ERASMUS +
GROUP MOBILITY FOR PUPILS
IZMIR, TURKEY
2023

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Between the 26th-31st March, 7 of my mates and I took part in a group mobility for pupils in Izmir, Turkey. We were accompanied by our teachers, Mrs Cantimir Mihaela and Mrs Luncașu Simona.

We arrived at Izmir airport on March 24th, tired, but very excited. Deep down we already knew that this new Erasmus experience would remain in our hearts for ever.



ARRIVAL AT IZMIR ADNAN MENDEREZ AIRPORT



The first photo we took in Izmir

EXPLORING IZMIR, THE ANCIENT CITY OF SMYRNA

We dedicated our first 2 days to exploring Izmir, the third most populated city in Turkey. The amazing view of the Aegean Sea was the first thing we saw every morning, the place where we were hosted was close to the seafront.

We visited the Konak area with some important sights: The Clock Tower, Konak Square or the Konak Pier. The Clock Tower impressed me the most because it`s a very old building and it has been working for 100 years. The tower is also the main symbol of Izmir.



The Kültürpark was another wonderful place I liked a lot. The natural park houses 7709 species of trees and stretches on 420,000 square metres.

I was fascinated by its beauty and I could feel how inspirational and relaxing nature could be. We also visited the surroundings and noticed the modern, tall buildings that had different colours and patterns.

There were two incredible days that enriched my knowledge of Turkey.



TALATPAŞA SCHOOL



We finally got to know our host school- TALATPASA ORTAOKULU. We were welcomed by the headmaster, the teaching staff and the students, as well. The students prepared a short artistic performance: traditional shadow puppet theatre, folk songs and a folk dance called ”Zeybek”.

We quickly made new friends not only in the host school but also from Italy, Macedonia, Romania and France who were taking part in another Erasmus+ project. We had the chance to introduce ourselves presenting a PowerPoint material about our country, town and school.

I felt what it was like to speak in front of a crowd -scary at the beginning, but somehow rewarding noticing that the audience was realy interested in our presentation. I managed to be more open and communicative with the people around me.



Today we've tried a traditional Turkish art technique called Ebru. It consists in creating colourful patterns by sprinkling colour pigments onto a pan of oily water and then transferring it to paper. This activity gave me trouble because I'm not that good when it comes to art, but I wanted to try it anyway. It was exciting, a really nice experience and I'm grateful for it.

Then we observed a Science lesson for the 7th graders - the lesson was about the food chain. During the lesson I noticed how the students interact with their teacher. The teaching was conducted in an attractive way, the atmosphere was calm and pleasant.

At the beginning, the new notions were discussed, the teacher asked questions and the students answered by raising their hands. Similar to our educational system. The class lasted for 40 minutes comparing to 50 minutes in Romania. However, the content of the lesson would have been more appropriate for younger students, we learned about food chain in primary school. I don't know if they chose the topic on purpose in order to make it easier for us.

In my opinion, I don't think that the level of Romanian educational system is inferior to the Turkish one and although I appreciate this country, I am proud that I'm a Romanian student and I can study according to the Romanian curriculum.



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



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Today we have made a documentation visit to the ancient city of Ephesus. On the way the guide told us about the history of the city which was built by the Greek colonists in the 10th century BC. The ruins of Ephesus and the Temple of Artemis showed us how important the settlement was in ancient ages. The visit to Ephesus impressed me the most. The huge and imposing buildings prove how skilful people of that time used to be. They could to build something of such beauty that lasted for centuries.

Another stop was at the house where Virgin Mary spent her last days. I am grateful that I could see a place where history vibrates at every step. It was a real lesson about antiquity, the Roman period and about Christianity.

A history lesson different from the ones I am used to.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

We created a poster about the places we saw during our stay in Izmir and we also observed 2 classes of Maths.

I noticed that there was a picture of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the former president of Turkey, in each classroom and a statue of him in the school yard. There was a smart board, a white one that could be moved to leave room for a black one, in each classroom. The desks were for one or two students and they were in three rows.

We solved algebra exercises and although they weren't too difficult, we were able to improved our math skills.







Our poster

Today our Erasmus+ experience has come to an end, we have spent our last day in Talatpașa School and I have realized that this week will always remain in my heart.

During our stay in Izmir, we learned a lot about the Turkish educational system and about their culture. We ate traditional food and drank plenty of tea. I, personally, became more more confident in my social abilities because I was able to speak in front of a crowd and make lots of friends among the Turkish students. I discovered new feelings such as team spirit and admiration but the real gain of my Erasmus + experience is that I was able to manage my emotions and to collaborated effectively with others, showing empathy, but also maturity.

It was a unique experience that helped all of us to grow and become better. I am grateful to Talatpașa School, our host school, but also to School #11 that organized the Erasmus+ mobility and allowed us to live these unforgettable moments.



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