

ERASMUS WEBS

1ST Mobility

LUARCA 25.02-01.03

REPORT

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Attendants: 2 teachers and 9 students

In the first mobility 9 students took part. They all are in year 2 and are 13 or 14 years old. One of the teachers teaches physical education and the other teaches philosophy of life. In Luarca we also met the students and teachers of Berlin and Katowice.

The students stayed with Spanish students at their homes. Which was quite an experience for them because the way of living in Spain and The Netherlands is different. Not only the times of eating and sleeping were different but also the fact that the students met each other in town and stayed out till about 9 o'clock. Going to school by bus or walking to school was also new to the Dutch students because they are used to go to school by bike. Although the environment was completely different because of the seaside and the hills, our students are used to a small city and to a rural environment. Some of our students stayed in an apartment in the city center and that was unexpected for them, because in our city center rarely live families.

The program was diverse. There were presentations of the participant schools, the students attended lessons, there were workshops, there was a cultural Olympiad and there were quests so the students got to know Luarca and explored the city of Avalès. They recorded and edited videos in which they reviewed the activities. The teachers also attended lessons and got informed about the programs Quizlet and FlipGrid. These programs can be used during lessons and teachers can put tests online which students can do. As teacher you can see which students responded and extra information can be given to students.

During the lessons there was a lot of interaction between the teachers and the students via the different ways the pupils could practise the subject material. There was a quiz, an energizer, a party game and a crossword puzzle. The students also had to find information in a book or on the internet in order to be able to answer questions. In all lessons the pupils were invited to participate after they got explanation about the subject material.

The students and teachers loved the fact that during lessons a lot of games were played. What the students liked most was the party game Trivial Pursuit, used in the chemistry class, the fact that the places where Severo Ochoa (the school in Luarca is named after him and his wife) lived in were used to understand and to practice the coordinate system and the way how to talk about right and wrong behaviour was practiced in English class.

Interesting to see was the involvement of the students. Although the students did talk a lot during instruction and during the tasks, they all were involved and really willing to do a good job.

The Dutch students could bring into practise and improve their English. It was a bit hard for them they couldn't understand Spanish, because not only the Spanish students spoke Spanish, but also the German students. Although the Dutch students were used to 55 minutes lessons, as they have lessons of 50 minutes, and having a break after the third lesson, the second half of the school day was completely different. After a short break before the fourth lesson there were again three lessons and after in total six lessons school was finished. Having lunch was postponed till after 14:30, outside school. Which was quite hard for our students as they are used to bring lunch to school, eat it at 13:00 and again having at least two more lessons.

The teachers program included a session in which we compared our bilingual schools. As at our school, in Spain not native speakers can choose to do bilingual classes. The difference is that at our school only English is offered, in Spain also French is possible. In Spain in the bilingual classes English or French and Spanish is spoken. As at our school all lessons are only in English, except the languages. During Dutch lessons, Dutch is spoken. During French and German lessons, the students have to talk as much French and German as possible. Our school provides bilingualism only during the first three years. At the end of the third year the students do a B2 exam. If they pass the exam and if they did all the required tasks the students get an acknowledged certificate. This differs from the Spanish system in which the students, if they do bilingual classes, receive no qualification. Although they have the advantage of having more knowledge of English or French. There also is a difference between teachers. In Spain you can teach bilingual classes in French or English having level B2 or higher and the teacher can make use of foreign language assistants who are native speakers. In The Netherlands you are allowed to teach bilingual classes if your level is C1, although you are supposed to do the C2 exam as well.

The visit to Luarca gave us the opportunity to gain more understanding of bilingualism, to gain new ideas which can be used in lessons, to learn more about programs which also can be used outside the lessons. Besides this we were enriched because of the intercultural exchange. We want to thank the Spanish teachers, who made a great effort, to make this possible for us and our students.