

INTRODUCTION - LINGUISTIC PROJECT COMENIUS

"TOURISM AND YOUTH: A EUROPEAN APPROACH"

The Secondary schools IES nº 5 of Benidorm and *Istituto Magistrale Statale "Rosina Salvo"* of Trapani have developed during the academic years 2002-2003 and by extension 2003-2004 one of the projects that are included inside the **Socrates European Programs**, the Linguistic Project Comenius: "Tourism and youth: a European approach"

The implementation of this project has implied for our centres an innovating and creative experience and a different way of approaching the subjects of education based on the interdisciplinarity of the project topic.

In the project have participated teachers of almost all the subjects: English, French, Italian, German, Valencian, Spanish Language, Press: Writing and Design, Theatre, Maths, Computer Science, Natural Sciences, Physics and Chemistry, Geography and History, Music, Drawing and Physical Education.

Apart from the 15 students who participated in the exchange, students of different groups and levels have also participated, as much in the classroom activities carried out by the collaborating teachers as in the trips and school activities performed in the moment of the exchanges.

The production of materials for the Project has been carried out from the following approaches:

Historical, social and cultural:

The subject has had direct relation with our township, since the tourist activity constitutes the basis of their economy. In the activities performed and the materials produced we have related cultural and pleasure tourism with youth, with the purpose that the young people analyze their most immediate reality and understand the urban and social changes as consequence of the migratory movements and of the massive affluence of tourists.

At the same time, they have compared their pieces of work with those carried out by the Italian students on their township: Trapani.

Technological and scientific:

The project has tried to contribute to the improvement of the quality of education by carrying out innovating activities with the support of the new information and communication technologies. This way the students have been able to transmit the products to students of another country in an effective and quick way, and to receive simultaneously the works of the other students.

The subjects of the areas of Sciences and Maths have not been left out, with the purpose of making possible the participation in the Project of all the teachers of our Centre who were interested, so that it was really multidisciplinary. As a consequence, original activities have arisen that had as their objective to relate to these areas the meaning of "being member of a European country".

European dimension:

Bonds have been established with colleagues of another country, encouraging dialogue and communication. The stay of the students and of the accompanying teachers of Benidorm in Trapani

and vice versa, has reinforced the conscience of belonging to a common community, the European one, bringing nearer the diverse cultures and enriching them with their diversity.

The learning of the European languages that are studied in the two centres: English, French, Italian and German, has been encouraged thanks to the sending of e-mails, letters... and the reading of the materials produced.

Repercussion in the township and the institutions:

A series of activities and visits have been carried out with the aim of presenting the Project in diverse scopes of the city that have direct relation with education and culture. These institutions have been the local councils of Benidorm and Trapani. Also the local council of the township of Erice, next to Trapani, where some of its students come from. Visits to other centres of Secondary Education and Bachillerato. In Benidorm, IES Pere Maria Orts i Bosch, which has participated in Comenius Projects with the Formative Cycles of Catering Trade and Tourism. In the same way, in Trapani we visited the *Liceo Clássico*, an institute of education of the XVIth century.

Besides, the Project was shown in our exhibitor of the "Fira" or Educational Fair of Benidorm and Region, in April of 2003, through photographies of the exchange and informative panels.

We also met the Manager of the CEFIRE (Centre of Training, Innovation and Recourses for Teaching) and some advisers of Benidorm.

Another institution visited has been the Tourist Development Centre (TDC) "Domingo Devesa" of Benidorm, where courses of training and improvement are taught for professionals of the catering industry, hotels, travel agencies... and where it is frequent the collaboration and exchange with homologous of other European countries to carry out courses and seminars.

Thanks:

The Teachers Coordinators of the Project want to thank the work of many people without whom the accomplishment of this Project would not have been possible:

- * The collaboration of the directive team of our centre. The interest and participation of all the teachers collaborating and the attendance to all the meetings summoned, both of information and continuation.
- * The illusion and responsibility of the 15 students participant in the exchange as well as the good doing of their families.
- * The interest shown by other students of our school who did not travel, but shared classes and experiences with the Italian students when they visited us, and carried out all the school activities and exercises in relation to the Project.
- * The advice received by the Manager and advisers of the CEFIRE of Benidorm.
- * The help of the Council of Education in the local council of Benidorm: for our reception in the local council, for the organization of the press conference, for letting us use the municipal auditorium "El Casal del Fester", for the concert and for offering us a wine of honour because of the exchange.
- * To those responsible of the Italian version of the newspaper "Canfali", for spreading the news of the exchange.
- * And to the department of European Programs of the Council of Education and Culture, as well as to the National Agency Socrates for having solved all the bureaucratic doubts.