

## Diary of project Erasmus+

### Sunday, 8th November

On Sunday 8th November I woke up at 2 o'clock in the morning, I was super excited, the reason for that was very special, I was going on an exchange to Sicily. We gathered in front of the school at 3 o'clock in the morning and headed to the airport in Trieste. During the ride I was very quiet because I was tired and the domination of the gentler gender was completely overpowering. At the airport in Trieste we boarded the plane to Rome. It was my first time flying by an airplane but I wasn't nervous at all. We flew to Rome after about 45 minutes. After we landed we had an hour till our next flight which was to Catania. The flight to Catania passed quickly because me being me I took a nap because I was exhausted from the trip. After we landed in Catania and got our luggage the host families gave us a very warm welcome. Already at the airport I noticed that Italians are very warm people who like to hug and kiss at every given chance and also take advantage of every single minute that they have together to chat. When they finished saying goodbye to one another we headed home. When we were driving I noticed their driving style and let's just say that in the morning if you're not Italian you don't need any caffeine. Oh did I mention that they don't use seatbelts? Finally we arrived to their home, my host family lives in a flat in fact almost everyone in Catania lives in a flat. Luckily their apartment was on the ground floor so I didn't have to carry my luggage up the stairs. The apartment was quite spacious. The first thing that I noticed was that they walk in shoes inside. For lunch we had lasagne which I personally really like. They usually have pasta as an appetizer so there were more courses to follow, we also had fries and pork. After lunch we were supposed to meet with families of Ema, Katarina and Agnes but I was tired and fell asleep and so our meeting was delayed. When I woke up we got ready and headed to Taormina which is a town on a hill that divides Catania and Messina. When we arrived we met Ema's, Katarina's and Agnes's families. We took a tour of Taormina and the place is absolutely gorgeous. Once we finished the tour we had Pizza and then went home to have some well earned sleep.





### **Monday, 9th November**

Monday was the first day with the rest of the students on the exchange. We got up at 7 o' clock in the morning and it wasn't as painful as waking up at home because I was very excited. We changed and then we went to school, I have completely woken up in the car as I said earlier in the morning you don't need any caffeine. We arrived at the school and surprisingly me and fellow students were 'the main attraction'. The classes started and we had to go to a special classroom kind of room where we got special name tags with our names and nationalities. After that we headed to the train station, we took the train to the subway station and the subway to the city centre. In city centre we saw a beautiful park and in the park there was a gorgeous view at the volcano Etna. Italians are very religious people, which shows in the amount of churches that are situated in the city, one was even turned into a museum. We had lunch in a restaurant called Ostello. There were three courses, for appetizer was pasta with pistachio which looked a bit weird so I was a little sceptic but when I tried it and it tasted so good that I can't even describe. The main course were fries and beef with cheese on top which tasted average, I think the meat is way better in Slovenia. For desert we had brownies with hazelnuts. When we finished lunch we headed to the train station, on the way there we saw Romanian thermal spas and



also a castle which used to be on the coast but now it's 1,5 kilometers from it. When we reached the train station the course back was the same just you know in reverse order. I thought when we arrived back to school we were going home, but nooooo, there was the school orchestra practise and my host plays the trumpet and I had to stay. The orchestra wasn't bad and time flew by. Finally it was time to go home, I spent the rest of the evening with host family.



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### **Tuesday, 10th November**

Tuesday was the most boring day at the school at least for me. When I and my host student arrived to the school, everybody was around me and asking questions but the interesting part was that they actually learned them in English. The bell went off and we went into the classroom. The presentations were on, and we were the first to present our school and our town. All of the presentations were interesting but when Italian students started to present it started to get boring, I mean two presentations were ok and then it started to repeat. Next we visited the school with the students from lower grades. They welcomed us with a few songs. We went back to school from which we came from. We had some free time so our host students showed us some classrooms but we didn't see what lessons really look like because we were the center of attention. Then we had lunch prepared by host parents. There were a lot of different dishes but of course mainly pizza and pasta. After we ate all we could we just sat and talked but we got bored and went to the sports hall which is really small and unequipped compared to ours here in Žiri. In sports hall almost everyone was playing football and since I train it I joined. It was fun and time flew by and we had to go home. When we came home I immediately showered because I was really sweaty. In the evening it was time for bowling. At the bowling alley we took bowling shoes and got in teams and well bowled. I wasn't any good because I haven't bowled for a long time but that's not an excuse, still I lost with style. After we finished bowling we had to eat, there was a dining place in the bowling alley where we had pizza and they even got us a cake. Soon it was time to go home, I was prepared but my host family wasn't, they were still chatting with other parents but after some time we went home.

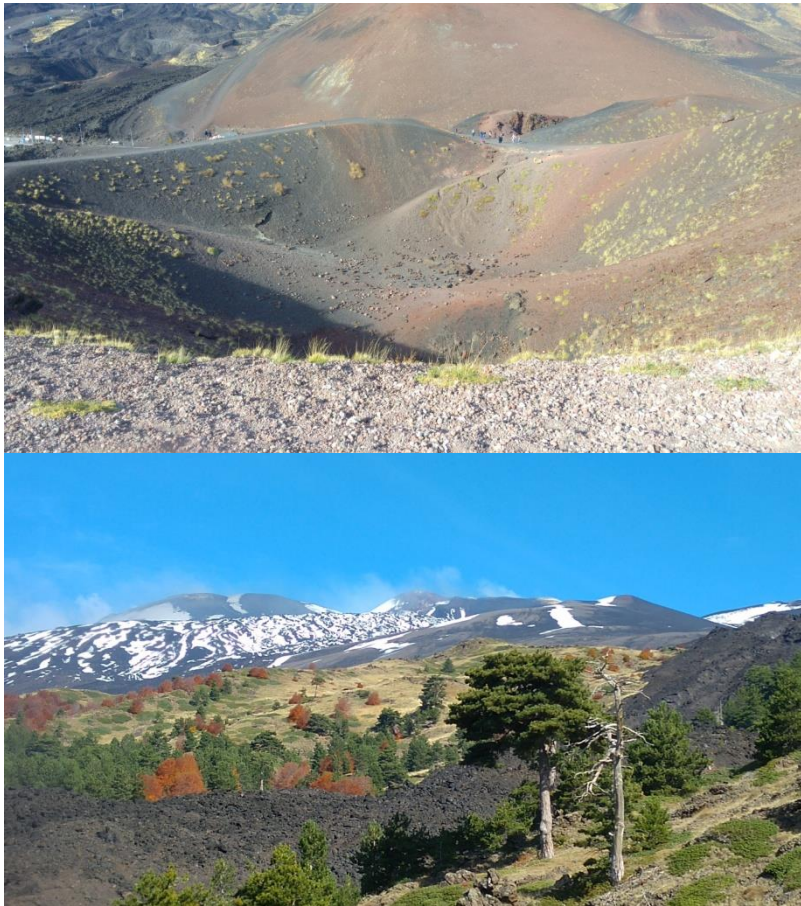
### **Wednesday, 11th November**

Wednesday was finally here, I couldn't wait anymore because it was time for a trip to the volcano Etna. We gathered at the school where the bus came to pick us up, the ride wasn't boring at all, I had music and beautiful landscape of Sicily to shorten the time. We finally arrived to the entrance of Etna national park where we split in two groups, one with Italian students and one with exchange students. The guide took us on a tour around the national park of Etna, it was absolutely beautiful. The route that took us around Etna offered some magnificent views. We also saw remains from an eruption which happened in 2004. The route finished and the bus took us even higher to a crater on approximately 1600 meters above the sea level. We had our packed lunch there and then we took a look around and took some (a lot of) beautiful pictures. Soon it was time to go to honey production

farm. At the farm the guide released a few bees but it was enough to make me nervous because of my severe reaction to bee stings. She took us inside where we saw the honey treatment process and their products. It was time to go back to school, the drive flew by this time too. When we were saying goodbye I found out that we were going shopping. We went home, got ready and then drove to the shopping centre. Where I met a German student who is called Robin. At first we were in GameStop and we of course talked about video games, but then we had to go because it was closing. We went to McDonald's where Robin and I talked about the differences between Slovenia and Germany. The two countries are in some ways very much alike but in some very different. The day had to come to an end and we said goodbye and went home. Down bellow you can check out the beautiful view at Etna







### **Thursday, 12th November**

Thursday was another day on the road. We again gathered at the school and then the bus took us to a paper industry, at least the schedule said it was a paper industry at the end it was actually diaper factory. First we watched a video presentation and then the head of advertising did a little bit of an overkill on the explaining of the way that the company works. After the presentation we took a tour of the production. The first stop was The Lab, as they say, where we saw the chemistry part of diaper industry, wow I actually thought that I would never have to use that combination of words in a sentence. Second and final stop was the actual production of the diapers. The place was very loud but what would you expect from a hall full of machines. After the tour the bus took us to an oil production farm. Oil production farm was quite interesting. I knew how olive oil is produced but seeing the process with your own eyes makes it even more interesting. The bus then took us to culinary school where we had our lunch which was very fancy. Students of culinary were also on some kind of test you could see it in their eyes, they were nervous and after every mistake they looked worried. As I said the lunch was very fancy, It had 4 courses. For appetizer it was, well I don't really know but it looked cool and tasted very good. The second course was rice which tasted good having in mind that I usually don't eat rice. The third course was good but I only recognized meat but in my defence the menu was in Italian and the presenter talked very quietly. The dessert was good, it consisted of apples, an orange, ice-cream and chocolate topping. When we finished eating we went outside and waited for the teachers. The ride back to school was again dominated by beautiful view on the landscape of Catania. In the evening we went shopping again where I talked with Robin and Lisa, the German students. We went home surprisingly quickly, the reason for that was that some of the students were

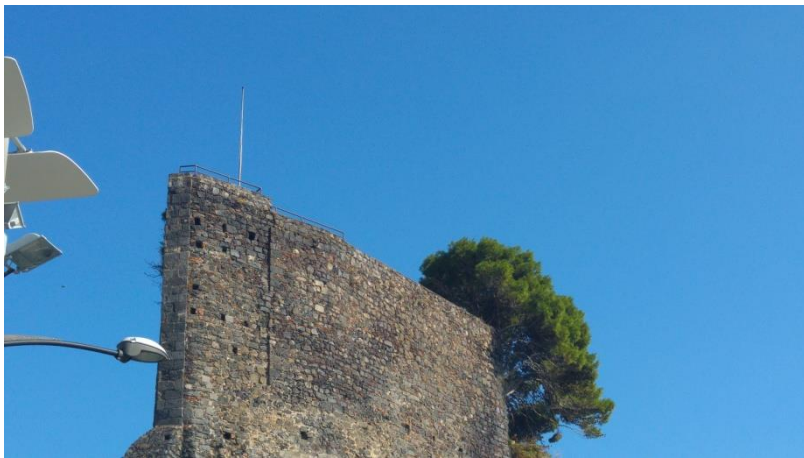
very tired. After a dinner at home we took a look at the brochures that we brought from Slovenia. I only have one picture from the ‘paper industry’ because they didn’t let us take more.



### **Friday, 13th November**

Friday was the day of school activities and visit of Aci Castello. Our host parents dropped us off at the school around 8.15 that was the first time that we were late to school. First on the schedule were sport activities but Italians being Italians, we started late. We could choose from Football and Volleyball, I chose because of the reasons that shall remain unnamed. First we warmed up and then split into 3 teams and then we played Volleyball. Well, I wouldn’t exactly call it volleyball it was mostly passing the ball from one team to another. Sport activities came to an end and it was time to go to Aci Castello, on our way there we stopped in the kindergarten where children performed some songs and dances. We were back on the road and we soon made it to Aci Castello. Aci Castello is a castle as its name says it which is built on a cliff and it’s strategically located. After a tour of the castle we took a group photo and then the teachers took a group photo, I thought the photo shoot was finally over but then a storm of selfies approached. It was time for lunch at a restaurant called Acitrezza. For lunch was Pizza, I mean come on it’s like the fourth time this week, I wouldn’t be complaining if it was good but it was bad so here am I complaining. At lunch I sat with the German students and we had a great time and we talked a lot. After we had finished the lunch and got to school, the school orchestra had a concert, only few students that don’t play in the orchestra showed up and listened. In the evening there was the final party prepared by parents of host students. At the party everyone could see the difference between the students and their will to dance, but I didn’t really enjoy the party I really don’t know why maybe it wasn’t my type of a party. Down below you can see pictures from Aci Castello and some coast.





### **Saturday, 14th November**

Saturday was the last day with the rest of the students, when I realised that it hit me hard and surprised me, this was probably the last time we saw each other in our lives except something really amazing happens. Our time in Catania flew by so fast I had a great time and I hope other students had too. On Saturday we visited a farm near Ragusa which mainly focused on production of dairy products, more specific, ricotta cheese. We had lunch at that farm. They served us fries, bread, their cheese, and some other dishes. When we finished lunch we had some free time which I spent with German students. Our next stop was Ragusa, a beautiful town on the hill. Ragusa has surprising amount of churches for a town that big. Ragusa also has a beautiful park you must see it with your own eyes to appreciate its beauty. Soon we headed back to school, this was our last bus ride together. The time came to say goodbye, some of the students cried, I understood them. Thinking this was our goodbye we headed home but in reality our host parents took us to a fast food restaurant where we actually saw each other for the last time and said our last goodbye. Bellow you can see first park in Ragusa and the one of the many churches and also Ragusa at night.





### **Sunday, 15th November**

Sunday, our last day in Sicily. I woke up at 9 o'clock, this was the only day I slept that long. After I woke up we got ready and went to the beach where we met with families of Agnes, Ema, Lučka and Katarina. At the beach we took some photos and we saw a starfish. Then we went home and ate lunch. Soon it was time for our departure to the airport. It was time to say goodbye, everyone was crying except me, I don't know why, but that doesn't mean that I wouldn't miss them. I'd like to thank everyone who made this possible, this week truly was unforgettable.

Kristjan Kolenc Jereb, 9. c



Me and students from Germany.



Me with my host.



Me and my host family.