauties that the country had to offer. The main theme of the meeting was art which I think totally matches the spirit of the country.



Testimonials



My students were so happy to join the art workshops organized by our hospitable hosts. While practising art and sharing nice moments with their peers, they had the chance to get to know one another better. What's more, the trip to Florence was the highlight of the whole week since we visited the Uffizi where we enjoyed quite a few fantastic paintings and statues by famous artists. My students couldn't help talking about the things they had seen there and expressing their admiration all day long which made me ecstatic as their teacher. I believe this project has become an important milestone in their lives by broadening their horizons. All in all, I would like to thank all the Italian team who turned this meeting into a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all of us!

Deniz Tacar, Teacher, Turkey 

The Erasmus experience was great, we made new friends but at the same time we improved our English skills. On day 1 we welcomed foreign students and went on a treasure hunt. On the 2nd day we made presentations regarding the monuments of our cities and we went to the Fattori museum. On the 3rd day we went by train to Florence and visited the offices. On the 4th day we went to Pisa and visited the city. On the last day there was the final ceremony of the course at school and we said goodbye to the foreign students.

Matilde e Melissa Possenti, Students, Italy 


Being an English teacher I'm quite accustomed to handle European or International projects, in fact this is my third European Project after a Comenius and an Erasmus project that finished in 2018, but I've to say this was quite a special one.



Testimonials



In fact after two years of pandemic because of the many restrictions we had in Italy, this was the first chance to meet my partner teachers face to face but also the occasion to make my students understand the importance of the project. In the past two years we actually had weekly meetings with the Erasmus club, we held the meetings online so it was sometimes difficult to give a proper idea of the excitement and the feelings that a transnational meeting can give you. Being the coordinator of the project I had to cope with a lot of stress too, because there are a lot of things you have to take into account in order to make everything go well but as soon as the meeting started I realized that things were going to be fine. Italian students wanted to participate in all the activities including the dinners and they started to familiarize themselves with foreign students since the very first day and they still text each other. Families were very happy to see their children involved in the project, for the first time I had not only a colleague or two involved but a group of teachers willing to help and be part of the project and finally my foreign partners were really cooperative and comprehensive. From final reports we realized that almost all the activities we organized were appreciated by our hosts but of course everybody enjoyed the day out in Florence and the visit at the Uffizi Gallery.

Ilaria Tramonti, Teacher, Italy 

This trip was very unexpected and sudden, because due to covid it was not planned.

However, we loved the news and we were anxious. It was a unique experience that we were going to have.

We loved the experience as we met people from many different countries, cultures and habits.



Testimonials



We had to adapt to the gastronomy, and the city itself, as we are not used to these different lives.

The group itself was united and got along well, the interaction and communication between the other countries was good, and if we were not able to communicate in English, we always found an alternative, we were never embarrassed by the situation.

The cities of Livorno, Pisa and Florence were beautiful, different from what we are used to, which made the experience much more magnificent.

Undoubtedly, we are sure that one day later we will return to visit the rest of the country.

We loved the experience and will always remember it!

Mariana Rocha, Luísa Martins, Andreia Silva, Inês Santos, Abel Valdez, Students, Portugal 🇵🇹

This was, as usual, a wonderful experience! We had the chance of getting to know a new country and finally meet our Italian partner in person 😊 Livorno turned out to be a pleasant surprise, a very nice city with a beautiful seaside walk. Firenze was as marvelous as expected and Pisa revealed much more than a leaning Tower!

Eating pizza in Italy certainly has a different flavour! This will be a week to remember, thanks to the good atmosphere among students and teachers of all nationalities!

Cristiana Montes, Teacher, Portugal 🇵🇹



Testimonials



My experience in the "Erasmus TV International" meeting in Italy was really pleasant and great. I learned that everyone is so special and talented and I had a lot to learn from them. I loved every single activity and all the places that we have seen together. I indeed learned more about every aspect from the other countries and I felt joy when we were asked to do activities together. I really hope that this experience made all of us understand each other and to be proud that we had the chance to meet so many types of people. I will cherish this moments.

Andreea Măgdălin, Student, Romania 🇷🇴

In february 2022, I had the great pleasure of participating in "Erasmus TV International" project meeting held in Italy. For me, the meeting was a wonderful experince in every way. First of all, I had the opportunity to meet such wonderful people (students and teachers from diferent countries) and the chance to know about Italian culture and to see some of the most beautiful places in Italy (Florence, Pisa). I also had the great pleasure to see how our students were interested in the activities, how they worked and socialized together with the other students and the creative way in which they were engaged to discover the Italian culture and the cultural places of Livorno.

Finally, I would like to give thanks to the hosting team for the effort made in organizing the meeting and for this great experience.

Alina Cucu, Teacher, Romania 🇷🇴



Testimonials



I had to wait for a long time before experiencing my first exchange with Erasmus and this one was very important and special for me. I had the wonderful opportunity to see Italian life and all of its beauties. All of my partners were very friendly and they made me fall in love with Italy. There, we did a lot of activities to get to know a bit more the culture of our partners from different countries. We could visit a lot of important places of Italy like Firenze, Pisa or our dear hosting city, Livorno. We lived a lot of adventures together, this experience will be in my heart for the rest of my life!

Carla Ramos, Student, Spain 🇪🇸

The mobility in Italy was passionate. The sunsets by the sea showed us an enchanting Livorno, the visit to Pisa made us travel back to the time of Galileo Gallilei, with the conviction that the Earth was moving, Eppur si muove. Florence conquered us because of its cultural richness which was breathed in its streets, and the most important part of our mobility: our partners' great humanity! The warmth with which they accompanied us made the trip very enriching. And of course, we can't forget to mention the delicious Italian gastronomy... We only have words of gratitude.

Xesca Vela, Science and drama teacher, Spain 🇪🇸



Testimonials



I Erasmus TV International gave me the opportunity to take part in an amazing experience, which was the visit to Italy.

All the group benefited from the hospitality of the hosts, and I was especially impressed by the patience of Ilaria, who -being extremely busy- showed absolutely no irritation at all photocopying a pile of our boarding cards. The atmosphere of the meeting was friendly, which made everybody eager to work.

Kamila Kozub, teacher, Poland ■

Erasmus TV International gave me an unique experience of working in international team, different approach to various cultures and traditions and opportunity to build invaluable skills. It also made me more comfortable while speaking in English. Now, I'm more the type to grab life by the cojones, rather than resigning myself to my comfort zone. I'm so grateful that I could be a part of the project and combine studying with fun. We were able to admire absolutely outstanding architecture of Italian cities which was invaluable. I will never forget about that.

Kamila Piotrowska, student, Poland ■

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