

Report of our visit to El Peralejo in Alpedrete in Spain. One of the exchanges for the Erasmus+ child friendly project against prejudices and xenophobia for European Primary schools

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We visited the Spanish school El Peralejo together with 4 pupils of our school de Plantage in Holland. The children stayed at host families and we stayed in a hotel near the school. We had wonderful new experiences during this project. It felt a bit like we were a part of the community of Alpedrete for a week. Huong and Sandra are used to live in different cultures and together with the enthusiasm of Erwin it was easy to make contact with the children, teachers and parents of Alpedrete. We saw a lot of the community and we talked to many people at school and at the meeting/round table with parents, teachers and children.



At that meeting we heard a lot of recognizable stories about living in different cultures and it was nice to hear all those experiences from people with different nationalities. Stories about the kindness of people, the nice things about a new country to live in and stories about the struggles that you came across. It is often well intended by everyone but because of different habits and misunderstandings people can have their difficulties when hanging out with different cultures. It was nice hearing those different stories of all those people who came to Spain for different reasons.

Some children also shared their experiences about going to Holland and to Austria with the Erasmus + project. At the end a boy from 6th grade who went abroad to America for 7 months told us: I think everyone should have such an experience at least one time in our lives because it is good to go out of your comfort zone and learn a lot about different people but also about yourself. It was nice said. It was exactly what made our stay in Alpedrete so special.

Every school day we wanted to be there in the morning before the children came and we even stayed at school for the after school care. For us it was nice to see those differences but also those similarities. We wanted to see as much as we could.

We made friends with the teachers of the Kindergarten and we talked with them about education, children with special care, the difficulties for the children who are in first grade, parents and conversations, school materials and topics for lessons.

We exchanged a lot of ideas and it felt good that we have those same experiences and we helped each other by talking about education. We promised each other to keep in touch. In these times it is very easy by social media and with the E-Twinning which we use in this Erasmus+ project.(<http://www.etwinning.net>)

We hope these friends can come to Holland one day!



With the 4 girls/pupils from our school we had a lot of fun and we became really close with them. They had a really good time at the host families and at the school. Of course sometimes they were emotional or homesick. But it only lasted a moment. We saw them laughing a lot!

We talked with them about cultural differences and not only about the food and the way of learning at school. We had good conversations to make them understand the things that happened during this week. We know for sure that they learned a lot about different ways of living, education and cultures but also about themselves. We emphasized that they became stronger in their minds and that their minds went more open. Maybe they do not realise it, but we are sure they have less prejudices now to different people. There is not one truth and maybe the Dutch way isn't always right. We think they realized that sometimes. They felt themselves different and strange sometimes during this week so they know how it could be for foreign people to live in another country.

We also had nice conversations with our colleagues from Austria and Estonia about cultural differences and it was nice to exchange some ideas. We are curious how our colleagues will experience the projects in Malta and in Estonia.

We are grateful that we could participate at the Erasmus+ project against prejudices and xenophobia. We want to thank all the people who made this project possible.