

Wednesday,
25 January,
2023

Mobility in Italy

SW-ITA-LUX

ITALUX ltd.
Charlotte and Benedikt

Day 1

Hades' dance

The students from Luxembourg arrived at the dim-lit, foggy airport. The atmosphere of excitement had turned into panic, as they realized the grave error they have made. ITALY! The hounds of the underworld were zooming across the horizon. After stepping foot into the fragile, human construction on which hundreds of lives depended on. The pilot was a mere husk of a man and his bone-chilling aura froze even the hot sweat on the students rounded backs. The vessel rattled uncontrollably as the silence of anxiety entered their hearts. And then it flew.

The next few hours were a mere haze as if they were under a spell. The only memory that exists, is of a cloaked figure walking...away.



Picture taken at Luxembourg's Findel; the Luxembourgish delegation on their way to Italy

Kaja and Tim

Day 2



Workshops

We arrived at Liceo Monti, excited to meet everybody participating in the Erasmus+ project. After a brief introduction by the Italian teachers, we had the opportunity to summarize our attitude towards the following days in a few words. Thereafter, we were asked to sit in groups and think about the distinction between the terms *difference* and *variation*. We came to the conclusion that even very diverse cultures can have some common ground. Symbolically speaking, they are all like various branches of the same tree. Differences, as opposed to variations make cultures that don't come from a common starting point unique and special. We also had to design posters, on which we put expressions or words that mean a lot to our nations. This task was extremely thought-provoking and led to lots of interesting, passionate conversations.

Then, we were confronted with poetry. The teachers gave us a poem about diversity and told us to add another stanza. This really brought out the creativity in all the students and allowed us to show our perspective. At 12, we went to a restaurant near the school for lunch. Since there was a big variety of options, everybody was satisfied and happy. After that, we walked to Chieri together. There, the Italian students guided us through the city and gave us explanations concerning the eldest and most meaningful buildings. In the center of the city, we were welcomed by the city council, including the mayor. They were all very friendly and the mayor seemed to have put a lot of work into his speech.

Elisa and Mattia

Alla Italiana

Everybody involved

As true Italian students, we couldn't miss the refreshing aperitivo with our friends. Therefore, at the end of the visit with the town mayor, we gathered at the popular "Caffè Letterario" taking up half of the tables. We spent the beautiful afternoon together laughing and sipping our drinks.

Luxembourg Speaks

Population of Luxembourg

"The food is good, the churches pretty, the coffee strong and the people nice."

Sweden Speaks

Malte Thoern, from Sweden

"Italy is the best country in the world. I mean look at the food, the culture, the landscapes, the fruits, the drinks and the churches. Italy is amazing."

Federico and Fabio

Day 3

We departed from school and during our trip to the Sacra di San Michele in the Susa valley, we witnessed a suspenseful ride on the roads through the mountains. Then we arrived in the Susa valley where we found our tour guide Alessio. Starting the guided tour, we went straight to the Sacra where the guide told us some interesting information about the church itself, like the fact that it was the center of Benedictine spirituality from the 12th until the 15th century in Italy. On our walk back to the bus we came across a sweet little market stands that gave out free food specialties of the “Piemonte region”

which were made with nuts. We had a guided tour through the most beautiful spots in the church and then we went on a balcony which had a magnificent view of the landscapes of the region and the mountains around the Sacra di San Michele. In the afternoon we went to the city centre of Susa, the guide told us the story of “Via Francigena”. The guide also showed us the amphitheater of Susa, which is the smallest “Colosseum” in the entire world.

Lena and Carlotta sang a song to demonstrate the echoes in the arena. It really did sound fascinating even without using any microphones.

In the evening we came back to school by bus, and we were all very tired because of the long and exhausting walk. Val di Susa and in particular San Michele were very interesting and especially because none of us knew their story before.



Ilaria and Elena

Day 4

We met at the train station very early and we went to Torino Porta Susa where we got on the Subway and we saw the beautiful construction of Porta Nuova.

We toured the city and saw some of the most famous sights of Turin including monuments, the beautiful architecture and heirlooms of the Savoy Family.

Both the Swedes and the Luxembourgers discovered this historic centre of *Art and Architecture* for the first time, whereas the Italians discovered the city in a different light.

For lunch we had a traditional, Italian risotto, which was delicious.

After lunch, we went to the cinema museum in the Mole Antonelliana where we discovered the history of cinema from the very beginning until today. We played some perspectives’ games and learnt some of the tricks and mechanisms of early cinematography.

We were guided through different rooms, all of which representing various genres of film-making.

At the end of our tour, everybody was tired, so it was amazing being able to relax in the armchairs they had.



Matilde and Isabelle

Day 5

On the last day of the ERASMUS+ project, we finally had to prepare the much-anticipated debate. The rules of a debate are simple: two groups divided into proposition and opposition, have to discuss a certain topic. The two motions were “Europeans museums should return cultural artifacts to their country of origin.” and “Migrants should adapt to the culture and values of the receiving countries.”. The speakers had to present their arguments in a compelling way to impress the judges. During these lively discussions, we were able to bring new and different opinions to the table and step out of our comfort zone. After the debates, we shortly presented the ERASMUS+ project in different classes.

In the afternoon, we visited the Martini factory in Pessione. The guide talked about the origin story of Martini and explained how wine was made and sold in the ancient world. We learnt a lot about the founders of Martini, the publicity methods the brand used and how it has changed then compared to today.

Benedikt and Charlotte

Day 6

The sky was a warm rosy. A light, refreshing sizzle was falling from the sky. The drops looked like liquid gold, elegantly dropping to the shining earth, nurturing life in every beautiful from it took. The birds were harmoniously dancing and chirping the plethora of colors tasted and heard. Even the mountains were melodiously whistling as the fauna was peacefully walking. The ground rolling beneath their feet. There was no place they should be but here.

The students said their hearty goodbye’s with the host family, who in the span of a week, really did become family. A deep melancholy took hold of them as they recounted their adventures and cried in each other’s arms.

At the end of the discovery tour, they showed us the huge storage room. Unfortunately, no samples were given to the students, so we had to settle for some ananas juice. However, looking at the glass half full (pun intended), it was an interesting and enjoyable experience.

We left the factory in suspense of the party in the evening.

Everyone could finally put on their best clothes, carefully placed in the suitcase and never used, to have one last night together, hopefully the best one in our amazing, but short journey. So, between a dance to “Dancing Queen” and the rest of the ABBA discography, a bite of delicious Italian food and Kahoot quizzes full of twists, our adventure was coming to an end. Even in the bittersweetness of it all, we danced and danced and sang broken English until the very end. We would’ve had to say goodbye on Friday anyway.

Finally, the hour came. The tears that came were not ones of sorrow, but ones of gratitude and appreciation. There was a sense of understanding that what was had in those short few days was not over but continued in their hearts.

That was the depth of the strength of the bond which they had formed, galvanized by memories of joy and the absolute gratitude felt by the students for one another.

They walked onto the bus with the comfort of knowing they would see each other again in a couple months. The flight came and the sky was a soft blue. The last glimpse of the bright, red sun was felt at take-off. But hope was there. As they knew, that when the sun sets, it must rise.



