

Erasmus+ Italy 12.03.2024 - 18.03.2024

Here you can find a summary and a general conclusion of our journey from the Erasmus+ project in Italy - what places we visited, what we did, what we liked the most, and the experience we had, day by day.

To begin the revision we'll start with day 1. It was the morning of 12 March, Tuesday. Our group, which consisted of our Headmaster, 3 teachers - Antonia Kostova, Ivan Maehev, Viktoriya Stamboliiska, and 10 students, gathered in front of the Sofia Airport. We caught our flight and 2 hours later we were in Catania. We took an intercity bus that got us to Palermo. After 3 hours, we finally reached our destination. Our first impressions of the city were based on the walk that we took from the bus station to the hotel we had accommodation in - B&B Palermo City Centre. After we dropped off our luggage we found the nearest restaurant and did the first thing a tourist would do - eat pizza and pasta. To finish our first day we went to take a more deep look of the city we were going to spend the next few days in. We tried the famous Italian gelato and granite. Some guy even tried to steal a beautiful bouquet we bought from a little business in the old part of the town. We went to sleep, so we could gather fresh energy for the next day full of excitement.

Day 2 started off with a guided tour led by our host Loredana. She told us about the history of Palermo and showed us Prima Circonscrizione, the church Piazza Bellini, and the Cathedral of Palermo. She recommended some places, rich in history and art, to visit later. We finished our tour by taking a quick look at the place we would spend the next morning in - the school Istituto tecnico Statale Filippo Parlatore. During our quick tour of the school, some of the students showed us around the Natural History Museum, which is located in the school building. Then they showed us some chemistry experiments which were very interesting and attractive. Soon after, we left the Istituto tecnico Statale Filippo Parlatore and headed to the Palazzo dei Normanni. Then, because we were all very hungry, we found a local pizzeria where the food was great. In the evening we decided to take a walk along the seafront. It was very beautiful and peaceful. After the long day, we had dinner and went to bed early to get ready for the next day.

We started day 3 with our first workshop which was "3D painting" with Mr. Mantione. There we used and learned new ways and techniques of painting so that our works look more realistic. It was very interesting and useful. After that, we took a guided tour of the amazing Teatro Massimo Vittorio. We were all very impressed by the architecture of the theater. We found a place to eat before heading back to the hotel. In the evening there was a conference, where each of us presented our sketches and drawings we made during the day, and they were viewed and discussed.

Day 4 started very exciting with two workshops at the Liceo Artistico Statale "E.Catalano" art school. After Mrs. D'Ippolito and Mrs. Riccobono took us to the school, next was our first workshop "Drawing Comics Together" with Mr. Conte. We practiced human proportions and each of us drew the person sitting across from him as a comic book character. At the end of the workshop, we all exchanged our drawings, which remained as a memory of this amazing experience. After the small break we had, it was time for the second workshop with Mr. Quadrio. There we each learned how to make a sketchbook out of used paper and how to actually recycle more easily. It was something different and interesting for us. Unfortunately, the end of our last workshop came and it was time to leave the school which ended our amazing experience. We are thankful to Mrs. D'Ippolito and Mrs. Riccobono for giving us their time and being so helpful and kind. We said goodbye with a promise to meet again soon, but this time in our school 51 "Elisaveta Bagriana". After a tiring but interesting morning, everyone was hungry and we decided to eat at a small pasta restaurant that was recommended by Mrs. D'Ippolito. It was delicious. By the end of the day, we visited the Orto Botanico di Palermo and the Modern Art Gallery Sant' Anna. In the botanical garden, we were able to enjoy the atmosphere and the silence, which was very calming, and in the modern art gallery, there were many amazing works that impressed us a lot. We didn't realize when this day was over either, but it was now time for bed.

Most of day 5 was spent traveling by bus from Palermo to Catania. After arriving at the bus station in the late afternoon, we were able to explore a small part of the city as we made our way to the hotel. After dropping our bags at the hotel we had some time before dinner to explore the city. We

walked around downtown and got some ice cream. It was very beautiful and we had a great time. Dinner time came and then we all went to bed. During day 6 we decided to visit the town of Taormina, which is located 50 km from Catania. In the morning we caught the bus from the central bus station and after an hour we were already in the small beautiful town. As we strolled through the streets, we were able to fully immerse ourselves in the Italian atmosphere. It was an amazing experience. Before we left, we ate at a local restaurant and it was time to head back to the hotel. Since it was our last full day before returning to Bulgaria, we decided to take one last walk around Catania. In the evening we had our last conference where we all celebrated the great progress in our works. We had learned so much in such a short time.

Monday came and it was time for us to pack our bags and get ready to go back home. Our flight to Sofia was in the evening, so we had some free time that we decided to spare in Orto Botanico di Catania. As the first botanical garden we visited in Palermo, the atmosphere of this one was also calming and relaxing. We sat there for a little while and enjoyed our last hours on Italian ground. Time has gone by and we had to go to the airport. We got on the airplane, sad that all of this was over. By the time we landed, we were exhausted, but happy, full of the new experience and emotions we collected on this exceptional trip.