



# Ecotour 2.0

Comenius Project 2011–2013



Education and Culture

Lifelong learning programme

**COMENIUS**

## Countries taking part



- ★ Finland
- ★ Greece
- ★ Holland
- ★ Italy
- ★ Poland
- ★ Romania
- ★ Slovakia
- ★ Spain
- ★ Turkey

## Schools taking part

**IES TORRE ALMENARA**

**Gimnazjum Nr 16 z Oddziałami Intergracyjnymi im.  
Marii Konopnickiej w Katowicach**

**Kiuruveden ylakoulu**

**4th Junior High School of Mytilene**

**75. YIL ANADOLU LİSESİ**

**PALATUL COPIILOR BISTRITA**

**IPSSAR "G.Matteotti"**

**Oosterlicht College**

**Cirkevná spojená škola**

**A**s a school (4<sup>th</sup> JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL of MYTILENE GREECE) we have been assigned to create a digital magazine for our COMENIUS ECOTOUR 2.0 project.

Firstly, we decided to focus on the meetings because these are-I think- the most important activities of a Comenius program. This is where you meet the other partners in the flesh, talk to them, see how they work and LAST BUT NOT LEAST, if they believe in the idea of a Comenius project.

IN the magazine there is a section for every meeting (SLOVAKIA/GREECE/ROMANIA/ITALY/SPAIN) accordingly. In the beginning ,I express my opinion on each meeting, focusing on the most important things/events. What's more, there is a number of articles /texts written by the students and teachers-at least as many as I managed to collect. Students and teachers who have taken part in the meetings express their feelings and state impressions from their point of view.



As far as I am concerned ,I can tell that everybody was happy and excited to have had the chance and have taken part in a Comenius meeting, no matter where!!! It is more than certain that the experiences shared and lived by all of us have been unique and unforgettable.



In addition, speaking as a "journalist" I can say that all the meetings were very well -organized, everyone was different from the other and the hosting schools did their best to entertain all partners. I'm not going to tell you which meeting was the best .There is no point! What I can say, though, is that I was very excited when a meeting was about to start and very sad when it finished.

All things considered ,I am sure that our Comenius program has been quite successful. we did not face any serious problems, lots of projects have been successfully accomplished

and everything was very well organized from the beginning.

At this point I feel the urge to personally thank Judith the project coordinator who worked very hard to plan and organize the project from scratch.

Finally, I wish -all of you- to have personal and family happiness and all the best with your school career!!!

Panagiotis 25/3/2013

## MEETING No 1

### \*SLOVAKIA\*

The first meeting took place in VRANOV nad TOPLU, a small town in the S.E of SLOVAKIA from 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011, AS ARRANGED IN THE PRELIMINARY MEETING.

All 9 COMENIUS partners were looking forward to meeting each other in the flesh for the first time.



We all knew that for the next 2 years, teachers and students, were going to work together, share experiences, make new friends and finally have a great time.

“HI!! I’m Panagiotis from Greece” “HI! ,I’m Judith from Spain! Nice to meet you!

“Oh, hi! You must be...let me guess...from Holland...”“No, I’m Julia from Romania.....”

Everybody was happy to introduce themselves, to ask several questions, to come to know each other, to break the ice!!

“How did you travel to VRANOV? When did you arrive? How far is your town from the capital? What about your school? Oh, you live on a Greek island!.....

Throughout the visit we were happy to have our first names and country of origin pinned on us. We were proud to be members of the same team, partners of the COMENIUS Eco-tour 2.0

A group of 50, teachers and students of 9 different European countries ,all in VRANOV !!!same place ,same time!!

ROBERT, the coordinator from SLOVAKIA, a very kind teacher, had organized everything. He was our guide, interpreter, the heart and soul of the meeting. He did a very good job for all of us and we thank him.

Many activities took place during this meeting.

- ★ Sightseeing of the historic centre and a visit to the Cathedral in VRANOV.

- ★ AN official welcome ceremony at the TOWN HALL, where the partners met the Mayor of VRANOV and the students of the Slovakian school, who put on a lovely show for us with dancing and singing.



### **ECO-ACTIVITIES**

Keeping in touch with the eco-orientation of our COMENIUS project, first,we were taken to SRBSKE PLESO LAKE, where we walked alongside a beautiful lake in the countryside.

Secondly, we climbed (in cable cars) the top of the SLOVAKIAN CARPATHEAN mountains,the region known as HIGH TATRAS where the view was breathtaking. We thought we could reach the sky from up there. Unfortunately there was no snow at the time, (what a pity!!) and the pine forest was diseased ?? The needles had turned yellow and the trees looked unhealthy !!

Finally, we visited the OBSERVATORY next to the FORTON HOTEL where an astronomer lectured us on the stars and planets of our solar universe.



## PRESENTATIONS

We also held a session for presentations, as arranged. Each school presented a short video on: OUR SCHOOL, OUR TOWN, OUR COUNTRY.

## FUN ACTIVITIES

To start with, students and teachers ,except for the coordinators, visited the AQUACITY POPRAD, a swimming resort,  
And finished off with a students party at the hotel



## COORDINATORS' MEETINGS

THREE SESSIONS WERE HELD FOR THE COORDINATORS OF THE 9 COMENIUS partners in order to:  
Organize the next activities, distribute tasks per school, MAKE any necessary modifications of the initial project,  
Know how to work all together on the NET and arrange the next meeting dates .  
At the end, everybody was optimistic that this COMENIUS would be far more successful, satisfying its goals that were set on the application form.

On the whole, the first meeting in SLOVAKIA, was quite a success (OUR Slovakian colleagues did their best) .We left the country full of new images, tastes, experiences and new FRIENDS, looking forward to meeting again in GREECE.

*Panagiotis and Filitsa  
Greek Comenius Team*

## Comenius wishes from Slovakia!

Kiuruvesi secondary school is part of the Comenius Eco-Tour 2.0 -project 2011-2013. The first meeting in the project was in Slovakia, in the city of Vranov nad Toplou. We were four students and two teachers who participated the meeting. We students were writing travel diary about their impressions.

We left Sunday evening 13.11 by bus at half past eight to Iisalmi and further to the Helsinki airport. The night went sleeping. We were at the airport at 5 am. and had a breakfast and waited couple of hours



for the flight.

The flight to Budapest, Hungary, took two and a half an hour. At the Budapest airport we were waiting, again, two hours for the minibus to Kosice, Slovakia. The bustrip took almost three and a half an hour. We saw lots of agricultural fields and red deers. The bus left us to Kosice's McDonalds, which was little confusing. Fortunately Robert, Slovakia's coordinator, came and guided us to the next bus. That bus took us finally to Vranov nad Toplou to hotel Patriot where we ate and went to sleep.

Next morning we went sightseeing in Vranov nad Toplou. We went to local culture center. There was wellcoming show and party for us and local mayor was wellcoming us too. After the show we went back to the hotel and had wellcoming lunch. Then we left hotel Patriot and took a bus toward Tatra

mountain area. Bustrip to the mountains and to the next hotel took about three hours. At the hotel we went to dinner. After that teachers had meeting and we had freetime.

At Wednesday we had a walk in the Tatra mountains and possibility to buy some souvenirs. After that we had a walk in nature path where we saw beautiful landscapes and hotels. Then we went back to our hotel to eat. At the evening everyone who was willing went to the Aqua City spa. We were there about three hours and came back to the hotel for the dinner.

Thursday morning we left our hotel to reach mountain Tatra again. First we went up by little four person cabins to the halfway of the mountain top. Then we changed to the bigger 14 person sightseeing cabin. At the top of the mountain views were breathtaking. We admired landscapes about 50 minutes at the top and then went back. We left our hotel and went to eat slovakian heritage food. Nam! After that we went shopping. Then back to the hotel and had a good nightsleep.

At Friday morning after breakfast we started our travelling to home. It took almost 24 hours. The trip to Slovakia gave to us nice memories and we got new friends. Sure travelling opens your eyes.

*By Anita Kärkkäinen, Katja Kauhanen, Markus Linninen & Niko Partanen*

*Finnish Comenius Team*

## A trip to Slovakia

**S**lovakia, the first meeting place for Comenius 2.0 was a country I had never visited before but turned out to be a very pleasant surprise for me.

To start with it, reminded me of Germany, the country I was born in and grew up. The climate (low temperatures), the architecture of the buildings and the landscape was more or less the same.

I was particularly impressed by the event our hosts had organised at the Town Hall the next day of our arrival (quite formal, though). The presentation was impressive especially from the students.

I really enjoyed the hiking by the Popradske lake despite the low temperature, it was awesome.

In addition the Tatra mountains and the ski resort visit was a good choice (unfortunately no snow but the view was breathtaking)

The visit at the Observatory during the night was a good idea. The night was starry but cold, the astronomer was very good and kind- did his very best

At the presentation (but sorry I slept most of the time! Very tired)

The food was quite a different experience. Too many soups (Reasonable, for cold winter days), dessert was a dish to start with? And strong snaps served as aperitif? (strange)

The traditional main dish was "schnitzel" just like in Germany.

I must say, though, that the cost of living was far cheaper than in Greece, eg a pint of beer cost 1€ (5 € in Greece).

To sum up, Slovakia is a country worth visiting: If

You don't want to spend a fortune

If you enjoy the peace and the quiet of the countryside

If you're curious enough to visit a former Eastern bloc country (different atmosphere)

*Thank you*

*Christina—Greek Teacher*





## Meeting new friends

**T**wo weeks ago we were in the High Tatras with our foreign friends. We spent three days there. I was there with my best friend. We were staying at a great hotel. It was something amazing. New people, new faces, new friends. I was very pleased and glad I could participate in it. There was for all of us an interesting program. We really enjoyed it. The best fun we experienced with new friends from Turkey because they were very eloquent. It left me in a beautiful experiences and memories. Because of this trip I will always remember a lot of smile. I have got a lot of photos. Just few of us ever have ever had such great chance to meet new people from different countries. I am very happy that I could be the part of it all. I really liked that I was able to attend this event. It could be something more than once again. Certainly AquaCity was amazing, also Lomnièák. These three days belong to those best days of my life.

*Jana Grejtáková, Slovakia*

## A visit to Slovakia

**F**rom 14 to 18 of November, two schoolmates of mine, three teachers and I went on a trip to Slovakia, following the Comenius program. This program indicated that we meet students and teachers from eight countries (Holland, Spain, Italy, Romania, Poland, Finland, Slovakia, Turkey).

We had many differences, but common ground as well. We saw that in a party we had in the hotel. Personally, I sympathized most of the guys, even though I didn't speak much to them.

Our hosts had neatly organised everything. It seemed as if we had no spare time, but they wanted us to see lots of things and not get bored, so their worries were understandable.

We visited many places, such as a spa center, where we swam in heated pools and had sauna. We had lunch in a traditional restaurant, went shopping and played bowling.

What impressed me most, though, was our trip to the mountain, despite my freezing. The scenery was amazing, with all the trees and mountains, the hazy mist and the lake. The view from the top was even more astonishing. It was starting to snow and one could do nothing but admire the beauty.

The local cuisine is very different from the greek one. The water is carbonated. The meals consist of a soup, the main course (usually meat) and a light dessert. I found it difficult to have soup twice a day for five days and drink only carbonated water, but I guess it's because of the cold climate.

On the whole, it was a very interesting and enriching experience. When all these come to Mytilene, I hope that they'll have a good time, just as we had.



*Maria Chatziantoniou  
Greek Student*

## The meeting in Slovakia

*By the Polish Comenius Team*

Now we know that despite the differences, in fact, we are all very similar.

On 13th November 2011, at 23:43 we –Beata Chrobok, Ola Cieluch, Magda Piskorz, Kasia Witek– began our foreign adventure with Comenius. After spending seven exhausting hours on a train, we reached our destination: Košice in Slovakia. We were welcomed by Marian Babej, the headmaster, who was accompanied by Robert Majzlik, the coordinator. It took us one hour to get to Vranov nad Topľou, where we checked into the Patriot Hotel. During the afternoon other participants arrived from: Turkey, Romania, Italy, Spain, Greece, Finland and Holland. After welcoming them, we went to bed to recharge our batteries before the next exciting day.



Tuesday began with a walk around Vranov. Next point of our program was the official opening of Comenius workshops in Slovakia. We were welcomed by the city mayor, and representatives of the education and church authorities.

We saw a very interesting performance that the students from Cirkevná Spojená Škola had prepared for us. We could admire both younger and older artists whose performances were enjoyable, moving and gave us some reflection. We were pleasantly surprised by the variety and professional level of their performance.

Afterwards, having given short welcoming speeches, representatives of each country left their signatures in the visitors' book. Then we had lunch together, which was an opportunity to get to know better the other project participants.

Representatives of each country made a presentation on their schools, which we found very interesting as a way of presenting these countries' diversity and culture.

In the late afternoon we went to the High Tatras - on a bus we sang together, which was a unifying experience. In the evening we had a nice surprise that the organizers had prepared for us: they invited us to a professional Astronomical Observatory, where we could watch through telescopes the stars and planets, like for example Saturn.

On the following day we went on a trip around the Srbske Pleso lake. We admired the natural beauty- the flora and fauna of the High Tatras

During the walk we took photographs and talked in English.

After coming back to the hotel, the coordinators discussed next stages of the project while the students experienced Eco-tourism in practice – getting wet in thermal waters of the area, in Aqua City in Poprad.

After supper we had fun at an international disco.

Thursday began with „conquering” Lomnický štít, in fact we went there in a cable car. We could learn about the fauna and flora of crags from educational boards placed there.

On our way back to Vranov, we stopped at a traditional Slovak cottage serving regional dishes. In the background we could see the picturesque castle of Spis.

In the evening ceremonial dinner was held to conclude our work. To add to this, we received gifts from the organisers. At the end of the evening we played bowling.

Friday was time to say good bye. Hoping to meet again, each of us went to its own country to continue our work on the project. Before departure we had a chance to see the sights of Košice, where we spent a couple of hours.

During the trip we managed to learn about the culture of other countries and pick up a few words of different languages. The organizers made us feel well and comfortable. Owing to their professionalism, nothing unexpected happened. We were impressed by the Slovaks, who did a great job. It was especially Robert, the coordinator, who could be always relied on.



## Comenius EcoTour 2.0 Slovakia, 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November 2011

The Comenius multilateral partnership EcoTour 2.0 has been for us, the team from Romania, a great opportunity of getting involved in activities like the meeting in Slovakia, activities from which we learned, discovered and confirmed many things. We had the chance to visit a new country, with new wonderful places, to meet incredible people from eight other



countries, with different languages and traditions, but one aim: to develop our project, to work, but also to socialize, to meet new people and get to know one another better as persons and as nations.

The first day was surprising for everyone because we didn't arrive at the same time at Vranov nad Topľou and we were all tired after a long journey, so we didn't have the chance to meet until the following day.

The second day we visited the town, the beautiful church "Birth of Maria" and the hosts prepared a show that really impressed us. In the afternoon, after we had lunch together, we presented the projects that we had made and the activities we had done so far and started to socialize. After the emotions during

the presentations, we all got away to High Tatra, a resort in the Tatra Mountains. On the way to the resort many friendships were formed between all the members of the teams because we started to sing, to laugh together and even to remember each other's names. The same night, we visited an important astronomical observatory from that area and we had the opportunity to see Jupiter with its 3 moons and millions of stars, more than we had ever seen before.

The next day, we visited a glacial lake called "Strbske Pleso", where we took a lot of photos; we stopped every 5 minutes to do so, each time when one of us was shouting: "Photo!". That night, we even had a little party, where we danced and got to know each other better.



not, even visit each other, if possible, in the future.

We are now looking forward to the next project meetings in Greece, in Romania, in Italy, in Spain and to doing the activities in the project!



But the hosts kept the best thing at the end: we reached the altitude of 2634 m on the Tatranka Lomnica peak, where the view was magnificent, words being unworthy to describe it. After this overwhelming experience, we went to a restaurant where we tasted some traditional food and then we returned to Vranov nad Topľou and had a mini-bowling-party.

The last day was the saddest because we were all friends, the students, the teachers, and we didn't want to go home after such a great experience, but we exchanged e-mails and phone numbers in order to keep in touch and, why

**The Romanian team**



their first names and make new

## **\*MEETING No 2\*** **\*GREECE\***

**T**he host school for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting (19-24 March,2012) was the 4<sup>th</sup> JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL of MYTILENE, LESVOS, GREECE.

Mytilene, is the capital city of LESVOS, a Greek island of the Aegean Archipelago in the N.E of GREECE.

Nine partners from EUROPE, 8 schools visiting (28 students and 19 teachers) reached LESVOS on Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>,2012.

To start with, a big plus for the meeting was the weather. It was just perfect. After a long, cold, rainy season-unusual for the mild Mediterranean climate of Greece-the weather was sunny and dry as in mid summer, which was more than welcome from our guests. As a result, our partners had the opportunity to enjoy the sea and the sun and take part in the outdoor activities organized for them.

Apart from the projects that had to be presented during the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, another goal to be achieved by the hosts, was to bring all the guests together, to break the ice and establish the spirit of familiarity among students.

For this reason, a number of the following activities were organized by the teachers, students and parents of the host school.(4<sup>th</sup> JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL of MYTILENE).

### **SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

A classroom game for visiting students, named: WHO is WHO. Purpose of the game was to break the ice among students, to get to know each other by



friends.

A guided tour of the school buildings.

### **WELCOME CELEBRATIONS**

- ★ A Greek song WELCOME TO GREECE ( accordingly adapted in the refrain), sung by the school choir
- ★ GUESS THE COUNTRY(60 min.) a humorous play in English, to welcome each country apart (by the COMENIUS drama club).
- ★ Two European traditional dances-a tarantella and a flamenco- by the COMENIUS dance club
- ★ Greek music and traditional dances (choir/dance club)



- ★ Greek traditional dishes ( parents' offer)
- ★ A students' party at the school auditorium.
- ★ A students' party at a club by the sea next to the partners' hotel (BLUE SEA)

### ECO-ACTIVITIES



The eco part of the project was covered with the following activities.

A Guided visit to the salt -pits at KALLONI bay, to learn how salt is eco-produced.

Bird watching (flamingos and migratory birds) at KALLONI WETLANDS using binoculars.

Flora and fauna of LESVOS, a presentation at the Environmental Education Centre of LESVOS .

A visit to the OLIVE-OIL MUSEUM, to see how the olive-oil( the main product of LESVOS used to be produced in old times.

A visit to the famous NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM of the petrified FOREST (at Sigri)

Students attended an educational presentation about the creation of the petrified forest, some 20 million years ago ,due to volcanic eruptions, and they also had to excavate and brush petrified fossils in the space of the museum.

### TOURING/SIGHTSEEING

- ★ A guided tour of the Middle-Ages Castles at MYTILENE and MYTHEMNA
- ★ A visit to the archaeological museum
- ★ A visit to the University of the Aegean
- ★ Visits to (Orthodox churches in Mytilene, Petra and Sykaminea
- ★ Visits to traditional villages, old houses ,cafes, and the old marketplace in MYTILENE.
- ★ Eating out traditional dishes, mostly sea-food, and drinking "ouzo" the famous drink of the island



## THE COMENIUS PART

Students from each country, made a short power-point presentation on WATER, as assigned in the previous meeting.

Coordinators held 2 sessions to discuss the progress of the project and future plans.

(JOHAN from Holland, was e-present at the meeting via SKYPE.)

All things considered, the visit on LESVOS island, was very successful. Teachers, students and partners of the 4<sup>th</sup> JUNIOR HIGH, DID OUR BEST to entertain our guests, to promote the team spirit and

make them feel at home,.

WE strongly believe that as in any town in Greece, or in the world, IT'S NOT the scenery, the colors, the tastes, the smells, or the culture that make a place special. IT'S

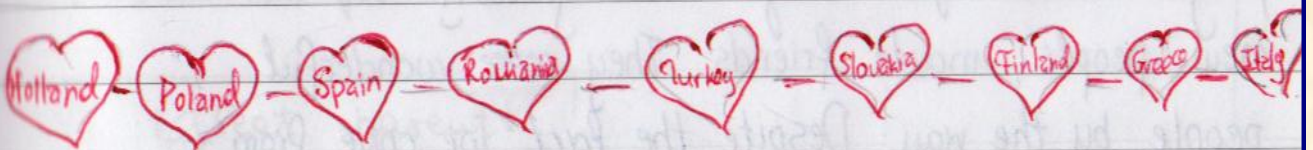
WHAT is/was COMENIUS 2.0 for you?

It was an unforgettable experience. This program is the most valuable learning. Meeting different people, different attitudes, different styles, different languages and different cultures. The greatest joy of travel is new friendships. I hope to see you again :)

21-3-2012

Anthi Spanou

13 4<sup>th</sup> Junior High



Mytilene, March 20-24 2012 ?

## Report from the trip to Mytilene on Lesbos Island in Greece: 19 - 25 March 2012

By the Polish Team

*It would seem that languages divide us, but now we know that, in fact, they join us together...*

### Monday, 19 March 2012



We began our adventure (Kasia Witek, Krzysztof Rola, Aleksander Panek, Karolina Gorstka, Karolina Wydra, Wiktoria Gałuszka) at 6am in front of the school, where was the pick-up point. From there, we went to the Katowice Airport, and then we flew to Warsaw and from Warsaw to Athens. At the Athens Airport, we met one of the partners - good-looking Spanish boys with their nice teachers. Other project participants also joined us in Athens and together we flew to the capital of Lesbos Island - Mytilene. Our host, Mr Panagiotis Chatzilamprou, greeted us at the airport. We took a coach to the Blue Sea hotel, which offered a wonderful view of the port. After checking-in, we went to the nearby pub for a team-building dinner.

### Tuesday, 20 March 2012

We started Tuesday by meeting at the 4<sup>th</sup> Junior High School of Mytilene. We participated in team-building games, (9,10) while our teachers went on a tour of the school. We learned the names of our new friends so that we could look them up on Facebook and stay in touch after returning to Poland. We left the school and went to the Museum of Archeology to learn about ancient Greece. Then, we visited ruins of a castle. It was a beautiful place - the castle was located right by the sea. After the visit to the castle, we attended an interesting (hmm...) lecture at the Aegean University. We could feel like real students having lunch at the university canteen for only 3 Euros ;). The official opening of the Comenius workshop took place in the evening. It began with a short description of each country. Then, the pupils showed off their musical skills (which were truly enviable ;)). There was the saxophone, bass guitar, drums as well as national dances... The ceremony was very interesting.



### Wednesday, 21 March 2012

After breakfast, we went to the Environmental Education Center in Kalloni, where we enjoyed an interesting presentation. Afterwards, we visited the Olive Oil Museum. On our way, we saw different birds such as flamingoes and we learned how to test water salinity in practice. In the evening, we demonstrated the results of several months of our work in the form of a multimedia presentation on water balance. It went pretty good. After the presentation, we awarded all partners with diplomas and small gifts promoting our region. We also received gifts from others. This whole event was very stressful to us, so we decided to unwind at a disco with some hot Greeks. Our coordinators were not so lucky because they had to work hard, while we really enjoyed ourselves. The pupils' parents prepared traditional Greek dishes, including Greek salad and souvlaki, especially for us. At the end of the day, we were so tired that we politely and instantly fell asleep.

### Thursday, 22 March 2012

The day began early with a breakfast at 7am. Then, we went to Sigri to visit the Natural History Museum in the Lesbos Petrified Forest Reservation. After a short presentation on archeologists' work, we saw the beautiful local finds. Next, after taking a short break to buy souvenirs, we tried our hand at archeology. Our task was to clean stones using a brush and a stick. (39) In the evening, there was a farewell dinner with live music. It was truly moving...

### Friday, 23 March 2012

In the morning we took a trip to the picturesque seaside town of Petra, where we saw a traditional Greek house and the Virgin Mary's Church. Then, we visited a castle in Molyvos. We were walking down the old town streets and we went to a typical Greek tavern, where we had a delicious lunch with our friends from the project and the Greek pupils who had joined us for this trip. This evening, we went on a souvenir hunt. Then, we accepted our hosts' invitation to take part in the Glow Party. We returned late at night, tired but filled with excitement and great memories.

### Saturday, 24 March 2012

After a touching farewell very early in the morning, we went to the airport and flew to the capital of Greece. The streets of Athens turned out so complex that, despite having a map, we wandered around for a long time before finding the Hermes hotel. After a short but well-deserved rest, we left for a tour of Athens. We visited the Temple of Olympian Zeus in Acropolis, the Roman Agora and the Theatre of Dionysus. During a walk around the Na-

tional Gardens, we arrived at the Parliament building, where we saw the changing of the guard ceremony. It was an unforgettable experience ;). After a tiring but very exciting day, it was time for us to say goodbye to the hot and fabulous Greece.

### Sunday, 25 March 2012

Before going to the airport, we had a chance to see the Independence Day parade. It was less fun when we arrived at the airport; it turned out that our flight to Warsaw had been delayed and, as a result, we missed our flight to Katowice and had to wait several hours for the next one. Despite these inconveniences, we were still in a good mood and even played a few rounds of foosball. However, this was not the end of our adventure. The following flight was also delayed and, consequently, we arrived back home around 3am...

The weather during the entire trip was sunny and beautiful. We learned how important language learning is and we understood the value of hard work in the class. As a result, the integration was successful. The pupils, led by principal Panagiotis, did a first-class job!



## A trip to Mytilene


**M**y name is Matúš Porvažník and this is my experience with project COMENIUS. Our journey started at the train station in Vranov nad Topľou. We went by train from Vranov to our capital city-Bratislava. Then I had been waiting for one hour before the bus came. We went by bus from Bratislava to Wien. When we arrived to Wien, we were charmed by huge airport. Then we flew from Wien to Athens two hours and fifty minutes, and from Athens to Island Lesbos. It was very interesting for me, because I flew for the first time in my life. We flew over mountains and rivers. There was a fine view of the roofs of the town of them. Then we had to travel by bus to the city, where our Greek school partners waited for us. It was late evening when we came to the hotel, but we went to the restaurant.-it was quarter past eight. We were very tired. At morning we woke up, and we went for breakfast. We lived in a beautiful hotel. Then our teachers and friends came for us, and we joined them visiting their school, and then we were officially welcomed by some local pupils and teachers. Every day we traveled by bus and we saw some castles, cathedral, museums, and very interesting places. In a Thursday we had a trip to some factory or a historical place. We saw beautiful historical places. The next day was a free day for us, so we went to the city. I decided to choose some souvenirs for me, and for my family in a shop. We were amazed by Island Lesbos, by historical places like the old fortress, by old villages, by beautiful country and of course by Greece people who were very kind. We came back on the Slovakia with lovely flashbacks. It was nice to spend some time abroad in quite different country. I think, that it was my the best trip by spent with my friend, and my really good teachers.

Matus

Slovakian student



# Parts from the Impression Book

Finland 

Thank you Greece!

The visit was super.

The weather, food, hotel, landscape and

Specially PEOPLE were wonderful!

Teachers & Parents had done a big work with organising  
everything.



Love Merita, Pekka, Essi, Kisi, Joni, Kim

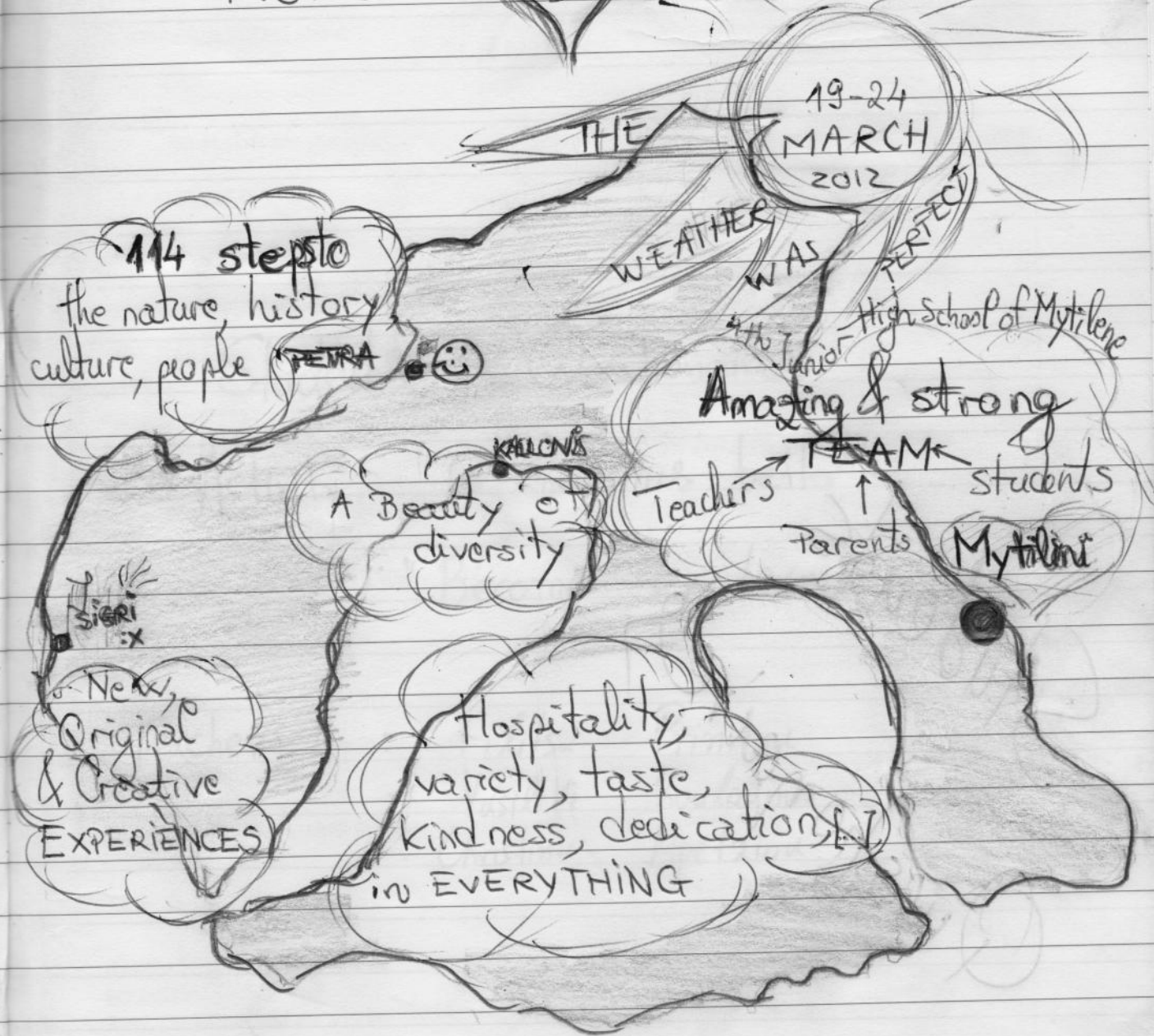
There was exiting, I won't forget how nice it  
was here. Thank you!

Service was excellent

Thank you greece! It was awesome! I enjoyed  
my stay here so much. I'm gonna miss this country  
alot :)

Thank you 😊!

Romania  ΕΛΛΑΔΑ



All praises for the hosts and its coordinator, Panagiotis!

ΟΔΟΣ ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ,

Julia, Zina, Cristi, Alex, Danut

PS: We are waiting for you in Romania!

# Evaluation sheet

Partner n° 7 Italy



Fantastic visit!

Amazing place!

Wonderful teachers!

Great parents!

Incredible students!

Brilliant Headmaster Panagiotis!

We liked everything, from the school to the excursions and all the things in between!!! 😊

Excellent 10+

Maria Pia,  
Nina

Ginerva, Bianca Maria, Renel, Lorenzo

## MEETING No 3 \*ROMANIA\*

The town of Bistrita in Romania and the Palatul School was the next destination of our Comenius Eco-tour. The meeting was held from 2/7 till 7/72012 and more than 40 students and teachers took part.

Everyone was there: Paqui, Mario, Sonny, Burca, Kasia, Pekka and Merita, Filitsa and the Slovakian and Turkish Headmaster.

- From my point of view the meeting was different for two reasons.
- First because it was during the summer holidays, schools were closed and everyone was in a relaxed mood and wanted to have fun, It was like holidays.

Second we came very close to Mother Nature, which is one of the project's objectives.

Everything was very well organized from Julia and her colleagues. From visiting the Town Hall, having a guided tour at the school and the city centre, the coordinator's meeting, to the project work presentations.

In addition, the welcome ceremony at the Synagogue with the Romanian traditional music and dances is something that has to be mentioned and congratulated on. It was more than certain that the teachers in charge had done a great job.

Last but not least, the outdoor activities were super. We came in touch with the Transylvanian mountains and the Pedagogica Natura reserve. The one and a half hour trekking was unforgettable. Needless to mention that the students were the first to reach the finish line.

The Farewell party was also something different. It took place at the Dracula Hotel. We watched a theatrical play about the myth of Dracula, we got scared when we met Dracula at the dark castle corridors, we visited the nearby Monastery, we tasted traditionally Romanian food and finally we set up fires in order to say goodbye and gave rendezvous for our next meeting in Pisa in October 2012.



**H**ello, I am Cecilia, a student who has enjoyed the wonderful experience that the COMENIUS PROJECT has offered me. This project was founded by my High School Torre Almenara, and actually has participated 9 european countries: Polonia, Romania, Eslovequia, Italia, Finland, Holland, Turkey, Greece and Spain. Before going to Romania, all the teachers from the different countries work about the program with the activities we were going to make, during the 6 days we stayed there (from July 2<sup>nd</sup> until Friday 7<sup>th</sup>). In our case, the Spanish students were 4 girls and we went with our main head and 2 teachers. We had a long trip because we arrived from Malaga to Budapest by plane, and so we took a bus during almost 8 hours, (anyway it wasn't hard, because our teachers were very funny!!) to Bistrita, the town where we had the hotel with the rest of the European students and teachers. Bistrita is a small city situated in the north of the country. During our 4<sup>th</sup> complete days there, we went to visit the main church, that it is in the middle of the town, and we walk for the streets of the historic. Regarding the tourism that we made for the country we visited the famous hotel: "Castel Dracula ", the impressive landscapes, and in general we could know a bit about the culture of this country, a country that was not known for all the Spanish people. I am conscious that this experience has been unforgettable, because even if we should have the possibility to know this country for ourself, the project will give us the option to share this experience with other European students, and their cultures. We show our own work about our country to the rest of students, and be able to learn about other countries from their students, we had different activities all together and be able to visit the Town Hall. In one sense every pupil, and also teacher were representing our own countries and this is something to be very proud. Definitively, I have been very lucky to take part of this experience, very grateful with the teachers whose make able this wonderful and unforgettable travel and experience that we keep always with us. For sure, I would love to repeat it again!!!.





ROMANIA, 2-7 JULY 2012

LUCIA P. LÓPEZ GODDARD.

MÁLAGA, SPAIN.

TORRE ALMENARA-LA CALA DE MIJAS.

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**G**oing to Rumania with the "Comenius" Project has been a great experience that I will always remember. Being with children from different European countries during seven days and doing activities with all of them was fantastic.

During our journey in the minibus to Bistrita, we saw lovely landscapes that were completely different to ours in Málaga, Spain. We visited several places, but the two I liked most were:

-The visit to the ski resort; the scenery and the walk down the hills was great.

I also liked...

-The visit to "The Dracula Hotel" that was very nice. We stayed there all day and on the night there was a campfire. It was my 15<sup>th</sup> birthday this day, 5<sup>th</sup> July, and I had a day to remember.

Therefore, this trip to Rumania with my three teachers ( Paqui, Alejandro and Mario) and my three class mates ( Cecilia, Cathy and Mariluz), has been a great experience that I would recommend to students who have the opportunity to travel with the "Comenius" Project. They will love it, like we did.



## A trip to Romania

In Romania where I had the luck to go was very good. I was one of the fifteen lucky kids who won this trip. I had the honor to go with my teachers and other two children to Bistrita and all these places. In the beginning I was very nervous and I said to myself "I will do something wrong and I will be ridicule" because I couldn't speak with other people when I was in a bad mood. Finally I overcame this problem and I started to feel better. Then I began to feel the emotion of the new experience, the feeling which says to myself "look at all these new things, how much special they are". I also became friend with some Italian boys and with two girls and mostly with the girls from Turkey. Every day I am becoming more happy, more familiar with the Romanian teacher( Eleni) who was very funny and from the kids I became more friend with Roxy. She is a very beautiful girl with good character!! One of my favorite actions was the "tiroliana" with the rope, When I did it I felt an emotion like "I am flying ".It was very special I had never done this action in Greece only there in Pedagogica park!!!!.



My second favorite action was when we started to go to the bus which was in a village, named Rodney. Until reaching to the village, we were walking because we had to go down, to leave the mountain, so we were walking an hour in the beautiful nature in the green. It was feeling perfect, generally while I was doing all these actions, while I was visiting all these places. I can speak for hours for this trip but I haven't this possibility in this page. Romania is missing to me very much and I hope to come someday in Bistrita specific!!!!!! Finally I want to say "CONGRATULATIONS" ,you made me feel like Bistrita was my "home" :)))



Jim Mavrantonis

Greek Student

This year I had the ability to take part in at the Comenius program that our school participates and I am very glad for making this decision. Also, except from visiting a foreign country (Romania), I have gained new experiences and friends, throughout this year.

I can admit that I was very lucky to be chosen to represent my school at this European program. By this way I traveled to Romania to meet the Comenius group. Everything was perfect there and I believe that they had made a big effort in order to achieve these amazing results.

These four days were the best of my life. I met new people and I saw many things that I would not have been able to see them if I had not this opportunity. Moreover the activities that I had enjoyed the most are at Tasuleusa Social (tiroliana) and at the Castle of Dracula.

Personally I want to tell thank you to the Romanians students and teachers who had organized so well this Comenius meeting and especially for the Greek song and dance which made me feel proud of my country and I was touched very much.

This travel was a very nice experience for me and I wish many other students would have the opportunity to participate to programs like that.

Finally I can confess that I usually look back to these beautiful moments in Romania where we had a very good time.

Stelios Delis

4th Junior High School of Mytilene

GREECE



07.07.2012

The report from the trip to Bistrita in Romania: 02.07.2012 - 07.07.2012

Polish Comenius Team

Only together we can create something beautiful.

Monday, 02.07.2012

Although we did not want to get up very early this day we had to do it because the desire for adventure was much stronger. We left (Magdalena Piskorz, Paulina Moritz, Adrianna Polak, Katarzyna Witek, Sylwia Jędrach, Alexander Panek) as early as at 6:00 a.m. and then we successively crossed the Polish-Slovak, Slovak-Hungarian and Hungarian-Romanian borders. During our way to Bistrita we stopped in the beautiful town Cluj-Napoca to stretch the bones before continuing the trip. We went for a walk and a late dinner. After a 16-hour-long journey we finally arrived at the Coroana de Aur hotel.

Tuesday, 03.07.2012

In the morning we went to the Palace of COPIILOR BISTRITA to see what classes are held every day at school. What impressed us the most, among many different after school clubs offered at school, was the game GO. Then we went to City Hall to learn about the history of the city. In the afternoon, students of the school presented us their vocal and dancing skills during a performance taken place in the synagogue.



Wednesday, 04.07.2012

After breakfast we went to the Rodna reserve where its work was showed to us in the form of a multimedia presentation which was continued in practice on top of Valea Blaznei. We had a chance to see what devices are used daily in reserve. The "campaign" of ecotourism in our countries was also presented there. All films reflected the beauty of the partners' countries in an interesting way. We also had the possibility to enjoy the scenic routes as ecotourists in Rodna Mountains. In the evening, despite the soreness, we went to the disco where a lot of us established new relationships.

Thursday, 05.07.2012

With great enthusiasm we went to learn the importance of protecting forests. There was also time for relaxing - we were enjoying the downhill ride on Tyrolka. Another highlight of the day was the Dracula Castle. We experienced moments of terror in the chamber of the vampire but luckily everything ended well ;) Next, we visited the monastery. When we had free time to buy souvenirs our teachers were working hard at the meeting of coordinators. Everyone liked the book published by our school :D The hosts prepared for us a buffet with their local food, the evening show and bonfire.





**Friday, 06.07.2012**

On the last day we visited the church and from its tower we admired beautiful views of the city. With tears in our eyes we said goodbye to the participants and came back home. Travel by bus was an occasion for laughing, singing songs and recollecting incredible moments of our third trip.

***Romania entertained us with nice weather and enchanted with the beauty of its landscapes.***

***Being there we could not only improve our English... A nice Iulia and her team were trying to make our time enjoyable and unforgettable.***

## MEETING No 4 \*ITALY\*

The first meeting of the second year was held in Italy in October 2012. Hosting city was PISA the famous city of Galileo and the Leaning Tower.

The host school was the G. Matteotti Food and Hospitality school. As its name suggests, the students there are qualified and educated to work in the touristic industry as chefs, cooks, waiters hotel managers and receptionists. That's why the entrance of the school looked like a hotel reception lobby.

To start with, it was a very good opportunity for the students and staff to practice, that is to cook, wait on and entertain all 9 Comenius delegations for 5 days. Firstly, the food, Italian food, was delicious!! They offered us a wide range

of gourmet dishes to choose from, plus traditional Italian food and desserts. We tasted a rich variety of dishes like sea food, meat, antipasti, prepared by the students and the school chefs, PASTA and PIZZA of course!! Students and teachers did their best to make us feel comfortable and enjoy ourselves.

Valerio, the school chef, showed us how to make a real Italian pizza, explaining step by step what we had to do. He made a simple *margherita* pizza which was so nice and criiiispy!! to tell you the truth when I came back home and tried to make it it was a failure... I'm sure Valerio must have kept some secrets for himself!! -I'm joking of course-





Another teacher showed us how to make the famous **Pecorino cheese** . IT'S a hard Italian cheese made from sheep's (pecora) milk. She slowly heated the milk to about 37 degrees, added the rennet and let it stand for 40 min. She told us all the spicy secrets to make a good pecorino cheese.

In addition, the hotel we stayed in, was a renovated old monastery.....In the beginning ,we all felt very strange, it was not something we were looking forward to... The rooms were cold, not modern, barred windows...They used to be monks' cells ... after all for praying and isolation....

On second thought we kind liked it, got used to it ,we saw it as a new experience, rooms with a theme!!!The better place was the inner yard of the monastery where we sat all together every evening, drinking beers and chatting about politics, salaries, summer holidays, the economic crisis and educational issues of course.

All in all, the meeting was quite a success: the coordinators' meetings, the visit at the Town Hall, the cruise at the ARNO

river, folklore dances and ceremonies at the school, and of course the visit at the Miracle square which was really fantastic.

The meeting finished and we came back for another time full of images and new experiences.

Panagiotis Chatzilamprou  
Greek Team Coordinator





## A meeting with the tourism expert of the Province of Pisa

### Italian Comenius Team

Mr Guiggiani, a tourist expert from the Province of Pisa, came to the school in order to meet the students involved in the Comenius Ecotour 2.0. The activity aimed to provide students with a general overview tourism flows in Pisa and with a more deep knowledge of the current situation of tourism in our area with a special glance to sustainable tourism connected with water; and future perspectives.. The seminar set the basis for a future meeting and cooperation with the expert for a more detailed interview about tourism connected with water and in particular the exploitation of the river Arno.

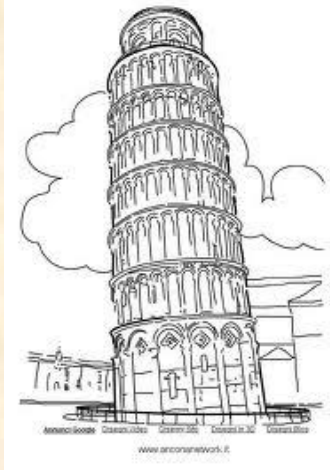


## A short guided tour of Pisa

During our meeting with our partner countries in Pisa, students offered to their foreign mates and accompanying teachers a guided tour of the town of Pisa. In groups of 5/6, they showed the beauties and the most interesting cultural, architectural, historic, natural and entertaining features of the town. On two days, the Comenius representatives visited the heart of Pisa with its amazing medieval buildings and the Square of Miracles and then the Renaissance banks along the River Arno.

## An essential guided tour of Pisa...

**T**he city of Pisa rises above the banks of Arno just before the mouth of the river at Marina of Pisa. It is one of the most important cities in Tuscany and it is extremely well-known in the world, because of its famous symbol: "the Leaning Tower"



**The Piazza del Duomo** ("Cathedral Square"), known with this name in the past, is called also *Piazza dei Miracoli* ("Square of Miracles"). The Square lies at a northern area of the city, that once was a graveyard and the seat of an Early Christian cathedral. Differently from other cities, Pisa's Cathedral Square is not inside the walls nor in the old town.

**The tower of Pisa** (or *Leaning Tower*) dates back 1173. For many years, until the recent excavations, the design was attributed by Vasari to Bonanno Pisano, but probably the tower was constructed by Gherardo di Gherardo. When the third ring was constructed, the building started leaning, because the structure weigh on the foundations. This was the principal reason why the construction w(as interrupted and continued only in 1275. On the balcony there are 7 bells. Here, Galileo Galilei performed the experiments to study the equations of a falling body. Today the tower is controlled through extremely modern technology.

**The Duomo** was built between 1046 and 118 and it is wonderful example of Pisan Romanesque style in architecture. From an artistic point of view, the church has lots of different ornament styles: classic, late ancient, Muslim, byzantine, first Romanesque. The façade was built by Rainaldo. It is made of piers of three doors, with pointed arches on four floors. The cathedral has the longitudinal plan of the so-called Latin cross and an elliptical dome(a common feature of Islamic architecture). Inside the Cathedral there are 5 naves and the terminals of the transept have semi-circular apses. Three naves are divided by monolithic columns with classic capitals and by arches in Islamic styles. The Dome is decorated with 15th century fresco paintings. visitors can admire "the Pergamo", a wonderful pulpit by Giovanni Pisano

**The Baptistery of Pisa** is the largest one in Italy and it has a circular plan. The building was began in 1152 by the architect and Diotisalvi and many artists such as Nicola and Giovanni Pisano. On the top of the dome, there's the statue of Saint. John the Baptist. Inside the building there is the Baptismal font by Guido Bigarelli and on the left side of the altar there's "The Pergamo" a Nicola Pisano's master work.

**The Monumental Cemetery** lies at the northern part of the Square of Miracles. The ancient graveyard is surrounded by a marble arcade with a rectangular plan. It is said that the soil was brought from Golgota, when Pisa took part in the Fourth Crusade in 1203. The "Campo Santo" suffered major damages

## *The Mammana's music band*

A new music band has been created for Ecotour 2.0.

A group of students of the Institute Matteotti have always loved live shows, listening to all kinds of music, and playing rock music. The band is composed of a pianist, two guitarists, a drummer, and three choristers. There is also a break dancer, Luca, who is fond of rap music. They rehearse in the school library at least once a week under the supervision of prof. Luciano Mammana, from whom they took their name. They like writing songs and playing Rolling Stones and the Eagles music.



**O**n Monday night we arrived in Pisa. We were picked from the airport by minibus and after that we were able to explore our hotel. It was an old monastery, but it was a really nice place. On Tuesday morning we started to explore the sights of Pisa. There were lots of big churches and of course, Pisa's leaning tower. We could not go inside the tower, because our group was too big, about 50-60 people, and the tower would have been able to lean more if we would all have gone there. After that the representative of the city told for us more about Pisa, for example how many people live there, about the education system, etc. In evening we were able to see how make pizza Italian way. Some of us also got a taste of it. Later, school students played well-known songs for us and we were able to go to sleep just before the morning two. It was a little bit hard to get up at seven in the morning...

We were also able to see how to make cheese and after that we walked around in the school. The school was so much different than our school in Finland, it was more like a vocational school. During breaks a big part of students were smoking, even if a big part of them were minors. We asked about age limits, and one pupil said that less than 18 years old can't buy cigarettes, and should not smoke but it's not controlled hardly at all. They were also received to smoke within the school before, but it's banned now and teachers are proud about it. It was exciting to hear local habits and compare them with the Finnish habits.

On Wednesday we ate at school. There were nicely covered tables and the students served food for us themselves. We heard that they had also made it themselves. We didn't noticed it, because the food looked like a real chef would have done it. It was great to get taste of new foods, even we had large prejudices part of the food, such as the octopus. In the evening we were able to wander more churches and those all looked relatively similar. After a couple of hours walking started to feel in the legs and after that we had a disco. First everybody just sat in their own groups, but when clock was near eleven, people started to come to the dance floor and everybody had fun. Before the disco end some of our group were already gone to the hotel and them who stayed got a car ride to the hotel.

In the car were at least fifteen person and eight seat, so most of us had to sit on the same seat with someone else.

After that night we began to hang more with students from other countries and we noticed how comfortable persons everybody are.

On the last day we took a boat ride and we went to the nature park where we had to walk again. On that afternoon we had lots of time for shopping and we spent lots of money because in



some shops prices were more expensive than in Finland, but in some shops they were also cheaper. In the evening we ate nicer again because we had a gala-dinner. We had again our prejudices, but we tried to taste everything, even little bit. In every morning we got for breakfast croissants, different cakes, bacon and cheese.

There was a lovely, warm weather in Pisa, even it was rainy sometimes, but it didn't stop us. There was about 25 plus degrees on the day and in the night we slept with top and shorts, so we can guess what it feels like to come back to Finland in Friday evening... But it wasn't only the weather why we had sad feelings to come back to home, because we also missed all them who were there with us!

**Tiia Laaksorinne, Sirja Niinimäki, Katja Toppinen from Kiuruveden yläkoulu, Finland**

## The report of the trip to Pisa in Italy: 07.10 – 13.10.2012

*Polish Comenius Team*

*People, like the delicious dish, take "taste" only when all the ingredients are combined together in the right quantity.*

Sunday, 07.10.2012

We started our Italian adventure (Magdalena Malik, Karolina Szyszka, Katarzyna Witek, Sylwia Jędrach, Alexander Panek) on Sunday. We left at 8 by train from Katowice to Wrocław, where we had a flight to Pisa. After the personal revision at the airport we spent some time enjoying delicious cakes.



am

During the flight we were taking a lot of photos of beautiful views. When we arrived in Pisa we were welcomed by Gabriele, one of the teachers, who took us to the hotel. We were positively surprised by the atmosphere and the interior of the hotel. We felt like being in a medieval monastery... Very soon after the arrival we met our southern neighbors - the Slovaks - and we liked them immediately. In the evening we went together to a typical Italian restaurant.

Monday, 08.10.2012

The representatives of other countries - Greece, Finland, the Netherlands, Spain, Romania and Turkey arrived the next day. However, before we met our new colleagues, we had gone to the city centre to see the famous tower (even though it was planned to visit it the following day ;) Curiosity won! Then we were welcomed by our hosts in their modern hotel and catering school where we had a delicious dinner. After eating we went to the beach in Tirrena to catch warm and sunny weather. Not having swimming suits with us did not stop us from taking a dip in the Tyrrhenian Sea. Later we went for ice cream and returned to the hotel. At the end of the day we were invited to the La Vecchia Cascina restaurant.

Tuesday, 09.10.2012

Tuesday began with sightseeing of Pisa. Of course, the main highlight of the day was the Field of Miracles, where there are the Cathedral, the Baptistery and the Leaning Tower. In Camposanto we sheltered from the heavy rain which fortunately didn't last for too long. Walking along narrow and twisting streets of the old town we got to the Saint Stephen's Knights' Square. After visiting Pisa we went to the City Hall for a meeting with the mayor of city where each country was received a banner with the emblem of Pisa. Next we were learnt how to prepare a traditional Italian pizza. Now we know the secret recipe;) And then, of course, we tasted authentic Italian pizza, yummy! There was also live music performed by a school band. This was something especially for us!



Wednesday, 10.10.2012

On Wednesday we went to the workshop of cheese but without our teachers : ( who were very busy at the meeting of coordinators. There we could try the cheese costing "only" 50 Euro per kg. Students of IPSSAR "G.MATTEOTTI" showed us their school. Ah, some of their classrooms such as language laboratory, driving simulator on a scooter, several computer labs with multimedia boards we would like to transfer to our school. We also watched a presentation based on traditional recipes of our countries which had been sent by all our partners. After presentation, with stimulated appetite, we went to the hosts' school to eat lunch with school authorities. On the table there were dishes we had the opportunity to taste for the first time in our life: shrimp, octopus and other seafood which names we don't even know ;) In the afternoon we went for a long walk. We started with Scotto Garden and then we saw the Church of St. Bona and the Church of St. Mary in the Crown of Thorns. In the evening we had a great time at The Wall disco.



Thursday, 11.10.2012

In the morning we were sailing on the river Arno. During the boat trip we were impressed by the scenic views of Pisa. This way we got to the Natural Park "San Rossore" where we admired the beautiful flora and fauna of Tuscany. In the evening we were invited to a spectacular show of folklore. And at the end of the day we had a farewell dinner altogether.

Friday, 12.10.2012

Friday was time to say goodbye. Most of our partners had left in the morning but the others had a chance to go to San Giuliano, a town that is known for its thermal waters. From there we went to a typical Tuscan farm to eat an organic lunch and in the



## MEETING No 5 \*SPAIN\*

The last meeting of our Comenius project was held in Mijas (Malaga) by the Torre Almenarra High School. Things that was made sense in this meeting were the following:

The first is that it was the last meeting of a two year project. We are not going to meet again as a team. We all knew that and we all had a feeling that the Comenius project would finally come to an end. The two year trip around Europe finished but friendships and memories will stay forever in our minds.

Another thing that made this meeting different is that it was in Spain. Spanish people have their own way to give life and energy to things and make people fell comfortable. Paqui and Mario never lost their good mood and they were willing to give advice, tell jokes and speak to everybody. We thank them to the bottom of our hearts and I am sure that they will be unforgettable to all of us. (the students really adored them).

During the meeting we visited a lot of unique sights in Andalusia. Such as the old village of Mijas, the cosmopolitan city of Malaga, the famous fortress of Alhambra in Granada. Also we came in touch with the life of Costa del Sol, with the sunny weather, sandy beaches, fresh seafood, hotels with many facilities and beach activities for everybody. All the above make this place a top touristic destination for the whole of Europe.

Beach activities were organized for students and a hard hiking to the Mijas mountains in order to achieve our ecotourism goal. Spanish local authorities welcomed us warmly at Mijas Town Hall and at the Educational Delegation in Malaga. Students presentations took place at the Torre Almenara High School. We evaluated the whole project during the coordinator's meetings and we all agreed that all the objectives were fulfilled. Paqui – the project coordinator – is responsible to fill in the final report and send it to the others.

All things considered, when something comes to a successful end something else is about to start. This is what makes people's life interesting. We, as teachers must be ready to take chances and try new things for the best of our students.

Panagiotis Greek Team Coordinator





**I**t was tiring! Devoting so much time on this project was exhausting! All those rehearsals, loads of hours spent. Yet, nobody complained. We just kept on working as hard as we could. And you know what? This project exceeded our expectations! I mean we'd always been enthusiastic about it, always looking forward to this trip. But what we encountered there was far beyond our imagination! The trip abroad itself was an unforgettable experience. Meeting all those people from different places of Europe, getting to know them and their culture, exchanging ideas with them... simply priceless! Even if someone went on such a trip on his own, he would have never had the chance to visit a school or talk with students of different nationalities. I believe that I was lucky -maybe even blessed- to be chosen to take part in such a program. I feel wiser now having learnt so much about all those countries participating in the Comenius program. Plus I've made so many friends. I just wish everybody had the opportunity to go on a trip like this cause for me... it was the experience of a lifetime!

Angela Paraskevas, 15 years old

4th Junior High School of Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece



## SPAIN, AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE !!!

Thanks to Comenius Eco-tour 2.0 six students and four teachers went for one week to Spain (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>). This week was perfect.

Everything in Spain was exciting. We visited four towns: Mijas, Malaga, Granada and Marbella. All of them were very beautiful and each one of them was very special. The school we visited was in Mijas which was a beautiful town with a lot of places to visit like the miniature museum. Malaga was the biggest town of them with loads of beautiful places (the Picasso museum and the ancient Roman theatre was just two of them). Granada is famous for an Arabian palace called Alhambra. The palace was huge full of beautiful gardens and towers. Granada was a town with a lot of markets to buy souvenirs for your family and your friends.

Also the people from Spain were very friendly and ready to help us in everything we needed. Through this trip we were able to learn the Spanish culture, to eat the Spanish food and to meet a new country. However I think that the most important is that we made new friends and now we keep in touch with them.

Although there were two disadvantages in our trip. The first one was that travel-

ling was not easy (we needed a lot of planes to go from Greece to Spain and a lot of buses to travel in Spain). The second one was that not everyone in Spain was able to communicate in English.

To sum up I think that the trip to Spain was an amazing experience and if I had the opportunity I would travel to Spain again.



*Syrokostas Konstantinos*  
*Parliaros Vagelis*

