

Feedback on Izmir LTTA by the Italian team

(Antonina) Nini Morello

Last week I was in mobility in Izmir, Turkey with my colleague Emanuela Adesini, the coordinator of the project Erasmus + "Help me", and six students of "Liceo classico Mandralisca" who were hosted by their Turkish twins. The countries that take part in this project are Turkey, Croatia, Poland, Romania and Italy. There we met the students, teachers, staffs from each school participating to the project about the subject "Emergency training program".

I was very pleased to see how they could communicate with each other using the same language: English. They shared ideas, talked a lot, played games in the school playground, laughed a lot too, had lunch in the school canteen, or during the excursions and in their free time. For students it has been an important and effectively experience to improve language skills and gain independence in a new culture.

We visited the vast city of Izmir, an authentic Turkish city of 4 million people, an astonishing city, full of modernity where the old and the modern survive together and also a bridge between the western and eastern culture. My colleague and I often walked a lot to reach the Kemeralti Bazaar, the only Bazaar in Izmir that has remained "the old-fashioned way", very popular and crowded, to do shopping and have Turkish tea, çay, and taste authentic Turkish cuisine for dinner.

Before leaving, a thousand thoughts buzzed in my head, but then after arriving at my destination, I felt better. In fact, immediately I felt part of the beautiful group of colleagues, students and staff, we visited breathtaking landscapes during excursions with our guide to Izmir, to Ephesus's ruins, to the Unesco World Heritage site of Mother Mary's House, to Sirince Village. Thanks to my colleague Emanuela for her project to internationalize our school and to open our students to the world giving them wings to fly. Thanks to our students and my colleague to have made this unforgettable experience.

Luca Rinaudo

How to describe a week in Türkiye to someone who has never been there?

Turkey is a contradiction: a country in slow economic decline characterized by large industrial and commercial centers and by much poorer small states; a country where at every corner you will find a representation, a statue, an aphorism of Atatürk; a country where in terms of numbers, dogs and cats, in the streets, compete with people; a country where cars pass at full speed with red lights and with green ones give way to pedestrians; a country where hospitality and welcome are sacred values: no matter the economic condition, every family gives all of itself to make you feel at home and not want for anything; a country where, during Ramadan, people stay up all night with relatives to eat together; a country where every food must be spiced and spiced beyond belief; a country where "enjoy your meal" is said both before and after a meal; a country to get lost in the huge Bazaars full of anything.

Turkey is an experience out of all dimensions, the best experience of my life.

Anastasia Masiello

First time in Turkey... I'm going to be honest: When teachers told me we were supposed to be hosted in a Turkish family, I was a little scared that I wouldn't enjoy this experience as much as I should have. I was scared that I couldn't make good relationships with local people and people I had to travel with, because I'm an introvert person. Well, now, thinking about this trip in Turkey I can't not smile: I have so many incredible memories that I don't know where to begin to tell. Turkish people were so friendly and kind that I forgot all of my bad worries, they made me really comfortable, like a second family; everyone was available for every need I had; I have to thank them with my heart open, and I have to thank my travel mates and my teachers for making me live an unforgettable adventure.

Salvo La Spisa

Telling an experience as complete as the one I lived in Turkey in 150 words would be a difficult task for anyone. First of all, I absolutely have to thank my teachers for the opportunity they gave me and the classmates I left with: friends found and found again, ready in times of need, like me for them. Turkey itself goes beyond the splendid places we have visited, such as the mosques, the Bazaar, the Izmir clock tower; because these places must be lived, they must be understood and all this happens thanks to the people. In fact, the keyword of this trip is hospitality, sometimes offered in unimaginable ways. My host family was the best that could happen to me, super helpful, I love them. And all the Turkish mates have been very kind and friendly to me. I'll wait for everyone to come to Italy to welcome them in the best possible way.

Giovanni Mamazza

How would you describe your experience in Turkey?

I can't find the right words to describe this fantastic experience that has changed me positively. Even in just a one week trip, Turkey has turned out to be a splendid country, based on cultural and religious traditions which are the real foundation of this country, on which each person's lifestyle is manifested. I was amazed by the patriotism of this country, in fact in every corner of the city of Izmir you could see the representation of the "father of the Turks", Mustafa Kemal, the founder of the republic of Turkey. A country that has proved to be super welcoming, and for this reason I must say a thank you, which will never be enough for all that my host Hakan and his family have done for me, who since the very first day made me feel as if I were at home. Hakan showed himself for what he is, that is, a splendid, sincere, kind and generous person and I will never stop thanking him. I also have to thank all the guys from Turkey and other countries who participated in this fantastic Erasmus, making this unforgettable experience even more beautiful by letting us have fun at any time of the day. I also have to thank the group of my Italian classmates and the teachers who have allowed me to live this week in a joyful way, also facilitating friendships with other people.

Andrea Bellanca

I will try to summarize in just over 150 words an experience with the letter "E" that would require a book to contain the roller coaster of emotions that accompanied me for the entire trip.

Thanks to the family who welcomed me, who beyond the language barriers managed to make me feel like a member of them, always making themselves available on any occasion.

A special thanks to my host and dear friend Eren, who with kindness and sympathy made sure that I could always have a shoulder to lean on.

Thanks to all the boys and girls of the school who have been cordial and welcoming, allowing me to integrate in a few days.

Thanks to all the guys from the other participating countries, who have allowed me to make new friends and more ;)

Thanks to my Italian friends and teachers, fellow travelers, who made me laugh and resist even in unfavorable situations, even managing to "throw" me into the fray, encouraging and urging me to have fun. I conclude by thanking all those who would have deserved more space in these few words, but in their hearts they know what I think of them, with the hope of meeting them again in the future...

Teşekkür ederim, Andrea ♥

Riccardo Bonafede

Turkey represents the heart of the world, the balance between East and West and in my short experience lived in a week, I have already understood its importance from a historical and cultural point of view. It was an experience in which for the first time I had the opportunity to face a world different from the European one but which at the same time has a lot of Europe; all this thanks to the one who founded the Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal, known as Atatürk, literally "father of the Turks", of whom representations can be found almost in every corner of the city, within commercial activities or even within public transport. However, what distinguishes this country is religion, everything seems to be based on this, especially during

Ramadan. Religion influenced the way of life of the Turks, their habits and their food and I had the great fortune to experience all this firsthand, living in a Turkish family, which I will always thank for this fantastic and unusual experience, with their habits that I will never forget and that for a short week have been part of my way of life. ❤️TR