

## ERASMUS program

-report-

Milan, Italy (accompanying teacher: Barna Kovács)

Our school was represented by 8 welder students, who spent a three-week-long training in Milan. The students were chosen by the form teachers and the language teachers together. Before the project the boys attended a full-day training. We kept in touch with the Italian company via email, they arranged our discounts for local transport, as well. Two of the students had a good knowledge of English, which they made use of, the others only spoke a little.

The journey:

We travelled by a minibus. It took 11 hours to get there because we travelled during the day, on the way back we managed to save some time by setting off at night. Both of them had their advantages and disadvantages. Most of the children had never been abroad so they enjoyed the view. We had a trustworthy and experienced driver on both journeys.

Accommodation and the meals:

Our accommodation was near an underground station, which made every-day life easier. The staff was efficient and friendly towards us. The students were put up in a room with 10 beds which sometimes seemed a bit too crowded, however, the common room made it possible to socialize and to relax. The only problem was that the rooms were cleaned only once in the three weeks we spent there. The boys obeyed the house rules most of the time. We had typical Italian breakfast, lunch and dinner, which seemed strange for the Hungarian students, however, they came prepared and brought along some more filling food. There were shops near our accommodation and near the work places as well, so they had the opportunity to do some shopping when they felt like it. At the weekend they cooked together, as one of the students was actually a cook.

Work:

The day after our arrival the representatives of EVOLVO welcomed us and we were given the necessary information. The students were put in two different groups (2 and 6 in one group) and we were escorted to the workplaces. Both groups had a student who spoke the language well, so there was no problem understanding instructions. The factory workers were satisfied with our students, they looked after them and helped them any way they could. The students put down what they learnt each day in their work diary and they were also happy to share new information with their friends when they got back to the accommodation. One group started work at 9.30 and finished at 18.00, the other group had to travel further, they started at 10.00 and finished at 17.00. This meant that everyone was back by 19.00 and they often stayed up till midnight.

Travelling:

The students got a one-month season ticket and they got used to the public transport very quickly. They didn't really use this opportunity at the weekend.

Free time:

Since the Italian lifestyle is different from ours, the students had time to do some shopping or walk around the town after they had finished work. They seemed to prefer spending time in local clubs rather than going sightseeing after all they spent the whole day in the factories.

Cultural programmes:

Our hosts organized cultural programmes for our free weekends (Castello Sforzesco, Museo Nazionale, della Scienza e della Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci) We were happy to see that the students found something interesting in both places and came home with nice memories.

Summary:

Our students got accustomed to the new things fairly quickly (real work, foreign language, working in a team etc.) It was useful for their professional development as well because they got to know a lot of new methods, techniques and tools. They were amazed by the big city, the Italian culture and lifestyle. Any of them would be happy to work abroad without having to worry about speaking a foreign language. The students feedback was outstanding, the Italian colleagues were satisfied with their performance and attitude. We gave a quick presentation to the rest of the students in our school with pictures, which made similar project appealing for them too.

Germany (accompanying teachers: Bernadett Hambuch, Emese Katatics, Sandor Hegyi and Jozsef Palanki)

Erasmus + gave the opportunity for our hospitality students to spend three weeks in Vienna. The form teachers and the subject teachers decided together who could attend the training. Before travelling we took care of administration, kept in touch with the organizers and the knowledge of the children was assessed via Skype. Most of the students spoke either English or German.

The day after our arrival most of our students started working. They could work in different fields such as a canteen, a pizzeria or a restaurant. For professional development this period was useful for the students, however, they did not have enough opportunity to speak the language as most of the staff and the owners spoke Hungarian.

They worked in different shifts as a waiter and a cook. The management was satisfied with the children's work and they hope some of them will go back in the summer.

During the three weeks the students walked around the town and learnt to commute on their own.

The two cultural programmes (Schloss Schönbrunn, Schnapsmuseum) were very popular. They managed to save some money so they were able to do some shopping in the Christmas market. The accompanying teachers organized a visit to the zoo, which wasn't simply a way to spend their free time, it was to strengthen the bond between them.

In the evenings, we spent hours talking and sharing experiences with each other. Unfortunately, the accommodation wasn't thought through as nine girls were put up in a small room.

The kitchen equipment wasn't enough for eleven children and the teachers and the cleanness of the bathroom wasn't satisfactory either.

The teachers visited the workplaces every day and enquired about the children's progress and attitude. Our students behaved well both at work and in the apartment.

At the end of the 3 weeks, the teachers were happy to see that the students got more confident, motivated and reached compromise more easily. They still keep in touch with the local students they met.