ERASMUS+
GROUP MOBILITY FOR PUPILS
Zonguldak (Turkey)
5th–9th May 2025

2024-1-RO01-KA121-SCH-000224076

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Mollabey School

On May 3, 2025, I set off on a journey that I knew I would never forget. 5 of my classmates and 2 of our teachers, Ms. Cristina Aioniţoaei and Ms. Eugenia Filip, were going to spend 5 days with the Turkish students and teachers at Mollabey School in Alaplı, a small town near Zonguldak. The school has 8 classes, 15 teachers, and 105 students who welcomed us warmly.



Mr. Ömer Yavuz, the school principal, and Ms. Guven Emine, the deputy principal, welcomed us and offered us tea and sweets. Our first day at Mollabey School began with an English lesson on household chores. It was followed by Physics and Art classes.



During the breaks, we chatted with the Turkish students or played football, tennis, or volleyball. Our program included a short visit to the city of Ereğli, where we took a boat ride on the Black Sea. There we could understand why everyone praises Turkey for its natural beauty.

Adventure in nature and history









The next day started off strong, because we went to the Gökgöl cave, where we had a lively connection with 40 Turkish students. As for the cave, I have nothing to complain about, it far exceeded my expectations. I was captivated by the fabulous stalactites and stalagmites and the small underground river, accompanied by some lights, a welcome addition. After this live geography lesson, we went to the Zonguldak Mining Museum, where we discovered how important iron mining is and was for this area of Turkey.



Turkish Traditions and Dances

The third day at Mollabey school was a day of celebration, as we had the honor of meeting the Director of the Zonguldak Department of Education. But that is not the only reason why this day was very special, the other reason was that Mollabey school organized a “Kermes” (Assembly). This is an event where the children’s parents cook and bring food to school for everyone. We were served with Turkish dishes, from salads, chickpea rice to cakes and tarts.

After the ”feast” we had a History lesson - the teacher told us about Zonguldak, then we attended a Math lesson (the subject was polygons) and a Sports lesson. We learned to dance "Zeybek" - a very popular dance in the area, and in return we taught the Turkish students to dance "hora".

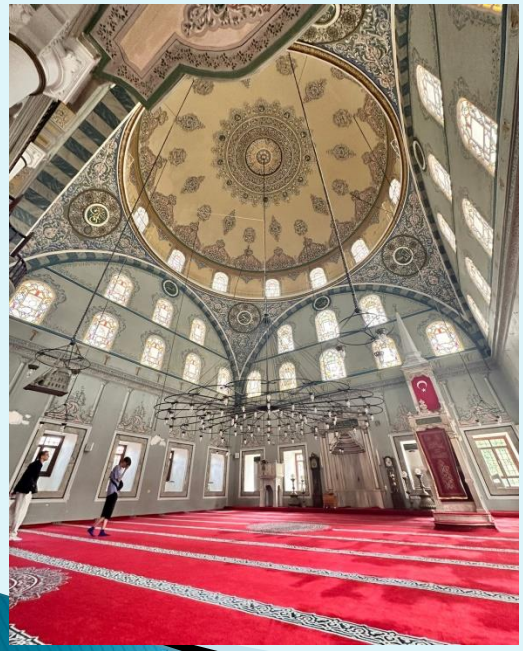






Discovering Safranbolu

On the fourth day, we went on a trip to Safranbolu - the city of saffron. This is a historical city located in the province of Karabük, in the Black Sea region. It is famous for its well-preserved Ottoman architecture and has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994. After getting a little familiar with the place, we started wandering the narrow streets with stalls on which all kinds of goods were displayed from saffron cosmetics, jewelry, fabrics, copper objects or ceramics. We visited Mehmed Pasha Mosque, which is located in the historic center of the city. We continued with the Tarihi Cinci Hamam, built as a charitable institution to serve the community and travelers, and the Cinci Han Caravanserai, which is part of a traditional Ottoman complex intended for merchants. The day ended with a bang on the Crystal Terrace, where we enjoyed the view of a splendid canyon.







Farewell emotions and a splendid open air museum







Our last day in Zonguldak was full of emotions - with a heavy heart we had to say goodbye to our friends from Mollabey School. We shared our impressions with Mr. Yavuz, the school principal, and Miss Guven. We talked about the similarities and differences between the Romanian and Turkish education systems, and then we were handed our certificates of participation.

We said goodbye and headed to Istanbul where we would spend one night before traveling to Romania. Istanbul completely conquered us, especially since we opted for a short cruise on the Bosphorus. We could admire the Çırağa Palace, the Dolmabahçe Palace, the Yeni Mosque and some particularly beautiful holiday homes.

İSTANBUL
BÜYÜKŞEHİR
BELEDİYESİ

The magic of Istanbul

We started our first day in Istanbul, but the last day of this beautiful experience, with a visit to the Blue Mosque. On the way to our destination, I had the chance to feel what a city with almost 20 million inhabitants means. At the Blue Mosque, I was impressed by the architectural beauty of the mosque. At the exit there wa the Egyptian Obelisk, one of the oldest monuments in Istanbul, over 3,500 years old, and next to it was the Serpent Column, which was a political and religious trophy, brought to Constantinople as a symbol of the Greek cultural heritage and the new imperial capital. Then, we went to the Basilica Cistern, which is a real enigma. Its purpose was to provide water for the Byzantine Imperial Palace and other important buildings in Constantinople.

Although we had to walk in the rain and stand in endless queues, it was completely worth









In conclusion, it was truly an extraordinary experience that I will never forget. I enjoyed every moment with all my heart and soul. I truly created some wonderful memories with some wonderful people and I really enjoyed it. I hope that every child can have an experience at least as unique as the one I had.

I want to thank the host school, Mollabey School in Turkey and the Erasmus+ programme for making this wonderful experience possible.

Roman Alin,

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