

Dissemination of the fourth project meeting, held in Tolox, Spain, May 5-10



Let's First Understand our National Heritage in Order to Define and Build our European Identity

Comenius project meeting

CEIP SAN ROGUE, Tolox, Spain, May 5-10

Our fourth project meeting took place in Spain, Tolox. This time we had five participants from Estonia – me, 7th grader Daniil Tšaštšin, and teachers Külli Oja, Ilona Prokofjeva and project coordinator Raine Lindepuu. We left Estonia wearing warm coats but Spain welcomed us with degrees over 20.

Our project partner school CEIP SAN ROGUE, is located in the small town named Tolox. It is situated in a picturesque spot between mountains. The town streets are very narrow and if the car comes it is very narrow indeed. Spanish people are very warmhearted and social, everywhere we went we heard „Hola!“ and soon we all started to shout Hola as well.



All Spanish people are with much darker skin and eyes are mostly dark brown. My host was a boy named Antonio, who lives together with his mother. The apartment was very small but cosy. The only thing strange was that nobody took away their outdoor shoes while entering the house. We never walk inside the house wearing shoes in Estonia.

The nature in Spain is completely different from Estonia. There were cactuses and palms growing everywhere. Those flowers and pot plants which we usually have inside the house in

Estonia we could see growing wild everywhere in Spain. And they were much bigger, of course. We could see orange trees and lemon trees in the town. And olive trees were everywhere.

Our partner school CEIP SAN ROGUE, was located almost in the centre of the town. It is like kindergarden and lower secondary school together. Almost like our own Lohusuu School. But the students seemed smaller. The schoolhouse was also quite similar to our own – bright classrooms, a lot of pot plants and flowers and pictures hanging on walls. The only difference was that the schoolhouse was surrounded by fence. While inside nobody could leave during the schoolday. The windows on the ground floor had bars and there was no canteen at school. Children have to bring their lunches with them and eat during the break.

At school we had a welcome meeting. Students welcomed us and the local mayor. I noticed that Spanish people don't speak much of English. Everything was translated by one of the teachers in Spanish school – David. Every school had to make their own welcome speech also. We brought our clock again with us, as we had done in previous meetings – this is our gift to every school, a bit of Estonian time. After short introduction we had a working session. Back at home we had to prepare photo exhibition with handicraft items and sculptures. Now we had to present them and talk about what is important about those items. All pictures were also printed out and we started to put them on the display so that everybody could see them. After it was done, we discovered how similar are some patterns and handicraft items. Estonian and Latvian things looked almost the same and we also had similarities with some Polish and Norwegian handicraft items.



Southern countries have slightly different traditional items but this is obvious – they hardly need mittens in Greece or Spain! After finishing with displays, we were divided into groups so that we could choose four pictures from each country to be presented in our next year's

calendar. In this calendar, each month has the most important dates from each country and each month is decorated with three pictures. We had to choose those pictures which in our opinion would describe the country or the nation best. It was not easy and at least our group had some arguing about which pictures we would choose from Spain. But finally we managed to do this and completed our calendar, which was presented few hours later.



After lunch we had another working session. Each country presented their video with traditional national folk songs and dances. Our video contained pieces from our school events where our own children were dancing folk dances and teacher Raine was singing our most traditional folk song – the rune song. After presenting those videos we had to put them together in one big video which would show our similarities or differences. I noticed that Latvian dance festival looks exactly the same as our own Estonian dance festival. So, another thing which we have in common with Latvians. After video presentation we had a live show where the students of our Spanish partner school were performing their traditional flamenco dance. One of the dances was taught to us as well. We also heard the traditional flamenco singing, as we had two performers who were invited to sing to us. This was all very interesting. Flamenco singing is not at all close to Estonian folk songs but it has common traits with Turkish songs. This became very clear after the members of our Turkish team had performed two songs as well.



On the third day of the meeting we had a field trip to Granada, which is the most famous town in the Andalusia region. We spent many hours in Alhambra, which is a mixture of old king's castle, fortress and botanical garden. On our fourth day we visited Malaga, which is a famous tourist resort on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea. We visited the local national museum and art museum. We could see a lot of old things and vehicles which in my opinion were exactly the same as we have here in Estonia. Back in Tolox we also visited the local museum and almost everything in this museum looked the same as in Estonian museums of the same kind. So, although we are situated so far away from each other and our music and dances does not match, there are still a lot of things that are similar.

Dissemination made by Inna Akulitš
Student of Lohusuu School, Estonia, participant in Spanish project meeting

"This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."