

Newsletter – sixth meeting on Ibiza, Spain

15th – 20th April 2018



First day of the meeting in Spain

Full of excitement we met our hosts at the airport Sunday afternoon. The students were welcomed and picked up by their host families. Teachers from the Spanish team picked up the Dutch, German, Polish and Norwegian teachers. Aurelio and Antonia joined us for dinner later on at the hotel. They explained the work that was planned for the week and the next morning.

Monday 16th April

After an evening with the host families, the students met at 08.00 in the school library. The library was the base for students and teachers throughout the week. Aurelio explained the program and held a short introduction, before Reyes made everyone write statements about themselves on paper planes. The planes were flying through the room, and the students had to actively take part. It took only a few seconds before they were chatting and laughing – the ice was broken and the process of making new friends had already started.



The students presented films they had produced as a pre-task, showing Oxford debates that had been held at each school since the meeting in Poznan. The students had also interviewed peers, teachers and school leaders, asking them about the impact participating in the «cities» project have had on a personal level and an organisational level.

As an introduction to the project for the week, dissemination, Aurelio presented the plan and the targets for the work, before dividing the students into international groups with one group member from each country. The students sat down in their groups straight away and started organising and interpreting the task they were given. The common focus was dissemination, but the groups were asked to make different products – films, leaflets, and Power Point presentations. One group was also asked to write an article that will be published in a local newspaper during the week. As an introduction to the groups' work, a graphic designer gave a lecture on the ABCs of graphic design, knowledge that will be useful in their work with the brochures and leaflets.

Before the students headed home to their host families, we all gathered for an international lunch where we enjoyed, to mention just a few of the dishes on the table, Sobrasada, greixonera and tortilla de patates from Spain, sausages and Schwarzbrot from Germany, poffertjes (small pancakes) from Holland, ptasie mleczko (chocolates) from Poland, cloud berries and kransekake from Norway. Yummy!



Tuesday 16th April

The day started at 8 o'clock in the library where the students went straight to work, continuing to prepare brochures and presentations about CITIES' impact in the different schools and local communities. Each student was responsible for giving information on their home country's project week and the dissemination in their schools, nevertheless the final product should be one joint product. In the process of making the brochures, the students tried to integrate the techniques and principles they learnt from the graphic designer's introduction yesterday.



Later in the day we went to Ses Salines National Park at the southernmost part of the island.

The students and teachers enjoyed a beautiful walk by the sea and on the beach. The view was spectacular with the crystal clear water and the beautiful white beaches. The students relaxed and enjoyed each others' company.



Wednesday 17th April

The students started their work in the library at 8 o'clock. This was the final day for preparing their products. While the students were working, the teachers had a meeting, discussing the final brochure that will be made, presenting the whole project. Some of the teachers also had the opportunity to job shadow language classes at IES Algarb. It is always interesting to compare and discuss teaching methodology.



After school, the teachers and student got into a bus and were driven to the visit the Dalt Vila, the old city of Ibiza. The guide, history teacher Antonia Cardona, gave a brief historic backdrop on the Ibiza castle. The island has been populated since the 6th century B.C. Ibiza was attractive for trade because of its location. It was also attractive to pirates and invaders and the citizens of Ibiza had to protect themselves and their goods by building a fortified city.

On the route through the very picturesque streets of the old city, the group stopped by an important spot. From 902 A.C. Berbers from North Africa ruled the island and inhabited the fortress. The 8th of August 1235 A.C. the Catalans managed to overtake the power. They besieged the fortress for a long time without succeeding to enter. A local legend tells the story of how the Vali (governor of the muslim city) had a relationship with his brother's wife. This naturally upset the brother of the Vali, and to revenge himself, he opened a secret passage (on the photo) and let the Catalans in. Antonia Cardona explained how this action is commemorated by the Ibizaans putting down flowers on this very spot on the 8th August every year. Being at school the traces of this history shows as the students has to learn both Catalan and Spanish.



On our tour we also stopped at Museo Arqueológico de Ibiza y Formentera. It showed the island's history from prehistory through to the Moorish period and on to the Christian reconquest, showing objects from the different periods. A small, but very informative museum. Next door was the beautiful cathedral of Santa Maria d'Eivissa where students and teachers spent some time before moving on in the sunshine, enjoying the walk through the narrow streets, but also the spectacular view from the fortress walls.



After the sightseeing tour, the students were brought back to the school. Some of the groups had to work a little extra to finish their presentations.

Thursday 18th April

On the last working day of the three year long CITIES project, dissemination was the main task. The students had produced leaflets, brochures, films and articles to present their reflections on the impact the CITIES project has had on students, teachers, schools and local communities over the years. After a working session in the morning to do the finishing touches on their presentations a bus came to pick us up and bring us to the premises of the main newspaper on Ibiza, Diario de Ibiza.

The director herself, Mrs. Cristina Martín Vega, greeted students and teachers in their modern localities. The students got a lecture on the programs and processes of editing the newspaper by the editor. The students sat down by the journalists' computers and had a go at the layout programs, tried to search for incoming news from agencies, and also got some information on how to edit an article. One of the student groups has throughout the week written an article presenting the CITIES project. This article will be translated and published in the paper soon.



One of the newspaper's journalists used the opportunity to interview a couple of the students, and immediately published a case on the newspaper's Instagram account and webpage: <http://www.diariodeibiza.es/pitiuses-balears/2018/04/19/estudiantes-cinco-paises-visitandiaro/983302.html>



As the final step in the dissemination process, the students and teachers were divided into groups and went to different places to spread the knowledge on the project. One group went to the Townhall and presented the CITIES project and the fruits of the project to the mayor of Saint Josep. Mayor Josép Mari and his staff gave the students a warm welcome before he listened to their presentation.



The other groups presented their work at schools in the area. One of the aims was to inspire young people to take part in international projects in the future by promoting the positive outcomes of transnational projects. As many of the students underlined in their presentations, the most important for them is how it has affected them personally by rising awareness of the value of cultural cooperation and knowledge. They have made new friends and increased their cultural competency by living in host families and working together in groups with students from different countries. The students also stressed the skills they had acquired through working on the project tasks, like ICT skills and improved language skills.

Friday 19th April : The last day of the CITIES-project

Sadly the project has come to an end. It was not only the end of the week on Ibiza, but also the final day of the CITIES-project. Some of the teachers have been participating since the very beginning almost four years ago. Since then a lot of work has been put into the project and collegial friendships have evolved also between the teachers.



Before closing up the project, the hosts at IES Algarb handed out Certificates of Attendance to all the students and teachers. The students also evaluated the project week, and particularly the dissemination task they completed yesterday. Judging from the evaluation, they benefitted from working in international groups, even though it sometimes made it difficult to cooperate and come to a joint conclusion.





As a special treat on this final day, the Spanish teachers invited everybody on an excursion to the beautiful island Formentera. It is located about thirty minutes from Ibiza with ferry, and the ferry crossing itself is worth the visit. After a week with hard work, the students could enjoy eating

lunch together before spending some time on the beach playing and even swimming.



Saturday 20th April

The Spanish hosts has treated us so well. We are impressed and moved by the hospitality. The students have made friends for life, and had an important encounter with transnational cooperation that they will talk about when they come home. The teachers have exchanged thoughts and experiences about teaching, and also made friends. Sadly the project week has come to an end, and so has the CITIES-project. It has been wonderful. Thank you everybody! Thank you CITIES!

For further details on the project, please visit the blog at:
<http://citiesinternationalproject.blogspot.no/>

Or the webpage at: <http://goosemartin.wixsite.com/erasmuscities>