

STUDENTS OF IES MEDITERRÀNIA OF BENIDORM PARTICIPATING IN THE
LINGUISTIC PROJECT COMENIUS
“TURISM AND YOUTH: A EUROPEAN APPROACH”

Monday 3rd February



We left from Manises airport towards Milan, where we visited the historical centre: the Duomo and the Gallery Vittorio Emmanuele. We could visit the centre of Milan because we still had 5 hours to take the following airplane that would take us to Palermo.





At 22:00 we arrived at Palermo airport, where the Italian teachers were waiting for us in a bus to take us to Trapani and to introduce us to the families. The journey to Trapani lasted one hour. We were very tired when we arrived, and we immediately went to sleep.



Tuesday 4th February

We arrived at the "Istituto Magistrale Statale Rosina Salvo" accompanied by our Italian mate each one. There we participated in a formal act of presentation where the



and talked to us about the importance of participating in a Socrates project, an experience that would expand our European horizons and would help us in our academic and human training, at the same time that it would entail a new linguistic experience by becoming integrated into an Italian family for two weeks, having to make a natural effort to speak their language and take part in the "modus vivendi" of the Sicilian people. The press also went to this presentation.



Wednesday 5th February

We went on a guided visit to the temples of Segesta and Selinunte. Segesta is an ancient city of Sicily, 30 minutes from Trapani. It is previous to the Greek colonization and was populated by the elimeos, one of the three indigenous peoples of Sicily. The most important ruins are the Doric temple, dedicated to the God Ceres.





Selinunte is another ancient Greek city, founded by inhabitants of Megara Hiblea in the year 628 B.C. It was destroyed by the Cartaginense in the year 409. It has ruins of several Greek temples, among them we can emphasize the temple G dedicated to the God Apollo.



Thursday 6th February

We visited the local council of Trapani, where we were received by its mayor. We were shown the outbuildings of the council, a modernist building of the turn of the century that has been rehabilitated recently.



The mayor and his collaborators made a welcome speech in the plenary assembly hall and pointed out the importance of cultural exchanges among young people of the European Union. The Italian and Spanish students could ask questions about the history of the city, its demography, its sources of wealth... in a talk that took place later. We were also invited to an appetizer with typical Sicilian sweets. Later, we went on foot through the historical centre and through the port, which has a high volume of commercial and fishing activity.



We walked by the old pedestrian streets of Trapani and we visited the churches, the seat of the naval government, the monuments, the old high schools that are now historical buildings and the market of fruits, vegetables and fish that is located in the old fish market.

Friday 7th February

We went on a trip to the city of Palermo, the capital of the island. Palermo is a big city with an intense economic, commercial and social activity. The accompanying teachers explained that it has a port, an airport, and a university, and its main sources of wealth are: shipyards, factories of preserved foods, construction industry, dressmaking and tourism. They also commented that it is the typical chaotic city of the south of Italy, talking about the traffic.

We visited its cathedral, of the Norman time with Arab and Byzantine reminiscences, and its beautiful palace chapel of XIIth century, with mosaics in its cupola.



We went for a walk by the streets, where we could see the Baroque palaces, the Baroque churches of Gesù and Santa Caterina, and the Maximus theatre, where peculiarly the play "the barber of Seville" was being performed. We also visited the National Archaeological Museum and the National Gallery of Sicily

After eating we went to Monreale, located on a hill a few kilometres from Palermo, where we visited the impressive cathedral, of Norman style, considered a masterpiece of the Romanic sculpture in Sicily.Sicilia.



Saturday 8th February

In Italy there are classes on Saturday morning; therefore, we went to the Secondary school and we attended several classes in small groups: Italian, Spanish, English, German, History... In these classes, the teachers had prepared special activities for us and they were very interesting and motivating.



In the last two hours, the Spanish students devoted ourselves to do the homework that we had brought from Spain, so that we didn't lose the academic rhythm. We did them in a classroom with the Spanish teachers.



Sunday 9th February



Each one of us spent the Sunday with the family. Some of us visited other towns, others visited relatives... and of course we also rested.

On the following day, when we commented what each one had done, where we had been... we all agreed that we understood Italian much better and we were able to express ourselves and communicate.

Monday 10th February

We went to school, and we participated in all the didactic activities that had been prepared for us: attendance to classes, projection of videos, talks... where all of us explained the differences and similarities between the Spanish and Italian educational systems.

It was an authentic exercise of immersion into the Italian language for us, and the Italian students also had the opportunity to express themselves in Spanish.

Tuesday 11th February

We went on a trip to Marsala, a flourishing city near Trapani, famous for its wines. We visited a wine-cellar, where we were explained the entire process of production, bottling, exportation...



of the different types of wine that they produce.



The way back to Trapani was by the "Via del sale", that is to say, by a road that borders the sea where there are the salt mines of Trapani, an important source of work and income for the township. We stopped in the salt mines and were showed "in situ" the process to obtain salt.

Wednesday 12th February

We attended the classes of the school again during the first half of the morning, and then we met



the Spanish teachers in a classroom to finish the homework that we had taken from our school in Benidorm.

Thursday 13th February

We went on a guided visit to the township of Erice, which is one of the main tourist enclaves of the island of Sicily, with numerous medieval monuments.



The city, walled, is at the top of a mountain from where you can look at the sea and you can also enjoy a spectacular panoramic view of Trapani.

The mayor of Erice received us in the local council, where he gave us an informative talk about the



city: the origin of the name "Erix" from the Phoenician goddess of fecundity, the ancient disputes between Greeks and Carthaginians on the dominion of this city, and also some peculiar data such as the Spanish

origin of some surnames of its inhabitants like Sánchez, López... having been Sicily one of the ancient kingdoms of Spain.

Friday 14th February

We went to the school for the first hours of class and the girls celebrated Saint Valentine's Day buying sweets in the canteen, eating them while doing our homework, and we played jokes on lovers' day.



Later we went to the historical centre of



singing and dancing "tarantellas", the typical Sicilian folksongs.

Saturday 15th February



We bought, especially, pottery and sweets for our parents, and Italian music and t-shirts for our friends. Then we went to the cinema and we enjoyed watching a typical American film dubbed in Italian.

Sunday 16th February

Departure towards Benidorm. In the morning we packed the suitcases and in the afternoon, at three o'clock, we left for the airport, each of us with their family in private car.



Trapani, where we participated in a game called "treasure hunt" which consisted in finding certain places and monuments by means of brief clues written in some cards in Italian. It was a very useful game to practice conversation in Italian since we had to ask many questions to the people in the street, which helped us to find those places.

In the afternoon we celebrated the birthday of one of the Italian students at her house. We were more than thirty people and we had a lot of fun

We went to school in the morning, because as we have already explained and although difficult to believe in Spain, in Trapani there are classes on Saturdays.

In the afternoon we all arranged to meet in the old town, where the young people usually meet. There we made the most of our time buying presents and souvenirs for our family and friends.





We arrived at Palermo an hour later and we checked in. We took many photos of all together as farewell.

Goodbye was very sad but we were looking forward to seeing each other again soon, because the second part of the exchange was still left, that is to say, that the Sicilian students would come to Benidorm and live with our family for two weeks.

