

COMENIUS MEETING IN ITALY

Cagliari: 8th April - 15th April 2011

In the following text you will be informed about a Comenius-sponsored trip to Cagliari(ITA) that took place from 8th April and lasted until 15th April. So let's begin!

The trip began at 10 A.M. on the 18th of April. All of us met in front of our beloved school and said goodbye to our families. *Suddenly*, after 5-7 hours of bus-travelling we arrived to Trieste. Then, our fun began or at least we thought so. Trieste wasn't as entertaining as we thought it would be, so most of us were anticipating Cagliari more than ever. After a few hours of sight-seeing we finally arrived at the airport. It was a new experience for most of us. After an hour and a half of airport stuff we finally got on the plane. It wasn't a usual 747 from the movies, instead, it was a regular 737 type that travels on short distances. Everything seemed „not too good compared to what will happen“ . After an hour of casual, comfortable flight we arrived in Cagliari - after weeks and weeks of anticipation. It was a feeling I will never forget!

We all separated and went home with our new host families. That was a completely new experience for me, and, I'm sure, for my friends too. Now, I don't know much about their experiences, but I know about mine. So, my host-

family was a genuine italian family: Father works all the time (He's not a member of the mafia !), mother cooks astounding food, and the children respect their father and love their mother. Such a great harmony, isn't it? Anyhow, the first day was filled with odd moments and awkward silence. But that's how it usually is. On Sunday, they organised a trip to the beach. A sandy beach - it was like being on Hawaii - perfect! And the ladies.. well I shouldn't be writing about that, you probably know about Italian women 😊 . With Monday came the working part of our project. As custom, the hosting country presents the main theme of that part of the project. We were also introduced to the evolution of ICT in the past two decades. After that we all went to the City hall built in amazing neo-Gothicistic architecture style. That was followed up with a sight-seeing trip to the Castello - the old distric of Cagliari. Tuesday began like any other day-we were hanging out and playing table football in their caffeteria while waiting for the professors to arrive. Tuesday's subject was presenting the hosting country. We were entertained by the combination of sounds of famous italian songs (including Eros Ramazotti) and images of Italian landscape. That was followed by screening the interviews from each of the partner countries. After that we went on a field trip to Cape s. Elia - land of the oldest nation on the island of Sardinia - the Nuraghi. It was pretty good I must say, the view from the top of the hill was beautiful - a view that went on into the

horizon. Wednesday was the last project day - after short presentations about regional festivals, we all went into classrooms with our hosts. I must say that our school system is more difficult than theirs. My host had an Italian essay to write and it lasted for 3 school hours. „Why?“, I asked him. „Because we are slow“, he replied. If only it was that simple in our school!

So, after the classroom fun, we went to visit the ancient Roman village called Nora. Now I'm not going to lie here, that was pretty boring because the guide didn't speak English too well and no one was interested in what she had to say. Oh, and on Wednesday night was the big 'party'. You have probably noticed that I haven't mentioned any parties going on- it's because this is a formal article. For that kind of information you should see me personally. Anyhow, the Italians can organise a great party, but they don't know how to party. After 2-3 hours everyone goes home - such a disappointment. So, Thursday was the final day. We went to see two sights - the Nuraghi Tower and the Jara landscape. The Jara landscapes is like our ordinary nature park but with a special horse breed and a lake filled with leeches. And the Nuraghi tower is an ancient, and I really mean ancient building built by the Nuraghi people one thousand and five hundred years ago. It was a really great thing to see - like visiting the pyramids. With Friday came the sad, goodbye-kind-of day. We all bought souvenirs for our friends/family and just sat on the main square doing nothing

- simply *chillin'* in the sun (or shade) and resting. Life is hard. Soon after that we went to our homes and slowly packed our bags and said goodbye to our host families. For me it was more of a 'See you later' because I have made a promise that I have to return to Cagliari one day. 15 minutes later we were all at the airport taking photos and exchanging hugs and farewells. It was pretty emotional, but hey, that's just how separations work.

An hour and a half later we were already in Trieste. Everyone was quiet and sad because we left one of the most beautiful places in the world. We got back into our bus and headed back home. A couple of hours later we were back with our loved ones. Personally, I must say that this trip has made a huge influence on me. I have even felt like I was in Hollywood! The whole journey was a great experience that WE will never forget. And most of us hope to do it again some day - it would be a dream come true. Again!

Dominik Perković, 3.g

