



# UNITY IN DIVERSITY

FIRST NEWSLETTER OF THE PROJECT UNITY IN DIVERSITY. THE ERASMUS+ PROJECT BELONGING TO GEMINI COLLEGE IN RIDDERKERK, MAALOEVHOEJ SKOLE IN DENMARK, OZEL OSMANIYE BILIM ORTAOKULU IN TURKEY AND CENTRE EDUCATIU EL CASAL S.L. IN SPAIN



FIRST EXCHANGE MEETING IN THE NETHERLANDS 10 TILL 16 MARCH 2019



Thanks to all the students for their contribution to this newsletter and for their enthusiasm and good humor during the week.

Also thanks to all the parents and teachers and coordinators for all their collaboration.

You will hear from us again in May/June



## Arrival day: Sunday 10th of March

The Danes arrived first, then the Turks and, at last, the Spanish.

We met our matches and then went home to the host-family and met the members. Then we did several activities with our matches – for example, watching a movie, dining out or jumping in a trampoline-center - and we had fun getting to know each other.

## Monday the 11th of March

The day started off at nine with a welcome speech by the Department Manager at the Gemini College.

This was followed by the first workshop “what is diversity” started. In this workshop we worked together in International groups defining what Diversity is. We all made mindmaps, then we drew each others outline on a big sheet of paper and then we filled in information from the mindmap,



After a short break, it was time for the presentations. First came the school presentation. Every school presented their school and region in a slideshow. Then came the presentations of the cultural identities at school. After this well spent morning it was time for lunch. In the afternoon there was a workshop “write a biography of a partner. This ended at 3 o’clock. Then we could go home to freshen up before the evening activities

Now it was time for some amusement and a delicious meal at the bowling alley.



### **Tuesday the 12th of March**

We went to Amsterdam with the bus. We got to know each other better on the bus. We went to the Anne Frank house, after that we had lunch in mixed groups. We had some free time before the boat trip. The boat trip was a little bit boring but we got to see a lot of Amsterdam from the waterside.... after that we had some fun shopping time.

We learned some new English words, history about Anne Frank, in the bus we learned things from other cultures by asking questions so the traffic jam was a hit.

When we had lunch everyone said their lunch time was different. The Turkish, Spanish and Danish children were saying that the buildings and architecture are so different in their country.

The free time for shopping was fun... and!!!! Maybe the Anne Frank house wasn't fun but very interesting.

Walking a lot was annoying in the rain. And the boat trip wasn't fun so we would never do it again...

I think we learned a lot but it's difficult to explain what exactly... we think we learned a lot by speaking English and when we made a mistake we helped each other and improved and learned to speak English much better. And of course sharing a house with people from other European countries you actually don't know teaches us a lot about culture. We are sad because we are going to miss each other... but also

really happy because it was so much fun.

### **Wednesday the 13th of March**

Wednesday we cooked Dutch pancakes and apple cakes, we interviewed each other in new mixed groups we cycled in the rain to a local sports hall. There we did a workout body pump and we climbed and rappelled – it was very challenging and fun.

Through the activities we learned what the Dutch like to eat like cheese, sugar and biscuits. We learned a lot about each other through the interviews. The climbing and the cooking and eating was really fun.

What would we change and what would we never do again: don't ride in the rain

How do you feel at the end of this project: sdddddddddd!!!!!!!

We learned that we have different cultures but also we have many similarities. We learned a few words from the different languages. We learned that the school system is different in the different countries but the teenagers still have a lot in common. In The Netherlands they have different shops, and different restaurants than in the other countries.

### **Thursday the 14th of March**

On the 14 of March we walked to the fast ferry and took the fast ferry to Rotterdam, we were out shopping and sightseeing in Rotterdam and we had a cultural evening with the parents. Through the activity we learned about our different personalities, we also learned about each others identity. We learned that we have very different cultures and it is very wet here in the Netherlands. But there was some fun things, like: It was fun shopping, taking the fast ferry and taking the bus. We all agreed on that the shopping was very good, and that the big board game of chess in the markethall was fun. We would change the weather to

something a bit warmer and we wouldn't spend so long on shopping and walking. Through this project we learned that we are very different and we got a lot of new friends. We are all very sad because we need to leave our new friends.

### **Friday the 15th of March**

We did our reflections about the week and special days, what we've done and what we've learned. After school we will enjoy the afternoon and the evening with our matches, new friends and the host-families. In this week we've enjoyed shopping, seeing Rotterdam and Amsterdam and the food. We don't like writing so we would like to enjoy each other instead of a screen or a paper. We've learned that cultures are just as different as people – and thinking of EU there's a good chance and considering the sentences "In Unity there is Strength" and "Unity in Diversity" is the truth. We've learned that we are different because of our language, our culture and our roots, but we still have a lot in common! We think that we will be able to use this experience in the future, the thing about being open minded to people who aren't like us and don't think the same or act like us is quite good practice to a lot of things the life in the future. Now at the 'end' – not the end-END, but the end of this week of our part of the project - of the Erasmus project, Unity in Diversity, we feel happy because of the new friendships we've made, sad because we have to say goodbye – and maybe also a little tired. But we will for sure be in touch over the medias.

### **Departure : Saturday the 16th of March**

All delegations left from Rotterdam Central station to go to Amsterdam where they took a flight back home. There was a lot of crying and promises to see each other again soon