

Forensics And Creative Theatre

KA2 PROJECT

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Erasmus+ Programme
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Changing lives, opening minds



Erasmus+



Bulgarian Pupils' Erasmus+ Experiences





Arcos de la Frontera, Spain

First short-term
exchange
of groups of
pupils
(C1)

9-13 March, 2015



Gabriela Gerenska

- ▶ The Erasmus+ programme gave me the biggest opportunity in my life – to take part in the very first exchange of groups of pupils to Spain, due to the FACT project, co-funded by the EU. I was very excited to go to Spain as it was my first trip abroad.
- ▶ We first visited Madrid. There, we saw the Opera House, the Palace and some beautiful cathedrals. We had some great time visiting Plaza del Sol, the Cervantes monument and many other interesting places.
- ▶ The second day we went to Granada. There we admired the Alambra Complex. We saw the beautiful gardens covered with flowers, beautifully shaped shrubs and fountains, as well as the Palace of Carl V, the Nasserian palaces. In the evening we had the opportunity to visit the modern center of Granada.
- ▶ Then we were in Seville - in my opinion, the most beautiful city of all I had been to. Plaza de Espana and the majestic Seville Cathedral made me particularly impressed. We saw the whole city from the top of the Golden Tower.
- ▶ In the evening we met the students and teachers from the other partner countries and went to Arcos de la Frontera; the city where the hosting families were impatient to take us to their homes.

We stayed in Arcos de la Frontera for 5 unforgettable days. The first day we met the mayor of the city, and visited the local attractions and then we went to Kadis, the center of the province, by boat. We spent some wonderful time in the city and fully enjoyed the glamour of the Atlantic coast.

The next day was the presentation of various dishes from the 7 countries involved in the project. Typical national dishes were prepared by students and teachers. We tried a traditional Turkish soup, Romanian cheese dumplings, Slovak gingerbread, the traditional Italian spaghetti Carbonara, and our hosts prepared Tortilla. We presented the Bulgarian bread "Sun".

We also visited the neighboring city of Jerez de la Frontera, where we had the chance to see one of the largest wineries in the area.

The last day they took us to a lake where we could ride a canoe-kayak and a water-bike. For lunch, parents had prepared a delicious seafood paella.

My hosts were nice and hospitable people, and although they did not know English, nor did I speak Spanish, they were doing their best to make my stay pleasant. And they really did. I became friends with many of the participants from other countries with whom I hope to keep in touch through Facebook.

This might be my very first exchange, but I do not think I could have liked it more! The Spanish cities we visited have beautiful architecture and friendly people. The weather was warm and sunny, which also contributed to our wonderful mood.





Nikolay Tomchev

- ← I came back to Bulgaria with wonderful memories from the FACT project exchange to Spain. That was my first travelling abroad; I had never flown by plane before, neither had I ever expected to enjoy the beauty of Southern Spain on board of a boat! We visited amazing places of interest, and we met interesting people from other nationalities.
- ← The first day we were in Madrid. I was particularly curious to see the orange trees in the streets. We saw the magnificent royal palace with its beautiful gardens. I liked the monument of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. We saw St. Peter's Cathedral, which is an engineering miracle; it has unbelievably beautiful colored glasses through which light comes in contrast with the darkness inside.
- ← On our way to Granada, we passed beautiful rock formations and old windmills. In the city we visited the Arab fortress of Alhambra, where water had been erected in cult. I was impressed by the crafted marble floors and the overall architecture of the complex.

- ▶ The next city was Seville. We were in the "Spain" square, surrounded by a beautiful building at the base of which the typical 17 provinces and their coats were painted. There was a fountain in the square that, besides jets of water, was surrounded by a cloud of tiny droplets and a canal with 3 bridges. There was a beautiful green park around the square.
- ▶ The next five days we were in Arcos de la Frontera. The town is very beautiful, with the tall rocks of cacti and the small whitewashed houses. We traveled by boat to Cadiz and overviewed it through camera obscura; an incredible experience for capturing and playing with light.
- ▶ While in Arkos, I perfected my knowledge of English. I met the children from other countries and I was interested in communicating with them. I especially enjoyed the main activity there – the culinary ‘tournament’. All the participating teams prepared some typical for national dishes. There were also wonderful presentations providing extensive food information about the partners’ national cuisine.
- ▶ Spain is a very beautiful country with nice and hospitable people!



Mihail Dimovski

- ▶ Thanks to the project 'Forensics and Creative Theater' I got to know better the world we live in. I met a great number of foreign peers, who I made friends with. This project gave me the chance to realize that I am also a citizen of Europe, for which I am very grateful.
- ▶ Furthermore, I met new people from different countries, and it gave me the opportunity to learn about the culture mindset objectives of other Europeans.
- ▶ The recent communication with my teachers was also very important to me. This trip expanded my outlooks and gave me memories for a lifetime.
- ▶ I am very thankful to have been given the chance to participate in this amazing project!





Inna Proynova

- ← Thanks to Mrs Dobрева's trust in my personal abilities, I was selected for the first Erasmus+ exchange to Spain, under the school project - "Forensics and Creative Theatre". I had really no patience to become a part of this challenging project because of a number of reasons. I had never flown on a plane before, and I had always wanted to go to Spain not only to get to know its culture and the Spanish people, but also to practice Spanish, which I study as a second language in school.
- ← The first day we spent in Madrid, the capital of Spain. It is an extremely large and beautiful city. We visited many majestic landmarks. The second day was even better. We went to Granada, where we spent more than one day at the Alhambra Palace. It was an unforgettable experience, really. After the breathtaking tour, we walked around the city. On the third day we visited Seville and got on a double decker for a city tour. In the evening, we met students and teachers from other countries and travelled in a nice company to Arcos. When we arrived, our host families were waiting for us excited.
- ← The following mornings, we met at the partner school to participate in the daily program. We did a lot of interesting things. On one of the days, all the students gathered and cooked traditional dishes from their countries. Then, all the taste dishes were put on a big table and everyone enjoyed the culinary masterpieces prepared by participants from seven European countries: Bulgaria, Spain, Greece, Italy, Romania, Turkey and Slovakia. There was also a day when we went to a lake. There, we were invited to a traditional Spanish paella, which was very delicious. We had a relaxing day by the water, having fun with the other students.
- ← Each day in Spain was full of interesting activities: a boat trip to Cadiz, a meeting with the mayor of Arcos, a flamenco evening and a disco. Altogether we visited about ten cities. It was an incredible experience, and I am eager to welcome my new friends to my school in 2017, when we will host the last exchange.





Košice, Slovakia

Second short-term
exchange of groups of
pupils (C2)

4-8 May, 2015



Nevena Dankova

- ← I took part in the FACT Project as a representative of Bulgaria in the second pupil exchange in Slovakia. On the 1st of May we departed from Bulgaria and after a day-long journey we arrived in Vienna. In the morning we had enough time to go around the city and visit a few museums, castles, Stephansdom as well as some famous monuments such as these of Goethe and Mozart. We also had some free time and had the chance to go to a huge shopping centre before we left for Bratislava.
- ← Bratislava itself is astonishingly beautiful and from the castle which we paid a visit to, we were able to see the amazing view of the city located on both sides of the Danube. That afternoon we arrived in Budapest and made a wonderful tour of it since the city is well-known for its stunning appearance at night. On the next day we went to the Fisherman's Bastion in order to have a look at the city from above, to visit the Marzipan Museum and buy some souvenirs. Also, we went for a stroll on one of the most famous streets of Budapest.



- ← I was very satisfied with the reception we were given in Slovakia. We were accommodated at a hotel and had lots of spare time. Thus, we were able to get some rest, unwind from the tiring trip and participate actively in all of the activities on the next days. During the first couple of days we had the opportunity to get to know Košice, its history and the culture of Slovakia. We even took a guided tour of the city. Every group from the partner countries was able to present their projects in front of a large audience, therefore, many of us overcame our fears of public speaking. On the other hand, everyone more or less started using English more freely when socializing with students and teachers from different countries.
- ← Many new acquaintances and friendships were made as well as unforgettable memories. Speaking of which, there was a student disco with games, music, lots of dances and an organized trip to the Tatra Mountains filled with emotions aplenty, too. We also visited one of the six biggest fortresses in Europe and learned a lot about it. Even though it was raining heavily during our hike in the Tatra Mountains, I believe, it was great team building experience.
- ← On Thursday, each group had to present their country through different materials. We all played games, had fun together and enjoyed the pleasant weather. Later we were awarded the certificates of attendance and some students from the Slovakian school took part in the ceremony with songs, dances and other performances.
- ← To conclude, I am well able to say that I managed to acquire more self-esteem regarding giving project and other kinds of presentations and meeting people from different countries. I consider this to be of great importance to my personal development. Moreover, in my opinion, I formed lifelong friendships because keep in touch with my new friends through the social media.



Blagovest Ivanov

- ▶ On the 1st of May 2015, the Bulgarian group from the Foreign Language School consisting of 5 students and 2 teachers set off for Košice, Slovakia, where there was an exchange visit among students from Bulgaria, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Romania, Greece and Slovakia under the project “Forensics and Creative Theatre”. In this exchange the following students: Polina Encheva, Nevena Dankova, Krasimir Genchev, Filip Kandinski and me – Blagovest Ivanov participated. During the first two days we visited Vienna, Budapest and Bratislava. There we were able to enjoy the wonderful architecture and magnificent views.





- On the 3rd of May we arrived in Košice and checked in the hotel. On the next day there was an opening ceremony at High School “Alejova 1”. We made a tour of the whole school which is by no means small. During the next two days the students from all of the countries participating in the project gave their presentations and showcased their skills in different fields, which were extremely diverse and all of them did an amazing job. There was a disco that night with various kinds and styles of music because traditional songs from every country were played. On one of the days we went to the Tatra Mountains, about 150km away from Košice. We paid a visit to the Spiš Castle and hiked in the mountains. The hike itself was rather dynamic because all of a sudden it started pouring and we had to get back to the lift as quickly as possible.
- On the 7th of May we went to a sports centre where each group from the partner countries had to introduce themselves and their achievements and also answer everybody else’s questions. There were entertaining games, traditional dances and songs performed on stage by our hosts as well, who gave the certificates of attendance and small gifts to us at the end of the event.
- This experience will remain in my mind as a lasting memory filled with positive emotions. What is more, it was also an invaluable lesson of both creativity and personal growth as it helped my peers and me to broaden our horizons immensely.



Filip Kandinski

- ← On the 1st of May 2015 a group of representatives of the Foreign Language School in Lovech – 5 students and two teachers, Mrs. Margarita Dobрева and Mr. Toni Hristov, departed for Košice, Slovakia, where an exchange visit among high school students from Bulgaria, Spain, Romania, Greece, Turkey, Italy and Slovakia had been planned under the “Forensics and Creative Theatre” project.
- ← We spent the greater part of the day travelling. Nevertheless, we passed the time chatting and getting to know each other. During the next few days we visited Vienna, Budapest and Bratislava, where we had the incredible opportunity to see authentic architectural masterpieces, to immerse ourselves for a moment in the fast-paced daily lives of the locals and buy small souvenirs. On the 3d of May we arrived in Košice and checked in the Gloria Palace Hotel, which proved to be an excellent choice. There was an enormous mall in close proximity to it, which made us really happy.
- ← The official opening ceremony was held in High School "Alejova 1” on the next day. After a short introduction of the partner schools, we went around the school which is quite large and well-equipped. What impressed me most was the fact that the students studying there enter the building by using keycards and that they have to wear slippers to maintain the place clean. There is a robotics laboratory in the school and the many international prizes of the students speak volumes. In order to show their remarkable achievements they gave a demonstration of robots, which was very interesting to me.



- During the next two days ten-minute presentations of original speeches in English were given and were recorded with a video camera by our hosts. The topics were rather informative and diverse and that is why the audience gave them their full attention. The same night there was a disco which started with music and dances, performed brilliantly by our hosts. After that songs from each of the countries participating in the project were played. It was indeed, an incredible experience which gave us the chance to get to know each other even better.
- On one of the days we made a tour of the city and visited the Spiš Castle, which is the sixth largest castle in the world. We went for a hike in the Tatra Mountains, which was a really pleasant experience but, unfortunately, it started raining heavily so we had to go back to the lift as fast as possible.
- On the 7th day the project activities took place in the open, in a sports facility close to the high school. Each of the six guest teams had to introduce themselves, present their country, school and personal achievements and to answer the other participants' questions. Also, there were entertaining games to make the students enjoy themselves. In addition, our hosts gave a concert which included traditional songs and dances, violin and guitar performances on the open stage and after it finished, they awarded the certificates of attendance and gave some small gifts to us.
- Personally, I will hold many dear memories of my participation in this exchange under "Forensics and Creative Theatre" Project. Besides visiting a great many amazing places, I also had the opportunity to meet peers from other countries and communicate with them in English. I became friends with many of them and I keep in touch with them through social networking sites. The most important thing to me, however, is that I overcame my fear of public speaking. Now I feel more confident in myself and I appreciate the significance of my participation in this international project for my personal growth.



Polina Encheva

- ▶ The student exchange in Slovakia did not only manage to enrich our language capabilities and develop our public speaking skills but also to make us bound together and work as a team. During these nine days, I got acquainted with the culture of the three countries which we visited – Austria, Hungary and Slovakia. For the first couple of days we paid a visit to Vienna, Budapest and Bratislava before arriving in Košice and taking part in the project.
- ▶ The historically rich capital of Austria introduced some world-famous cultural monuments and symbols of Western Europe throughout the centuries to me. We got to see the Hofburg Palace which was home to the most powerful figures in Austrian history and is, at present, the residence of the president, the Twin Museums, the monuments of Mozart and Goethe and the Soviet army as well as Sissy's Palace and the most well-known Vienna square – Stephansplatz.
- ▶ Even though they were once part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Budapest was completely different from Vienna and both countries had as many differences as their capitals did. We spent the night in Peshta in close proximity to the popular Chain Bridge, which was part of our nighttime tour of the city. On the next day, we visited the Fisherman's Bastion, which is an architectural facility of galleries and towers, offering a view of the whole Budapest which I will certainly not forget.
- ▶ My experiences in Slovakia were not so much connected with getting to know its culture as they were with the excitement of communicating with many different people from all over Europe, the participants in this project. Despite our differences, I was able to find a lot of new friends with whom I continue to keep in touch even after the exchange.



Krasimir Genchev

- ▶ My participation in the student exchange visit to Slovakia from 1st to 8th May 2015 gave me the opportunity to get to know my abilities better, to meet new and interesting people from Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Romania and our host students from Gymnazium “Alejova1”, Slovakia.
- ▶ The first day we spent travelling. On the way to Slovakia, we stopped in Vienna, Budapest and Bratislava, where we managed to see a lot of sights and impressive masterpieces of art and architecture and immerse ourselves in the charming atmosphere of these wonderful cities.
- ▶ On the morning of 4th May the official opening of the project meeting was held in the partner school “Alejova1”. After seeing some short presentations given by our host students, we took a tour of the school and met the students from the other countries. We had been divided into four groups of seven in advance and the first group had to give their oral presentations. Everybody did great and spoke English fluently. Although we felt nervous about our own performance, we listened with interest to the others’ oral speeches.
- ▶ In the afternoon we went sightseeing in Kosice, the second biggest city in Slovakia, and learned a lot about its history from our hosts. We visited its historical centre, the State Theatre, Gester House (a Hungarian engineer and one of the architects of the Corinth and Panama Canal) and St Elisabeth Cathedral, which impressed me very much. We climbed one of its towers and saw the city spread out before us like a map as magnificent as the view was.

5th May was the most important day of our stay in Slovakia because the rest of the groups including ours made their oral presentations on different topics. It was of benefit to me due to the fact that I not only heard the other students' opinions on different key issues but also improved my presentation and public speaking skills. It was the first time I had spoken into a microphone. We also planted a tree in the schoolyard and visited the city library, where we learned interesting facts about the Holocaust.

On the next day we toured around Kosice surroundings. In the morning we visited the ruins of Spišský Castle and the town of Levoča and in the afternoon we went to the Tatra Mountains. Although the weather was bad and it rained, we succeeded in reaching the top.

On 7th May, our last day in Kosice, there were presentations on the partner schools and countries after which we had the chance to revelled in our hosts' brilliant performances. Our visit came to an end but nobody wanted to leave Slovakia because we had a great time there.

Taking part in this programme was a memorable experience for me because I saw a lot of places of interest, improved my speaking skills and made many a friendship.







Athens, Greece

Third short-term
exchange of
groups of pupils
(C3)

2-6 November, 2015

Boris Borisov

What did I learn from participating in the Erasmus+ Programme?

When answering this question, I should take into consideration the fact that the process of gaining new skills, and improving the ones I already possessed, had actually started before my participation in the project and visit to Greece. Writing a motivation letter was something new to me but I learned how it should look like, what it should contain and how to convince the coordinator that I am the right one to be chosen and I did learn how to write a successful one by applying for this project. After being accepted, I began to prepare the presentation of our group, which we were going to give in Greece. By doing this, I managed to improve my ability to use computer programs such as Power Point and Microsoft Word.


Right after we arrived in Greece, we had to speak English and we also communicated in English with the students from Italy, Spain, Slovakia and Turkey – the partner countries in this project. In this way, not only did I improve my English speaking skills, but also I learned some words and phrases in Italian, Spanish and Turkish. During our stay in Greece we visited many landmarks, such as the Acropolis of Athens and historical museums, which gave us the chance to get to know ancient and contemporary Greek culture better. However, the most memorable moments of ours were the ones spent with the students from the other countries and with some Bulgarian peers, who have been living in Greece for some years now.

In my opinion, the project was the best opportunity for me to improve my language skills, creativity and the ability to work in a team by coping with different situations. Moreover, I made new friends with people from different countries regardless of their nationalities, races and religions.



Petya Stefanova

- ▶ On 2nd November we departed early from Bulgaria in order to reach Greece in time for dinner. Before crossing the border, we stopped in Rupite and saw Vanga's (a Bulgarian clairvoyant) small adobe house and the water bubbling from the earth outside it, as believed by to have curative powers. We also visited the church built in her honour. After we arrived in Athens, we had dinner with the other groups from the project in a cosy restaurant on one of the main streets of the city. Although we didn't have much time, we managed to get to know each other better and make friends with everybody.
- ▶ On the next day we got up early full of energy and eagerness to meet the other participants in the project in Monastiraki, a beautiful square, which later on became our meeting point. Then we went to First Experimental Greek School. After being warmly welcomed by the headmaster of the school, we were shown the playgrounds. Some of the Greek students made inquiries about the education system in our country and asked me a lot of questions about the methods of teaching at my school, the length of school day and if there was anything I would like to change.
- ▶ Then each team from the partner countries demonstrated a different kind of sport. I performed a dance with balloons because I am a member of the cheerleading squad in Lovech and a classmate of mine showed his Kyokushin Karate skills. At the end of the sports day we played basketball and football. We had dinner at a Bulgarian restaurant because everybody was keen to try some traditional Bulgarian dishes.

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- ▶ On 4th November we all gathered in the Bulgarian Sunday School to give presentations and present videos on sports. We learnt about the favourite sports in the different countries and the games the students and their parents had played while growing up. After the presentations the headmaster of our school, Mr Hitov, gave each one of us a certificate for taking part in the project. Before leaving the school we had the chance to meet some of the Bulgarian students studying there. It turned out that we had mutual friends. It's a small world, isn't it?
 - ▶ The next two days we went sightseeing and got acquainted with the history and culture of ancient and modern Greece. We saw the Acropolis, the Temple of Zeus, Syntagma Square, the Byzantine and Christian Museum and the War Museum. Our trip ended with the Chapel of St George on Lycavittos hill. It was time to go back home so we had to say goodbye, albeit reluctantly, to the other groups.
 - ▶ Thanks to the Erasmus+ Programme I established new friendships with students from other countries, learned about their culture and way of life and got to know a little part of the world outside my country. It was such an enriching experience!



Georgi Nikolov

- ▶ The development of my skills and the acquisition of new ones started with my application for the Erasmus+ project by writing a motivation letter. Never had I written such a letter before and it would undoubtedly serve as valuable experience to me. After being accepted, I started preparing the materials which we needed for our exchange visit to Greece. At this preliminary stage I learnt how to search for and use different sources of information. I also made several presentations and this helped me to improve my skills in Power Point.
- ▶ In Greece, dealing with various problems and different situations, I learnt a lot more. By communicating with students from other countries, I practiced my English skills and started to speak the language more freely. I made friends with some Bulgarian children who live in Athens and study in the Bulgarian School there as well. This gave me the chance to gain a better understanding of life in Greece as a whole, and of theirs in particular.
- ▶ I saw a lot of interesting and fascinating sights and I enriched my cultural knowledge. I learned to give presentations, play some games that the partner countries had shown to us and found out that many of our games are similar to, or even the same as, theirs.
- ▶ In Greece, I learned a lot of things, but the most important one was to communicate with people from different nationalities.



Marinela Milenova

- ▶ On 2nd November, we arrived in Athens and had dinner in the famous Greek restaurant Diodos in the city center, where we met the rest of the groups. It was very interesting and useful to meet peers from different countries with whom we had a lot of interests in common.
- ▶ The next day we all met at Monastiraki Square and went to First Experimental Greek School. There each of the countries participating in the project presented various kinds of sports: martial arts, gymnastics and others, which generated interest among the Greek students. We also played different team games which helped me get to know the other players. In the evening we had dinner with the Turkish team in the Bulgarian restaurant Balkan and had a lot of fun.
- ▶ On Wednesday we visited the "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" Sunday School, where we gave presentations on forgotten games and sports in different countries and were given certificates by the project coordinator Mrs Margarita Dobрева. After that we made friends with some Bulgarian students studying in Athens, which was also very beneficial to me.

On the next day we visited many of the city's sights - the Acropolis, the Temple of Zeus and Syntagma Square, where we were lucky to see changing of the guard at the Parliament. That was such an interesting experience for me. In the evening we met the rest of the groups participating in the project in an Italian restaurant and had dinner together. Unfortunately, our exchange visit came to an end and we had to say goodbye to each other.

On our last day in the capital of Greece we visited the Byzantine and Christian Museum, the War Museum and the chapel of St George on Lycavittos Hill. The rest of the day we spent on the beach, where we had lots of fun.

On the way back to Bulgaria we visited another beautiful Greek city, Thessaloniki. There we saw the White Tower, the Church of St Dimitar of Thessaloniki and had a walk along the Aegean Sea coast.

Visiting Greece was an unforgettable experience for me not only because I saw a lot of ancient and modern landmarks, but also because I met wonderful people, whom, I hope, I will keep in touch with in the future.







Dumbraveni, Romania

Forth short-term
exchange of
groups of pupils
(C4)

16-20 May, 2016

- ▶ To take part in the pupils' exchange to Romania, as one of the mobilities from the FACT project, was one of the best experiences of my life. I truly enjoyed every single moment spent with wonderful friends from the partner countries – Italy, Spain, Romania, Turkey and Slovakia. The educational programme was intense but rewarding. Each international team had prepared presentations on various aspects of violence for the activity “Violence seen through the eyes of children”. We were divided into four transnational teams and took part in a workshop to create collages on the topic of violence. We also wrote anti-violence messages on balloons and distributed them to Romanian pupils.
- ▶ I really had fun during the activity “Dance, don't hit!”; mixed in transnational teams, we learned a Romanian folk dance instructed by our Romanian peers. It was very easy for me since I am a professional dancer. The cultural program was also very informative: we visited the “Ștefan cel Mare” University from Suceava, the Suceava Planetarium and Astronomical Observatory and the Primagra Business Centre. We were also welcomed by the local authorities at the Dumbrăveni Town Hall, and we enjoyed visiting the “Mihai Eminescu” Cultural Centre as well.

Rafael Bizhev



The educational trip in the Bucovina region involved: Cacica (the salt mine and the Catholic church), Marginea Black Pottery Centre, Sucevița Monastery, Palma (the Road Builders Monument), Sadova, Gura Humorului, and the Voroneț Monastery. The time spent at the “Escalada Park” adventure park was really amazing.

The most important experience for me was to be a part of various transnational teams. I was delighted to play the violin with my Turkish friends Ilayda and Edanur. Our performance had been prepared as a surprise by Mrs Margarita Dobрева, the coordinator of this beautiful project, and Mr Emre Tufan – the Turkish music teacher who is a great musician and a person.

My hosts were more than fantastic; they treated me as a member of the family, and Andreaa will always be my very special friend. It was very difficult to say goodbye when we had a farewell party the last night; everyone burst into tears, and it was really touching.

The time I spent with my new friends in Dumbraveni, Romania, will be among my best memories.





Anya Ganeva

- ▶ The greatest experience, which I have had up to this point, is the students' exchange in Romania on which I went between the 14th and 21st of May. The main part of the exchange took place in the beautiful and peaceful village of Dumbraveni in the northern part of Romania. All members of our group as well as the participants from the other countries had a great time, we became friends and the memories of this experience will remain in our hearts forever.
- ▶ On the 14th May we set off for Dumbraveni and did some sightseeing after crossing the boarder. Our first stop was the salt mine of Salina in Slanik , which is considered to be the biggest salt mine in Europe. It dates back to the Middle ages (It is very old, isn't it?), but it does not produce salt any longer and serves as a museum. Our next stop was the castle of count Dracula. Then we went to the city of Brashov, where we stayed in a hotel for the night. On the next day we went sightseeing and saw the Black Church, the largest gothic church in Romania and Strada Sforii, believed to be one of the narrowest streets in Europe.
- ▶ Then we travelled to the beautiful town of Sinaia, where we saw Peles castle, which was the summer residence of the last Romanian royal family in the 20th century . The second castle was that of Romanian princess Maria, who also owned a castle in the town of Balchik in Bulgaria. Then we continued our trip to Dumbraveni and arrived there in the evening.

The next five days we were engaged in different project activities. Anyway, the thing which our group enjoyed most was the dance competition not only because there was a prize, but also because we learnt two traditional Romanian dances, which we surely won't forget. "Dance, don't hit" was special to us because we had put a lot of love and effort in our programme. It wasn't all work, we saw a great many places of interest as well. We visited churches, monasteries, an adventure park and History Museum in Suceava, where we got the feel of Romanian past and realized that it resembled our own.

Our exchange visit came to an end and we had to return to Bulgaria. We had to say goodbye to our host families, very kind, hospitable and friendly people, who took care of us during our stay. Before going back to Bulgaria, we visited Bucharest, the capital of Romania.

I am extremely happy that I was part of the Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership because I met peers from other countries and started friendship with them, I learned a lot about Romania and I undoubtedly improved my language and communication skills.

Thank you, FACT and Erasmus+ for making this possible!



Mikaela Popova

Taking part in the mobility to Romania gave me the chance to travel abroad for the very first time. That was really amazing! Visiting Liceul Tehnologic “Mihail Eminescu” was very interesting and useful to me. We were given a warm welcome by the headmistress of school, who told us about its history, organization and the extra-curricular activities it offers to the students in Dumbraveni.

I represented Bulgaria with a folk song; singing in front of international audience was an unforgettable experience! Although we had a busy schedule, we managed to see a lot of sights, which made a strong impression on us. On 19th May we went on a tour of Bukovina region, where we visited Sucevita Monastery, a salt mine in close proximity to it, and the most entertaining attraction for all the pupils - Escalada adventure park.


Apart from the sights and the students' activities I saw, another thing I consider useful to me was the chance to interact in English. In my opinion, the best way for a person to improve their communication skills and gain learning experience is to go to another country where they can interact with native speakers, or other foreigners.

I left Romania filled with positive emotions and unforgettable memories of the places I visited and the people I met there.



Vyara Stoyanova

- ▶ I want to share with you one of the best experiences in my life so far, my participation in the fourth exchange of groups of pupils of the Erasmus+Strategic Partnership, which took place in Dumbraveni, Romania.
- ▶ We, the Bulgarian team, started our journey on 14th May. We left our town, Lovech, early in the morning and after travelling all day long, we arrived in Brasov where we stayed for the night. Anya, Mikaela, Yana, Rafael and I gathered together and we had a party. They sang and I played the guitar. The next morning we went for a walk in the city and saw one of the narrowest streets in Europe, the Synagogue and the Black Church, of which I took a lot of photos. Then we went to the salt mine In Salenik, where we marvelled at the salt sculptures and enjoyed the fresh air. After that we went to Sinaia and visited one of the oldest castles in Romania. We learned a lot about the castle, bought presents for our families and headed for Suceava. After 5 hours' journey we reached our destination, where our host Romanian families were eagerly awaiting us.
- ▶ The opening of the project meeting in Romania was held in Technological School “Mihai Eminescu” on 16th May. There we met the students and teachers from the partner countries: Romania, Turkey, Slovakia, Spain and Italy. In the afternoon we visited a village with houses dating back to the Middle Ages. Unfortunately, the weather was bad and it rained all day.
- ▶ On 17th May all the teams gave presentations on “Violence”. We all had to speak about verbal violence, violence at school and in the streets and violence against men and women. Then we had to make posters while some of the students participated in an experimental debate.



The next morning we attended classes at the hosting school. I went to a maths class with my host Andreea. After that, there was a tour of the school. We took a look at all the classrooms and learned a lot about the school. In the evening there was a party by a lake near the town. We played football, volleyball, sang and danced. When it got dark, we lit lanterns. It was such a beautiful sight.

The next day we performed in a concert. All the countries had to present their culture through folk dances and music, which was very interesting and entertaining. My team wore traditional Bulgarian clothes. Mikaela and Yana sang a song and Rafael and I danced together. We received certificates for the most resourceful team.

The last day we visited a cathedral, two monasteries and a salt mine. We had lunch in a luxurious restaurant with an amazing view. We finished the day with a barbecue and a big camp fire. We hugged each other and sang "I see fire". Everyone was sad because we had to say goodbye to each other.

In the morning we left Dumbraveni and made our way to Bucharest, where we saw the Parliament. We spent one night there before going back to Bulgaria.

My first foreign language in school is German, so I wasn't very good at English and I was really afraid to talk with other people. But after the week I spent in this beautiful place with these incredible people, I am no longer so shy. As a dancer I have visited many countries in Europe and some of the most famous cities in the world but none of them is so precious to me as Dumbraveni and this unforgettable experience.

Thank you, Erasmus +!



Yana Dimitrova


- ▶ I am extremely happy that I have been part of the fourth exchange of groups of pupils of the FACT project, which took place in Dumbrăveni, Romania from 16th to 20th of May 2016. The members of our team were our teacher and project coordinator – Margarita Dobрева, another teacher – Nadia Hristova and we, the students: Anya, Vyara, Mikaela, Rafael and me, Yana. Now I will tell you about all the wonderful things we did during this unforgettable week of ours.
- ▶ On 14th May we departed from our school to Brasov, where we stayed for the night. The next morning we went for a walk in the city and we saw the Black Church, the narrowest street in Romania and the Synagogue. Then we continued our journey to the salt mine in Salenik. It is enormous and is always full of tourists. In the mine we saw sculptures made of salt and we learned about its history. After that we visited some castles in Sinaia, which are one of the oldest in Romania and learned a lot about Romanian past and people's lives during that period of time. We took many photos and we enjoyed the atmosphere there. We had travelled for about 5 hours until we reached Suceava, where our Romanian host families were waiting for us. We met each other and headed for Dumbrăveni.
- ▶ The official opening of the project was in Technological School “Mihai Eminescu” on 16th of May. The Romanians presented a programme full of songs, dances, short theatrical dramatizations and made a speech of welcome. Then each team – the Turkish, Slovakian, Spanish, Italian, Romanian and Bulgarian - told the others about what had motivated them to take part in Erasmus +.

After having had a delicious meal in a luxurious restaurant, we visited a village with ancient houses.

17th May was the day of our presentations on “Violence”. Each of the groups presented a different form of violence, which we discussed later on. Then some of us participated in an experimental debate and for those like me, who hadn’t taken part in that kind of discussion, it was quite hard. We also had to make posters. After that we went home and had an exciting evening with our host families.

In the morning we got up early because we had to go to school. I attended a Biology class in the 8th grade. A tour of the school, which was very instructive, followed and we learned many things about the Romanian educational system. In the evening our host families threw a party for us on the shore of a nearby lake. We played football, volleyball, games, we sang and danced and of course, took many photos. At dusk we lit lanterns. It was the first time I had done that and the sight of the sky full of lights was really beautiful.





The next day I visited a history class in the 12th grade. The students made me read in Romanian and told me that I was pretty good at it. Then a concert was held. Each team presented their country through folk dances and music. Our team wore traditional Bulgarian clothes. Mikaela and I sang a song; Rafael accompanied us and danced together with Vyara. At the end of the concert we received certificates and presents.

We spent our last day in Romania visiting some of the local sights - two monasteries, a cathedral and a salt mine, in which there was a church, a football pitch and a concert hall. We had lunch in a restaurant with a breath-taking view and finished the day with a barbecue, a camp fire, songs, dances and many tears. We were so sad because that week full of wonderful experiences was just about to end. It was an emotional night for us.

In the morning we said goodbye to our host families and set off. On the way back to Bulgaria we stopped in Suceava and visited a fortress. Our next destination was the capital, Bucharest, where we went for a walk and saw the magnificent Parliament.

It was a pleasure for me to take part in this unforgettable program and meet such nice people. The exchange helped me to improve my English and communication skills. I learned to interact freely with people from different nationalities and I feel more confident now. I was impressed by the perfect organization and our host families' hospitality, kindness and friendliness– they made us feel at home.

I am happy that I had the opportunity to join in the FACT project and the only thing I can say is Thank you!



Soverato, Italy

Fifth short-term
exchange of
groups of pupils
(C5)

3-7 October, 2016



Eva Tsaneva

Our exchange visit to Italy was a unique ten days' experience. The aim of this international meeting was our participation together with the students from the partner countries in the debates. Apart from this, we formed a lot of friendships with peers and teachers from Spain, Turkey, Slovakia, Romania, Italy and our host families as well.

The first two days we spent in the Eternal City of Rome. We visited a lot of tourist attractions - the Vatican City, an independent country inside the city boundaries of Rome, ruled by the Bishop of Rome – the Pope, the Church of St Ignatius and the Pantheon and gained insights into Italian history and rich cultural heritage.



- ▶ The highlight of our trip was the Trivi Fountain, the largest Baroque fountain in the city and one of the most famous fountains in the world. It is called so because Trivium indicates a crossing of three streets. The central figure of the fountain is Neptune and on the left and right hand side of it there are two statues respectively representing Abundance and Health. Tradition has it that you will return to Rome if you throw a coin into the fountain's water basin.
- ▶ Our next place of interest was the Coliseum, which was used for gladiatorial contests and public spectacles such as re-enactments of famous battles and dramas based on Classical mythology. We also saw Piazza di Spagna and its imposing 135-step staircase, from the top of which you can admire the scenic views.
- ▶ After the long journey to Soverato in southern Italy, we reached our final destination and were warmly welcomed by the Italian students and our host families. My hosts were incredible, hospitable and generous people and the time I spent with them was full of laughter and fun.
- ▶ The day of the competition was hectic – many students, teachers and camcorders. Although the participants in the debates felt self-conscious at first, they did pretty well, I daresay, because I was a judge of the debates on Animal Exploitation. I made friends with the members of the group because we had a lot of interest in common and a lot of fun.
- ▶ In this part of the country we visited Silla and Sicily, saw a lot of wondrous sights, got to know each other better and took many photos to capture the moment. We enjoyed some entertaining evenings packed with Latin dances, music and songs.
- ▶ I am very happy because I had the opportunity to spend ten days relishing the company of such nice and friendly students and teachers, to be a judge in the debate competition and to see and experience Italy. Aside from the things I learned, I improved my speaking skills in English. All this happened thanks to the FACT Project. I hope to visit Italy again someday.

To Italy and Back

Alek Simov



Who hasn't dreamed of visiting Italy?! Thanks to the FACT project and the exceptional organizing skills of Mrs Margarita Dobрева, the project coordinator, our small group had the chance not only to see but also to experience the culture of this fascinating country.

We were on the verge of missing our flight to Rome because of a flat tyre. However, we arrived at Sofia airport just on time and that was the only challenge we faced during our ten-day visit to Italy.

Visiting Rome's world famous sights took my breath away. There is no other place on the globe and one I have been to like Rome. I was enthralled by its narrow streets, beautiful houses and small corner shops as well as its landmarks such as the Coliseum and the Trevi Fountain. It was such a memorable experience visiting all of them. During these two days in Rome we managed to see so many things and despite our exhaustion, we were happy because we had enriched our cultural baggage. Maybe our good mood was partly due to the delicious Italian coffee and food we had.

After Rome we headed for Soverato, where my host family was waiting for me. They were such friendly, hospitable and good people and did their utmost to make my stay at their beautiful, clean and tidy home a comfortable one. I was so happy to live with so nice an Italian family even for a short period of time.

On the competition day the friendly atmosphere didn't change despite the competitive spirit of the teams participating in the project. I took part together with two boys - one from Turkey and one from Spain - in a debate on euthanasia and on the reasons why it should be made legal.

Students from Bulgaria, Slovakia, Turkey, Romania, Spain and Italy participated in the debates on different topics and they all did quite well, in my opinion. After this day of hard work, we deserved a rest and because of that our hosts had made an exciting schedule for us. We visited the island of Sicily, the town of Scilla and its beach front and a football tournament as well. During these five unforgettable days in Italy, I improved my English speaking skills, learned a lot of new things and last but not least, I met many people, whom I keep in touch with despite us living in different countries.


Sadly, our exciting adventure was just about to draw to a close. I didn't want to leave this beautiful country, nor did anyone else. But the very thought that we would go back there some day and that we had established lifelong friendships gave us the strength to say goodbye to each other.



Ivo Avgustinov

- ▶ Thanks to the FACT Project, co-funded by the European Union, I was able to embark on the best adventure of my life. I don't regret a thing because I had a wonderful time together with the members of our Bulgarian group there.
- ▶ It all started with our flight to Rome, a city, where there were, as it seemed to me, either Renaissance buildings or ancient ruins dating back to the days of the Roman Empire literally on every corner. We learned interesting facts about Italy, whose land became home to its earliest inhabitants more than 4,000 years ago, and about the Vatican, the place where the pope can absolve people from all their sins at Easter.
- ▶ After having tried some of the most iconic foods in Italy, including the all Bulgarians' favourite – ice-cream, and enjoyed the world famous Italian espresso, we had to say goodbye to this marvellous city and its friendly citizens. Despite being tired, we were very happy because we had seen a lot of sights and widened our cultural horizons.



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- ▶ Early on the next morning, we arrived in Soverato, in South Italy, where we were given a warm welcome by our host families. The family I stayed with were kind and generous to me and they did their best to make me feel comfortable.
 - ▶ The competition day was busy and full of activities. I was a judge and as far I am concerned, the debates were really good and everybody performed well in spite of the fact that they were a little bit nervous in the beginning. Here I met people from different nationalities and cultures and got to know their mindset. I can firmly say that this experience of mine contributed greatly to both my personal growth and development.
 - ▶ The next few days we went sightseeing in southern Italy. We saw many places, which we will never forget, and learned a lot of things. We visited the town of Scilla, which got its name from Greek mythology, and Sicily, the island of Don Corleone – the Godfather, with its stunning architecture.
 - ▶ I will remember my Italian experience forever because I befriended people from different countries, participated in many educational activities and was able to see much of this beautiful country.



Italy – An Experience to Remember

Desislava Beshkova

Italy is a magical country, full of warm-hearted people, delicious food and of course, of centuries old history! After being accepted into the project "Forensics and Creative Theatre" implemented by Erasmus +, I had the unique opportunity to visit this wonderful country! On the evening of 29th, I was in Rome together with some classmates of mine, Mrs Patarinska and the project coordinator, Mrs Margarita Dobрева. Before the official beginning of this mobility, we had two days to spare for visiting the tourist attractions of this must-see city. And since everything went according to plan, we knew that it was going to be a memorable experience.

On our first morning in Rome we were woken by the aroma of Italian espresso and the delicious dishes prepared by the hotel staff. At about 10 o'clock our tour of the city started together with Tanya Stambolieva, a close friend of Mrs Dobрева and a graduate from our school . We are very grateful to her, because if it hadn't been for her, we wouldn't have got the feel of the real magic of Rome. On the first day we saw a lot of sights – the Vatican, the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, Piazza di Spagna, Piazza di Venezia, Monte Sant Angelo Palace and the Church of St Ignatius.



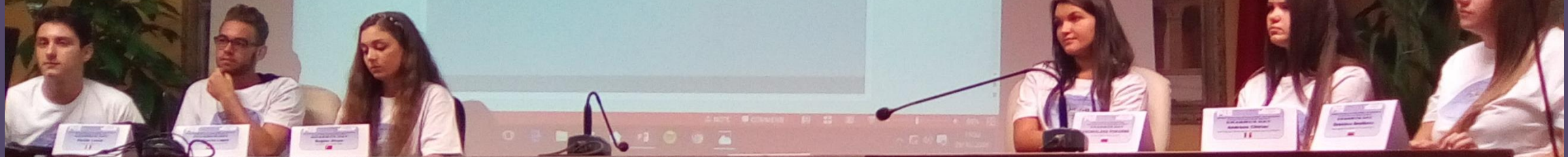
The second day in Rome was my favourite one because I got the chance to visit the Coliseum. It was a dream come true. We walked around the city and saw Piazza Popolo, Piazza Barberini, Villa Borghese and the Four Fountains. In the evening we took a bus to Soverato. Although we were very tired, we were eager to meet our new friends, the participants, in this project.

←Soverato is in Calabria, a region in southern Italy, where our partner school is located and where we spent five unforgettable days taking part in different activities. Once we had arrived, we met our host families and we liked them at first sight. I befriended Antonio, the eldest son in the family, because we had a lot of things in common. In the evening I had home-made Italian pasta for the first time and then we went to Pietragrande – literally “big stone” offering a spectacular mountain view.

←The debates took place during the second day in Soverato. All the students from Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Romania, Italy and my classmates from Bulgaria participated and performed very well in them. Then a talent show was held. I had been chosen in advance to present our home country. I sang one of my favourite songs “At last”, which was later on broadcast by two local television stations.

- ▶ Our host students had planned many activities so on the next days we attended seminars and a football tournament, visited the town of Scilla and the island of Sicily. And with each passing day, we became closer friends despite the different languages we spoke. We learned a lot about each other and even some of us fell in love.
- ▶ Our unforgettable visit to Italy was coming to an end and we had to say goodbye to one another. We were sad but at the same time filled with hope that we would meet again in the near future. Thanks to the participants in this project and our host families I had the experience of a lifetime. Hope to see you soon, friends!

Considerato che in data 08 novembre 2016 è stato firmato, in tal senso, un protocollo d'intesa tra C.O.N.I. e A.N.I.A.D., protocollo da implementare, secondo la volontà dei contraenti, nelle singole Federazioni Sportive. L'ANIAD e il CONI intendono adottare un protocollo di intesa con i seguenti punti:



 **Giovanni Malafarina**
Istituto Tecnico Tecnologico

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

5th Short-Term Exchange of Groups of Pupils
2nd Transnational Forensics Tournament "Speech and Debate"

UNDER THE ERASMUS+KA2 PROJECT "FORENSICS AND CREATIVE THEATRE"

ERASMUS DAY

OCTOBER 5th 2016




Italy – A Dream Come True

Nataliya Nikolova

All myths about Italy have proven to be true – about its food, people, atmosphere and language. Visiting Italy had always been a dream of mine and I was sure that once I went there, I would like to visit it again. That’s why I was very happy to take part in the exchange visit to Italy of the Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership “Forensics and Creative Theatre. The FACT Project gave me the opportunity to fulfill my dream, improve my English and communication skills and get the feel of this beautiful country.

Italy, however, lived up to my expectations. Our teachers Mrs Patarinska and the project coordinator Mrs Dobрева and four classmates of mine – were on a two-day trip in Rome. Although we didn’t have much time, we managed to see the most famous tourist attractions – the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain, Piazza di Spagna Piazza Popolo and the Coliseum, the grandest amphitheatre in the world, used for gladiatorial contests and executions in the past. We had the chance to experience the magic of the Vatican, visit some museums and admire the masterpieces they displayed. While touring around Rome, we stopped to recharge our batteries and had Italian pizza, tasty ice-cream and strong Italian espresso.





These two memorable days had just flown by and we were on the road again. We travelled to Soverato, South Italy, where the project meeting was going to be held. After arriving, we were warmly welcomed by our host families, who took care of us the whole next week.

The next morning the debates took place. We had prepared for them for a long time because we presented not only our school but also our country. My debate topic was about Digital Learning and whether it would replace traditional educational methods. All of the debates were recorded and judged. Students from the six partner countries – Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Romania, Italy and Bulgaria – performed in the debates. Our team did very well and we were proud of ourselves.

These few days were the most wonderful, from my point of view. We visited the beautiful town of Scilla and the island of Sicily and attended educational workshops, a football tournament and participated in different activities encouraging cultural interaction between the groups. We learned a lot about each other and succeeded in overcoming language barriers. Some of us became more fluent in the English language, others learned Italian a little.

It was a fantastic week but all good things eventually come to an end. The day of our departure came and we had to leave this incredible country filled with unforgettable memories, new friendships and skills gained. Tradition has it that you will return to Rome if you throw a coin into the Trevi fountain. That's why with smiles on our faces we said " Arrivederci " to each other , hoping that someday our paths will cross again.





Manisa, Turkey

Sixth short-term
exchange of
groups of pupils
(C6)

27-31 March, 2017


I will never forget my visit to Manisa, Turkey and all of the friendships I made last week. The purpose of the visit was duo performances that were presented by students from each of the six partner countries. All the duos were excellent and they were evaluated by six judges (Mirena Rayanova, Begum Atsan , Kristiyan Marinov, Sevval Ozler Milan Gajtko and Teodor Szabo).

The time spent in Manisa gave us a lot of experience, showed us the Turkish traditions and brought us to amazing new friendships. During the days of our stay, we saw a variety of attractions that we won't be able to ever forget.

The first day of our stay we were welcomed into the school; we visited classes and saw the differences between the school systems in Bulgaria and in Turkey. The school had organized fire training and we saw how to evacuate and what to do if it happens in reality. Students and teachers used a fire extinguisher themselves. It was interesting and unusual for me and impressed me a lot. After that we made a tour in Manisa and we had one of the specialties of the Turkish cuisine. During our tour in the city , we visited such landmarks as Yeni han and the 16th-century hospice and mental hospital. In the evening we had a welcoming party which was also an unforgettable experience.

Simona Ivanova





The other days we saw different places and sights, but I was most impressed by Ephesus and Pamukkale. It was a really amazing opportunity for me as a photographer to take photos of such great places and views. We had guides who explained to us in English during our visits to various attractions. For example, when we were in Ephesus and we were walking on a marble floor the guide told us that because marble is very smooth and slick, ancient Greeks made stripes in the marble to be safe for walking.

On Friday we were in Izmir and we also saw some amazing places but the most interesting thing was that we went by boat to Karşıyaka and that was the best experience for me there.

I'm so happy that I had the opportunity to be part of this project because this project gave me so much. Because of it I saw great places in Turkey, I met amazing students, teachers and parents and I'm so glad that I had the chance to spend a week with those people. This was the best experience in my life and I owe it to you all!



Nikola Stoev

- ▶ It was a great opportunity for me to be a part of the third transnational forensics tournament. During the exchange visit I gained a lot of useful experience that will be fundamental for my social life. I saw a different culture's lifestyle and it was interesting to see it from first person. To be on stage was always fearful for me but after the "Duo" we made with my friend Simona, I feel like being a bit more self-confident in such situations.
- ▶ The trips we made took me to the most beautiful and ancient places I have ever seen.
- ▶ The first day we visited two mosques in Manisa named "Sultan Cami" and "Muradye Cami" which were with interesting architecture from the Ottoman Empire period. The "weeping rock" that seems to be one of the holy places of the ancient Romans and "mevlevihane" with its great history of one completely different religion that was based on peace and patience. The last sight we visited on Monday was the "Yeni Han". It was a great place to see. "Yeni Han" was an important and safe place for traders since it gave them a shelter for few days.
- ▶ On the second day we went to Sardis - the antique capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia and I saw one of the oldest gymnasiums in the whole world. Then we visited the cities called Philadelphia and Laodicea.

- On Thursday we went to the house of Virgin Mary, located on the Nightingale Mount. After the visit we had the chance to choose from a big variety of souvenirs which will remind us of the place. Ephesus was our next destination. It is one of the UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES. The city is famous for the nearby Temple of Artemis.

- On Friday we made a wonderful tour around Izmir and what really caught my attention was the “Asansör” because the view from there was amazing and I could almost see the whole bay. Then we got on board of one tourist ship and the view was pretty amazing. We saw seamews flying around and during the sunset we were floating in the Aegean Sea.

- The places were amazing just as the Turkish cuisine. It was a real pleasure to taste some of the traditional meals of south Turkey. We tried Manisa kebab, chorba and a lot of other sweets and fruits.

- The family I was living with was very kind and I was feeling just like being at home. At the end of our exchange visit I didn't want to go back home because of all the beauty, hospitality and real friends we found there.





Aylin Chausheva

- ▶ The exchange week in Manisa, Turkey, was simply incredible! I still can't believe I am a part of this amazing project...
- ▶ The main purpose of the visit was the duo tournament: 13 duos from 6 countries. I and my twin had a duo. It was something new for me but it was funny and I learned a lot. All the duos were excellent and they were evaluated by six judges.
- ▶ The first day we were in Fatih Anadolu Lisesi (the hosting school). We met all the students participating in the project. They gave us information about how the Turkish educational system works and the difference between the Turkish and the Bulgarian systems. We had the chance to visit the classrooms and it was really funny because most of the students didn't know that I and my twin speak Turkish. I found it ridiculous. After that we tasted the specialty of Manisa - "Manisa kebab".
- ▶ We visited "Yeni Han" and the 16th-century hospice and mental hospital. The welcome party in the evening was fantastic. We danced one of the traditional Turkish dances "Damat halayı". It was a lot fun there. The next day we spent in traveling. We visited the ancient "Sardis" and we saw The Temple of Artemis and the Sardis Synagogue. Then we went to "Hierapolis", where we enjoyed The Temple of Apollo and the Theatre. For me that was an amazing experience because I love everything about Greek mythology and it was really interesting and educational. After this amazing visit we went to "Pamukkale" which means "cotton castle" in Turkish. The view was fascinating. Our last stop was "Laodicea" where we saw ancient temples and amazing colonnated streets.

- ▶ Wednesday was the day of our duo performances. It was so stressing for me because it was my first duo performance ever. But I had a lot of fun; that's what really matters to me. After the tournament there were some musical performances. With their amazing voices, Mirena Raynova and Begüm Atsan made my day. In the evening we saw the traditional "Henna night". Our friends Mirena (from Bulgaria) and Viktor (from Italy) were the bride and the groom. They had to wear traditional Turkish costumes.
- ▶ On Thursday we visited one of the most known destinations in Turkey - Ephesus. The ruins of Ephesus are a favorite local and international tourist attraction. "The Library of Celsus", " the terrace houses" and The Temple of Artemis were really beautiful. We went to Şirince, Kuşadası and Selçuk too. In Şirince we tasted the local fruit wine and the delicious Turkish cuisine again. Friday - our last day in Turkey - we went to the school hall to start with the certification ceremony. After that we went to Izmir to see The Clock tower, Tarihi Asansör (a historical elevator) and we went by boat to Karşıyaka.
- ▶ I'd like to thank all the students participating in the project, the hosting school, the teachers and the families. Thank you Ms Ayşe Nur Canuyar, Mr Emre Tufan, Mr Ziya Çiçek, but most of all, Mrs Margarita Dobрева! I'm so happy because I had the chance to visit Manisa, meet new people, make friends and be a part of this beautiful project. I won't forget our anthem, our songs, all the students. They are my family now. I love them so much and, of course, we will visit Manisa soon.
- ▶ Thank you Erasmus+! Thank you, dear teachers, from the FACT project!



Selin Chausheva

- ▶ Last week we had unforgettable moments in Manisa, Turkey. We were in this beautiful country for 6 amazing days. The purpose of this visit was the duo tournament, with a total of 13 duos presented by students from each of the six partner countries. I and my twin had a duo. It made me feel conscious because it was the first time I was doing something like that. There were 6 judges, who, by the way, struggled choosing between the 12 other duos that had participated in the contest. Overall, everything was very entertaining for us; we learned so many new things from that experience. Not only that we learned something new; the foreigners also did learn a lot about the Bulgarian lifestyle and culture.
- ▶ While we were there, we went to see so many beautiful places and we had the chance to get to know the Turkish culture, although it is not unknown for me, because I am of Turkish origins. Although I knew pretty much about their culture, it was still very interesting and most importantly - educational. On the first day that we spent there, we met the other contestants from the project. They were all from 5 different countries. We also took a tour around the school that was hosting the project. They gave us information of how the educational system works there and we even got the chance to have a class in that school. Then, we spent the majority of the time going around the city and we ate the "Manisa Kebab" which is the special meal in this city. We also saw the wonderful Yeni Han. We spent Tuesday (the second day of our trip) mostly travelling, about 8 tiring hours, but it was worth it because at the end of it, we arrived to the old city of Sardis. There we saw "The Temple of Apollo" and the antique theatre. We were amazed by it; we did like it a lot. Then we went to "Pamukkale" which means "cotton castle" in Turkish. That place was amazing and the view was fascinating! We then stopped at "Laodicea".

On Wednesday we were in school because it was time to present our duos. Some of the contestants had even prepared dancing and singing and most surprisingly - magic tricks! While I was waiting for my turn, I felt so anxious of whether I will succeed or fail. Success doesn't mean "win" to me; it simply means "don't mess up your performance". Those couple of hours of waiting were full of worries and nail biting, but I had to get myself together and do it!

That same night they had " Henna night ". They chose a bride and a groom. We had Mirena from Bulgaria as the bride and Victor from Italy as the groom. They were both confused and had no idea what to do which made it ten times funnier for us.

On Thursday we visited Ephesus, Selçuk, Kuşadası and Şirince. These are the most popular places to visit in Turkey! There were so many tourists there, from all around the world! We visited the library of Celsus, "The Temple of Artemis and "The Temple of Medusa". We, then, went to a nearby town that although small, was in fact very popular with its wine. We had a walk there and we ate delicious Turkish food again.

Friday was our last day there. It was also the day with the ceremony of giving out the certificates. In the afternoon we visited the beautiful Izmir. We saw the clock tower, Tarihi Asansör (a historical elevator). We went to Karşıyaka by a ferry and then we went back to Manisa.

Saturday morning was the hardest! Everyone got so attached that they didn't want to leave. The emotions were coming to me like a huge waterfall, which then got stuck to my eyes, because I cried a lot. Despite all the tears and emotions, I am happy that I had that experience. I met so many new lovely people and I visited fascinating places! Being part of this project makes me a part of a new family! It has given us the chance to acquire so many new skills and competences! I am deeply thankful to the FACT project and the Erasmus + programme!

I really appreciate Mrs Margarita Dobрева's devotion to this project, as well as all the foreign teachers' efforts to give us the chance to visit this beautiful country and those amazing people!



Kristiyan Marinov

- ▶ The week in which we were in Manisa, was a week I won't forget . I`m glad to be part of this project. The main purpose of this visit in that magnificent country was duo tournament .
- ▶ There were 13 duos represented by students from all the countries which are participants in this amazing project. 6 students including me had been selected in advance to take the role of judges. Believe me, judging wasn't an easy task to accomplishe but my friends and I made it look easy . This visit gave us experience we couldn't receive in any other programme, or exchange of students. We learned a lot about Turkish traditions and about their delicious cuisine. All in all, we had the vital opportunity to look closely in the Turkish educational system.
- ▶ The first day of our week-length journey in magnificent Manisa started with meeting all the students and teachers participating in the project. After the welcome ceremony from the hosting school, and a presentation about the Turkish educational system, we had the opportunity to attend classes. We could clearly see the difference between the systems in Bulgaria and Turkey. It was strange that students can choose what they want to study in middle school. After that we ate the local specialty Manisa Kebab at Yeni han, which was built in 16th century. In the evening we had unforgettable welcome party which made our friendship stronger.

The following day was a whole day trip. We visited the ancient city Sardis to see the Temple of Artemis and the Sardis Sinagogue. After lunch we went to Hierapolis where we saw the Temple of Apollo and an ancient theatre. In Pamukale, which is famous for its mineral waters and astonishing view. An unpleasant incident happened with my phone but I overcame it with a blink of an eye. Our last stop for the day was at Laodicea.

The third day Wednesday was the day we gathered for – our duo tournament, began and I was fascinated about it. Judging was a new thing to me but I think all of us judges managed to do with a swing of an hand. All the duos were interesting, informative and entertaining. At the evening the hosting school presented a traditional Turkish wedding called Henna night.

On Thursday we another whole day trip in which we saw some of the most beautiful destinations in Turkey – Ephesus, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, Selcuk, Kusadasi and Sirince. I got speechless of the ancient ruins in Ephesus. In Sirince we visited the famous, wine house where we tasted local fruit wine.

Our last day started with a certification ceremony in the school conference hall. After that we spent the rest of the day in Izmir, where we enjoyed the view from Turih Asansor. We visited the famous Izmir market and finally we saw the famous clock tower.

Last but not least, I'm so happy that I was part of this project thanks to our teacher – Mrs Margarita Dobрева. I have met amazing students, teachers and parents. I'm so glad to have the opportunity to see such historical places. This project gave me experience that will be for a life-time.



Mirena Rayanova

- ▶ Our week-long stay in Manisa, Turkey was a truly amazing and unforgettable experience for me. The main purpose of this visit was the duo tournament, with a total of 13 duos presented by students from each of the six partner countries. Six preselected pupils, including me, were in the role of judges and had the difficult task to decide what award each duo should receive. All in all, the time spent during this mobility gave us a lot of experiences: the exchange brought us together with great people from different countries who will remain our friends after the project ends; it offered us the chance to know the Turkish culture closely and to visit two of the Seven wonders of the World, as well as many more sights.
- ▶ The first day of our adventure in Turkey started with meeting all the students participating in the project, and a tour of the hosting school. After the warm welcome from the hosts and the presentations of the school and the school system in Turkey, we had the opportunity to visit classes. Hereby we could see the differences between the school system in Bulgaria and in Turkey. I was impressed to find out that each classroom has interactive whiteboard and that the students are able to choose whether they want to study at a general education middle school. After that we tasted the local specialty “Manisa Kebab” and we visited landmarks in Manisa such as Yeni han and the 16th- century hospice and mental hospital. Thanks to the welcome party in the evening we had a lot of fun together.
- ▶ We spent the whole next day in travelling. We visited the ancient city of Sardis to see The Temple of Artemis and The Sardis Synagogue. Then we went to Hierapolis, where we could enjoy The Temple of Apollo and an ancient Theatre. In Pamukkale, which means “cotton castle” in Turkish, we were fascinated with the view. Our last stop was in Laodicea, where we saw amazing ancient temples, baths and colonnaded streets.



Wednesday was the day of our duo and musical performances. Being a judge was new to me but it gave me a lot of experience for the future. All the students did a great job with their tasks and it was very difficult for the judges to decide who was the best one. The musical, dance and magic performances were more than great and everybody enjoyed them. The most interesting part of my stay in Turkey was the Henna night. I was in the role of the bride and had the chance to know closely the wedding traditions there. I and my 'groom' – Viktor from Italy - had to wear Turkish traditional wedding clothes and to perform rituals typical for the country. After the rites we danced Turkish dances and had a lot of fun.

On Thursday we visited some of the most popular destinations in Turkey - Ephesus, Selçuk, Kuşadası and Şirince. The ruins of Ephesus are a favorite international and local tourist attraction. The Library of Celsus, the "terrace houses" and The Temple of Artemis were only a little part of the beauty that we saw there. In the village of Şirince we enjoyed the Turkish cuisine in a traditional restaurant and we tasted local fruit wine.

Our last day started with certification ceremony in the school hall, attended by official guests. After that we went to Izmir, where we saw a lot of places of interest. We visited The clock tower, Tarihi Asansor (a historical elevator) and we went by boat to Karşıyaka (a district of Izmir province). I'm so happy that I had the opportunity to spend a week, surrounded by such amazing, kind and smart students, teachers and parents; to see so many great places in Turkey; to get closer to the Turkish customs and to be part of them. I am extremely thankful to the FACT project, and Erasmus+ programme, for giving me the chance to enjoy this unforgettable experience!

Last but not least, I will definitely visit my new friends from Turkey in the near future.







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