

E4U BROCHURE

Examples of the best practice

of

EUROPE FOR YOU

ERASMUS+
MULTILATERAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOLS



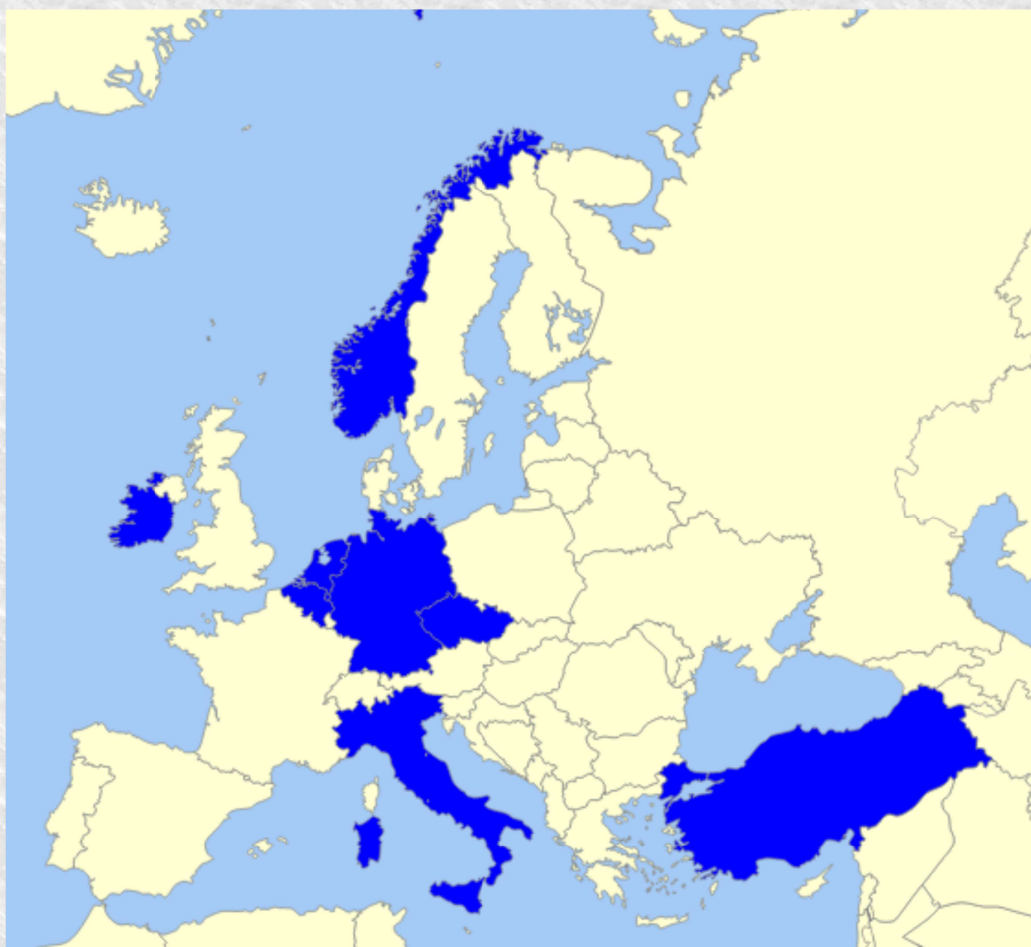
*E4U students in Kilkeny, Ireland
November 8, 2014*

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PARTNER SCHOOLS

Belgium, Ursulinen Mechelen
Czech Republic, Gymnázium Karla Čapka Dobříš
Germany, Max-Planck Gymnazium Duisburg
Ireland, Ramsgrange Community School
Italy, Istituto Magistrale Alessandro Da Imola
Netherlands, Strabrecht College Geldrop
Norway, Lena Valle Videragaende Skole
Turkey, Fatma-Emin Kutvar Anadolu Lisesi Balikesir



EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL REPORTS



Czech students working on their national reports
December 6, 2014



National reports of Ireland

School Life

The normal school day in Ramsgrange starts at 9:00 and ends at 3:40 on a short day while 4:00 on long days. On a long day we can have up to 9 classes which are 40 minutes each. I get the bus to school which is the most common way people come to our school. In are school we have some subjects such as Woodwork and Metalwork which aren't in some schools. In our school there are a lot of things to do such as playing on school teams.



Family Life

I live in a small bungalow with my family of four including me. Most of my uncles on my dad's side live around me so I see a lot of my cousins. My mam's family on the other hand live further away so I see less of them. I have one sister whose name is Alison, she is 14 years old and is also in are school.

Traditions

In Ireland we have many traditions and these are not all such things as "leprechauns" and "pots of gold". One tradition is to have a wake for people who have died. Friends and family alike garher and share memeories and fuuny stories about the deceased. Food and drink is always present and although the church tried to ban alcohol from wakes, it was unsuccessful. Another on ei son March 17th which marks the day of St Patrick, celebrated by millions of people around the world. In Ireland, St Patrick's Day was always held as an impotrnat religious day to celebrate the teachings of Christianity by St Patrick.

Food

One of Irelands most known meals is a full Irish breakfast. This usually contains sausages, rashers, black/white pudding, egg, mushrooms, fried tomato and toast or a roll. There is one hotel in Ireland which serves a breakfast of 15 of each item and is free if you can finish it.



Social Habits And Customs

The GAA is a big social habit in Ireland with children as young as 5 now getting involved. The GAA is an amateur sporting organisation which stands for gaelic athletics association. The two main sports are hurling and football. Kilkenny own the record for most wins of the hurling championship (35). In football the county with the most titles with 37. The GAA itself was founded in 1884. 1886: Wexford County Board became the first GAA county organisation in the country.

My Area

Where I live is a small village called Fethard-on-Sea. It is a very close community which is mainly due to the sporting activity that goes on. There is one street through the village which itself holds a chippers, 2 hairdressers, cafe, post office, shop, 3 pubs and a Chinese. Fethard is mainly known by people because it is a large tourist attraction during the summer due to the great beaches in the area. Fethard is also home of the Hook Lighthouse which is supposedly the oldest operational lighthouse in all of Europe.



National reports of Belgium

Belgian school life

In most Belgian schools the lessons start at 8.25am. School ends at either 3.30pm or 4.30pm. On Wednesday school ends at 12 o'clock. We don't have to go to school during weekends, of course. A typical school day has 7 or 8 periods of 50 minutes each (4 periods on Wednesday). Throughout the year we have 3 major and 2 minor vacations: autumn break (1 week off), Christmas break (2 weeks off), half-term break (1 week off in February) and Easter break (2 weeks off). Our summer break is 2 months. Schools can also choose around 5 other days that their students do not have to come to school; these days are usually different for every school.

On the days we do have to go to school, we work very hard. Your subjects are determined by your course. We have to study each subject with a separate exam. In our case, most of our homework is done on the computer, because we are taking an IT course. If you follow the rules teachers are not strict. Because Ursulinen Mechelen is such a big school there are 4 principals; one main principal and one principal for each of the 3 'grades'. Outside of the regular lessons, Ursulinen Mechelen organizes lots of other activities. Each year, pupils and teachers are encouraged to support a selection of good causes to help poor people around the world.



Belgian traditions and religions

Belgium has many traditions like Sinterklaas, Christmas, Easter and New Year. Sinterklaas is the original Santa Claus. He is a bearded man in red clothes who is very kind to children. He gives gifts to children (who have been good) on 6 December with his servants who are all called Zwarte Piet (Black Pete). When the children are bad they receive a punishment and they don't get a gift. This year, there were no bad children in Belgium!

Belgium is home to a lot of different cultures and religious beliefs. The most important religion is Catholicism, because historically Belgium is a Catholic country. The second largest religion practiced in Belgium is Islam, but there are other people that don't have a religion so they don't believe there is a God. Like a lot of other countries Belgian people celebrate Easter; traditionally the children have to search for chocolates eggs around their house or garden.

Christmas Eve is a bigger event for most Belgian than Christmas Day. It is usually spent with the family, having a nice dinner and exchanging gifts. On New Year's Eve most cities organise a fireworks display at midnight. Everybody likes to go there to celebrate New Year and have a drink with friends and family.

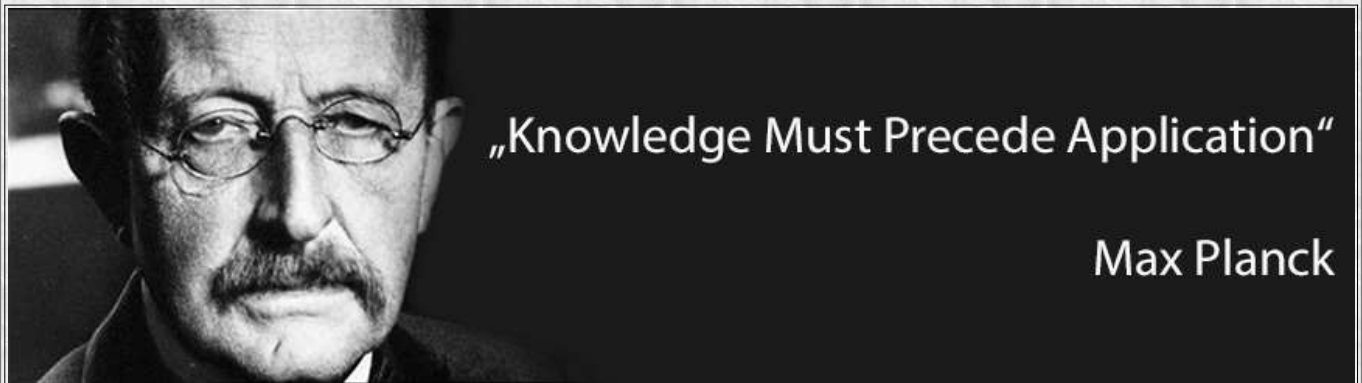


National reports of Germany

German Famous People

Max Planck was one of the most important physicists of Germany. For his unusual achievements in the area of quantum research he was honoured in 1918 with the Nobel Prize. After him the Max-Planck Institute is named which has produced 17 other Nobel Prize Laureates from 80 faculties up to now.

His father was law professor Wilhelm Planck who came from a family which felt traditionally linked to the sciences. His mother Emma who also came from a very educated family is described as a lively woman interested in the sciences to which Max Planck had a lifelong close relation.



Max Planck spent his school hours first in Kiel until the family moved to Munich. There he attended the Latin class and came first in the fields of astronomy and physics. His teachers described him as a good and smart boy.

After his A-level exams Planck began a physics course at Munich Uni which he left and finished his studies in Berlin. His first appointment was as a guest lecturer in Munich, until he was appointed in 1885 as an extraordinary professor of mathematical physics first to Kiel and later to Berlin.

Ten years later, with the help of Albert Einstein, he managed to gain a breakthrough. Quantum physics changed the significance of physics completely. For this extraordinary achievement Planck was given the Nobel Prize in 1918.

Max Planck was rector of Berlin University from 1913 until he went into retirement in 1926.

From 1930 to 1937 and from 1945 he led the Imperial Wilhelm's Society for the support of the sciences from which Max-Planck Institute arose. He was awarded numerous honours for his research.

The great scholar was married twice. He had four children with his wife and long-standing friend Marie Merck. After her death in 1909 he married Marga von Hoesslin in 1910. Max Planck faced the Hitler regime and warned Hitler in a personal conversation about the results of the dismissal of Jewish employees and scientists.

After the failed assassination on Hitler on 20th July, 1944 he had to experience the execution of his son Erwin.

Erwin was not involved in the attempt though, but however, had belonged to the circle around the politician Karl Friedrich Goerdeler.

On 4th October, 1947 Max Planck died in Goettingen.

Max-Planck Society Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZFyD8kSaIo>



National reports of Italy



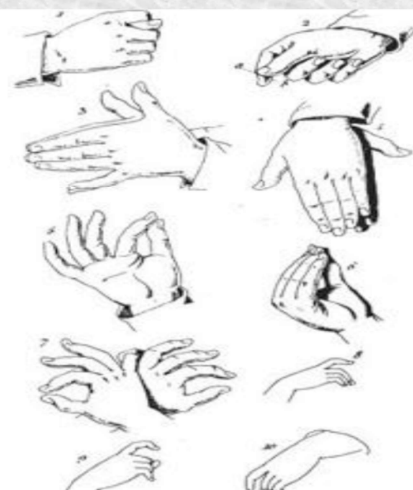
Italians are warm, welcoming people who love to relax, celebrate and socialise with family and friends. Celebration and relaxation usually take place around the table either at home or in a restaurant, where they can enjoy the traditions of the Italian cuisine.



Italians have a passion for talking (loud)...

In Italy conversation is an art form. As you walk in the streets or stop at a café in one of the many squares, you will notice Italians of all ages engaged in intense and animated discussion on a wide variety of topics ranging from family, politics, gossip, food... but especially soccer!

(Italians have the habit of gesticulate, they nearly always do it). Here are some examples...



... but we also enjoy eating. Who doesn't know our famous pizza and pasta?



Italy is well known especially for its delicious food: pasta, pizza, Parmesan cheese, tiramisù, tortellini, lasagne and so on...



The only time during the day that our piazze (=squares) and vie (=streets) may be deserted is around



12.30-14.00 and 19.30-21.30, that is when Italians are home enjoying a meal

TYPICAL DISHES according to regions

- Liguria: Trofie al pesto
- Aosta Valley: potatoes flan
- Piedmont: white truffle
- Sicily: cannoli
- Emilia Romagna: tortellini, piadina
- Tuscany: fiorentina
- Umbria: Cantucci
- Marche: salame
- Apulia: taralli
- Campania: pizza, babà.
- Basilicata: Soppresata.
- Abruzzo: maccheroni alla chitarra
- Lazio: carbonara
- Friuli: Gnocchi
- South tyrol: Krapfen
- Veneto: risotto alla trevigiana
- Sardinia: Pecorino
- Molise: fusilli
- Calabria: pasta al forno.
- Lombardia: ossobuco alla milanese



Italy has also a great and unique cultural heritage.



The Colosseum, Rome



Pisa's bending tower

The Cathedral in Milan



The ancient town of Pompeii, just to mention a few



True or False?

1. Pizza was "invented" in Naples around 1860s. T F
2. Almost 40% of Italy's population is over 65 years old. T F
3. The piano hails from Italy. T F
4. Today's modern Italian originated in the region of Piedmont. T F
5. Italy is the fifth most visited country in the world, welcoming some 46 million foreign visitors annually. T F
6. There are over 140 types of pasta T F
7. The oldest film festival in the world, beginning in 1932, is the Venice Film Festival. T F

Solutions.

- 1.true.
- 2.false. (20%)
- 3.true.
- 4.false. (Tuscany)
- 5.true.
- 6.True
- 7.true

by ELISA 2ndE 2014 - 2015

National reports of Netherlands

My area

I live in Nuenen, it's a town right next to Eindhoven, the 5th big city in the Netherlands. Even though I live in Nuenen, I go to school in Geldrop. It's not that far, I go to school on my bicycle, it takes about 15 minutes.

Nuenen is kind of famous because a famous artist used to live here, his name is Vincent van Gogh. There is a statue of him and his house still exists.



There live about 20.000 people in Nuenen and it's about 18km² big. There are a lot of tourists compared to other cities, because Vincent van Gogh used to live here and we have a museum dedicated to him and his house is still here.

There also is a place for them, a little hotel, but if it's full you can also go to a lot of hotels in Eindhoven. There are a lot of sport clubs in Nuenen, so if you want to do a sport you're good, there is almost a club for every sport.

For transportation you can go with a bus, but cycling or driving is also an option. Most people work in Eindhoven, you can drive there or just go with the bus. If the weather is nice you can also of course go with the bicycle. If you want to go out or something like that you can also just go to Eindhoven, it's like I said very close to Nuenen so It's not a problem to go there.

Habit and Traditions

In the Netherlands there are all kinds of different traditions and habits. Generally we two guys greet with a handshake/hug. A guy and girl or a girl and a girl greet with 3 kisses. There's a lot of hospitality in the Netherlands. Dutch people also will most of the time immediately tell you what's on their mind. We are very open minded. We will also try to avoid eye contact, maybe it's a sign of being shy?

Most people leave The Netherlands when going on vacation, but those who don't mostly visit Zeeland and go there with a caravan. The following isn't really a tradition or habit, but it occurs regularly in the Netherlands. Almost once or twice a week there will be rain or at least hazy. We are used to it, but anyone who's not from Ireland will get annoyed by the weather fairly quick. Another thing we are known for water and the usage of it. As you may know the Netherlands lies under the sea level. Therefore we have the dams. In case of emergency we have those to prevent the water from flooding our cities. The last thing that the Dutch are well known for it's the national football team. Wesley Sneijder, Robin van Persie and Arjen Robben are just a few of our amazing players. Sadly we are yet to win a world cup. You will see our national flag (red, white, blue) appear often in the various streets of Amsterdam or Utrecht for example.

Food Quiz

Match the picture with the name of typical Dutch food

kale with sausage–frikandel–kroket–muisjes–stroopwafel–pea soup–cheese-fries



Solution: 1-Stroopwafel 2-Fries 3-Cheese 4-Frikandel 5-Kale and sausage 6-Muisjes 7-Kroket 8-Pea soup

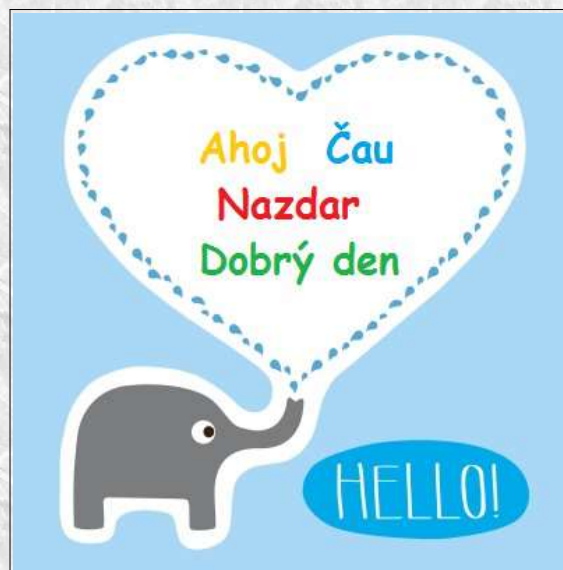
National reports of Czech Republic

Social habits and customs in Czech Republic

To start a topic like that we should find the most interesting part and develop it from the start to the end, let's go up to the top of the pinnacle of most interesting behaviour factors of Czech people.

Greetings

Let's start with how we greet, with teachers in school we just say something like: good day, Mrs. /Mr. (teacher's name) when we meet them out of the classroom. If they start a lesson we greet them as a class by standing up for a few moments until the teacher greets us. In school we, of course, greet with our friends too, how friends greet depends pretty much on the actual people, it gets different for each person, but mostly it is just some kind of "Hello" that may be followed by a hug, sometimes. How we do greet family differs from family to family even more than the friends' greeting. It mostly depends on number of that family's people, age of the person that greets and relation between the two people, although it should be something classic like we greet parents with words and occasional hugs for some people, most people hugs grandmothers and so on... This should be mostly all for the greetings anyone can expect in our lands.



Habits in public

Let's move on and speak about habits and allowance of things on public. For example it is mostly OK when anyone chews bubble gum publicly. Also it is OK and even usual that people make calls in buses and so on, sometimes someone will get angry by this and they usually make a small verbal fight, but that almost never happens, people just got used to have mobile phones with them and using them when they need.

Smoking in public is pretty usual too, some people are about to make changes, in most restaurants smoking is completely banned and on public transport places too, but many people still smoke there. Some people find it distasteful but there isn't much done about it.

Dancing lessons

There is one tradition special to our country, the dancing lessons. At the age of fifteen to sixteen, almost every kid goes to the dancing lessons with his contemporaries, where learns how to dance and is told how to behave in public. It isn't mandatory, but we all do it, and the reason behind that is it's fun. You get to meet new people, learn some fun dances, embarrass yourself while trying to perform the dances you learned (my favourite part), and much more. It's a good age for boys and girls to



start talking to each other, too, and this helps. We usually have those lessons once a week for about three hours, and it goes like this for half a year. Then, if you want to continue, you can do that, but about half of the people who went to the basic lessons, as we call them, end here. By then you should already know the basics of about 15 dances, which is enough for most people. We learn classical and Latin-American dances in pairs, and after each lesson we can do some fun dances in groups.

Characters from Czech fairy tales



We have a few typical fairies and bogeymen. One of the most famous characters in Czech fairy tales is the legendary water sprite "vodník"/"hastrman". It is said that you can meet him anywhere close to water, at dam or pond for example. He usually is evil and he stores people's souls in jars underwater. He is depicted as a little man with green hair usually riding a catfish. Another traditional character is a devil in many forms, I somehow expect you know devil in at least one form that appears in our tales, so I'm not going to talk about it more. The next character should be less known, she is known as the White lady and she appears at night in castles and chateaux, she usually walks on the walls of the building, she means a bad omen. And one for an end is/are the Will-o'-the-wisps, they appear as various lights making dance like moves and moving fast through the forest. If you treat them and the forest nicely, they should not harm you and eventually lead you out, if you mean harm to them or the forest they are capable of leading you to a swamp where you will drown. It is said that they are spirits of witches or children or witch children.

EXAMPLES OF INTERNATIONAL INTERPRETATIONS

Czech traditions by Belgian students

Mira Leurs and Dagmar Vanhamme

Once upon a time, a girl was walking on the square in the Czech Republic. She was happy because it was a sunny day and all the people in the Czech Republic were really happy. But she wondered why that was.



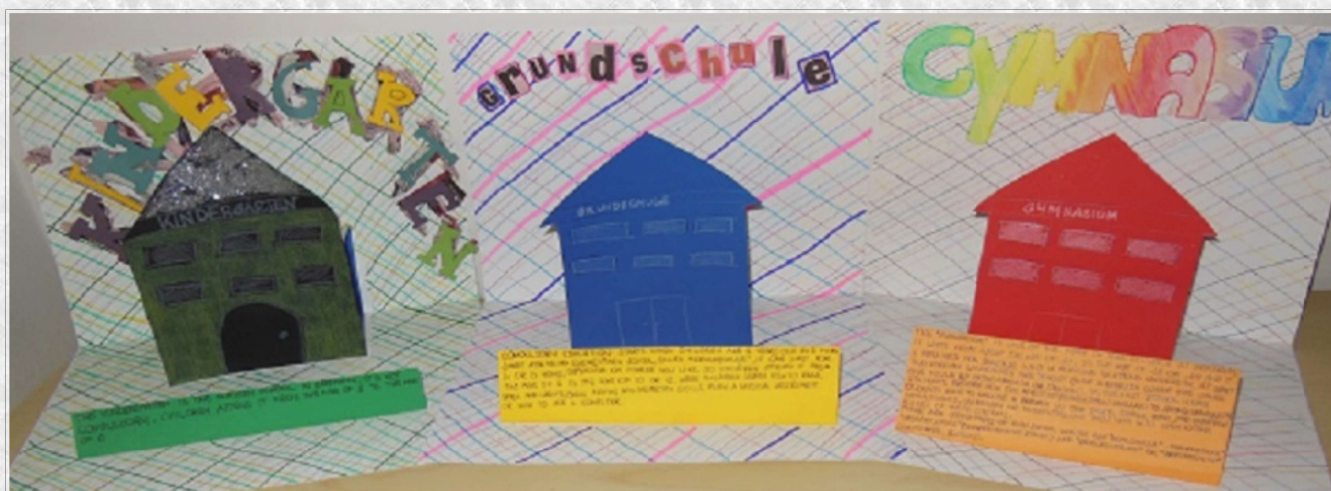
She had forgotten that it was Easter Monday. Then she was a lot less happy . She ran away because she was afraid that a boy would whip her on the legs with a pussy willow twig or even a wooden spoon!

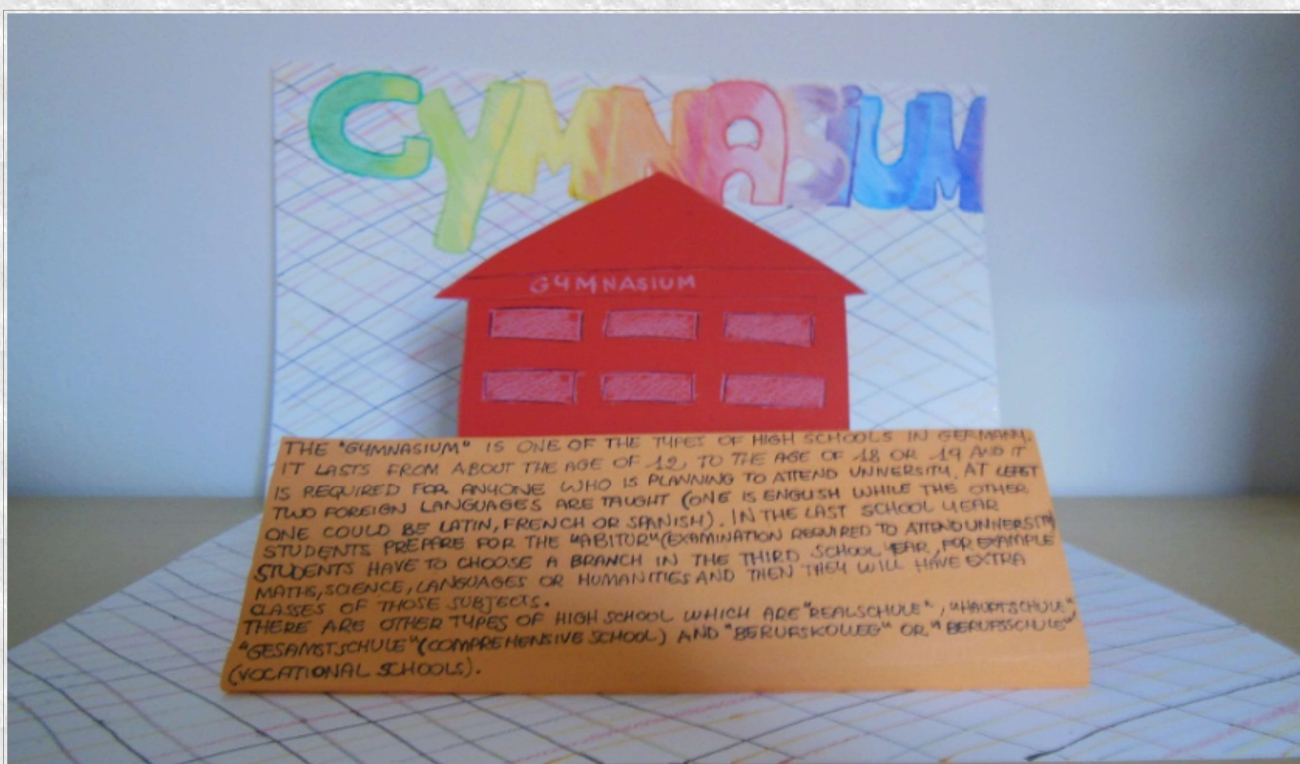
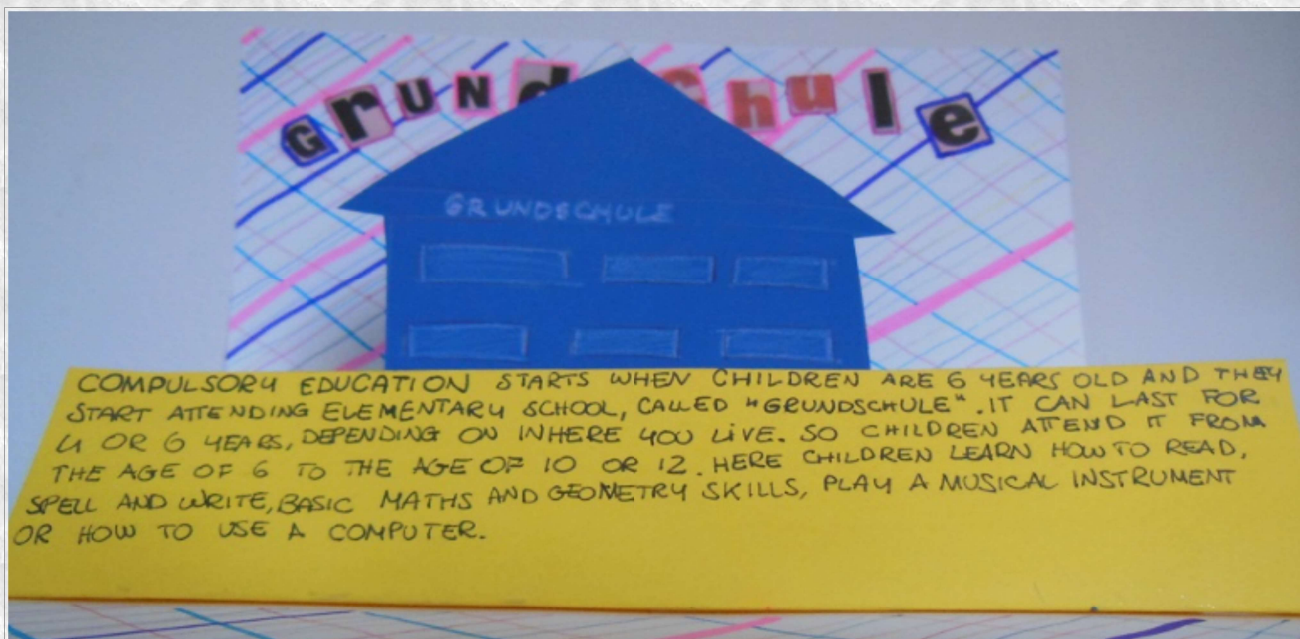


But it was too late. She ran into the house of an old lady and she dropped some things, such as the chicken and a pot.

This was the “weapon” the boy used to whip the girl. It’s a pussy willow twig. It was good that he didn’t use a wooden spoon because that would have been much more painful ;))

German schools by Italian students
Elena, Eleonora, Chiara and Carlotta



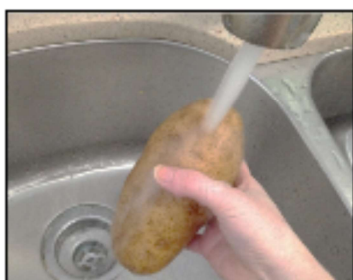


Irish food by Dutch students

Hello my name is Stijn, and I'm from The Netherlands. For this project I'm going to cook a traditional Irish dish.

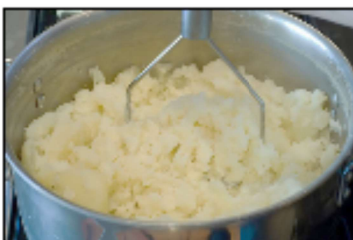
The dish I will cook is COLCANNON with bacon and cabbage.

Ingredients: 1kg potatoes, 100g butter, 140g sliced back bacon finely chopped, 1 small Savoy cabbage finely shredded, 150ml double cream

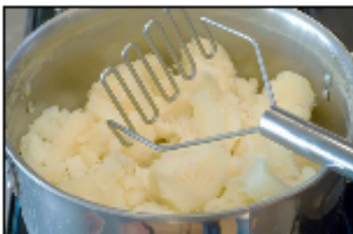


Now let's cook!

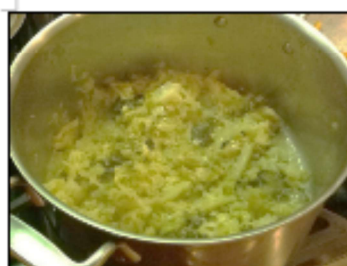
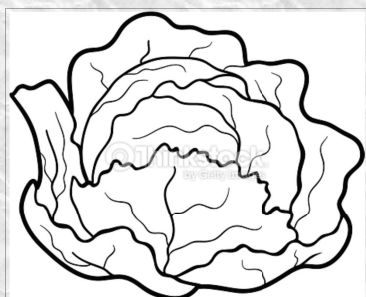
1. First clean and cut the potatoes if they are too big too easily mash potatoes!



2. Now mash the potatoes.



3. Now add the butter and the cream to the mashed potatoes

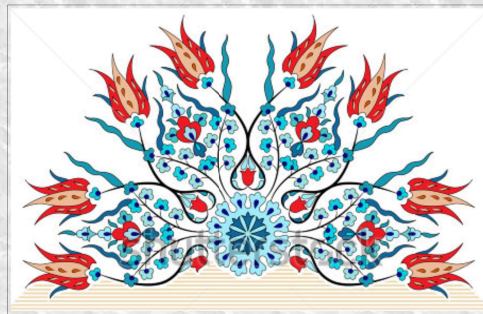


4. Prepare the cabbage and fry bacon pieces.



5. And the last step: combine the bacon and cabbage with the mashed potatoes and add salt, pepper and seasoning to own preference. (and maybe add some other meat on the side like I did.)

Turkish Culture by Italian students



- Turkey is an Eurasian country situated in a strategic location:
- Bordered by many countries and seas
 - Two totally different landscape and climate (the internal one is extreme - Continental climate, the coastal area is mild - Mediterranean climate)

GEOGRAPHIC ELEMENTS

<p>SEAS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black sea • Mediterranean sea • Aegean sea 	<p>LAKES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Van • Lake Tuz 	<p>MOUNTAIN RANGES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taurus mountains (in the south) • Ponto mountains (near the Black sea) • Strandza mountains (between Turkey and Bulgaria)
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ANKARA

The Cities

Ankara is the capital of Turkey, founded in the Broze Age (395)

ANITKABIR

Atakule Tower



IZMIR

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Izmir is a large metropolis situated in the western extremity of Anatolia and it's the third most populous city in Turkey.



ISTANBUL

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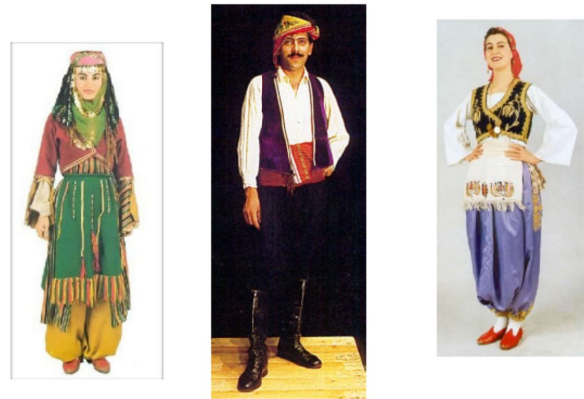
Istanbul is a city full of charm and mystery, a metropolis that extends between the European continent and the Asian one, divided by the suggestive Bosphorus Strait.



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- Nursery school (5→7)
- Elementary school (7→12)
- Middle school (12→15)
- High school (15→19/20)
- University (19→24/26)

Traditional costumes & dances



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Some Turkish Food

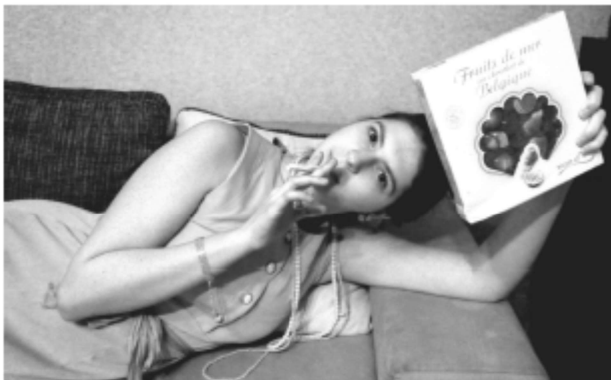
Dutch Famous People by Czech Students

Iva as Audrey Hepburn and Jana as Hercule Poirot

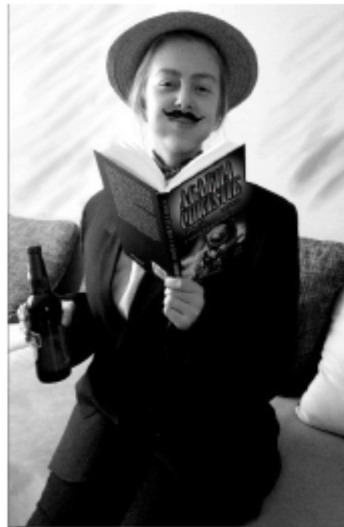
Belgium



1. Audrey Hepburn with Belgian chocolate



2. Audrey Hepburn in the early sixties. She played in lots of successful films and musicals – My fair lady, Breakfast at Tiffany's or Charade.



3. Hercule Poirot is reading his favourite book with traditional Belgian beer.



4. Hercule Poirot is maybe the most popular Agatha Christie's character.



5. Audrey Hepburn with Hercule Poirot.



6. Another meeting Hercule Poirot and Audrey Hepburn.

Irish Traditions by Czech Students

Martin and Anna

IRISH INSPIRATION

Once in my life
I had a chance to Ireland
that led to the capital
where one house was waiting for me,
for life and death

My memory's faded
But I see pretty girls
Not much more, we then got naked
My hangover was the worst

The first sign of happiness
That shone at me as the best
Star in the sky of my future
Was the bar- Leprechaun's rest

After a year, two or four
I'm still sitting there,
place more than home
My wife, the prettiest of all

I went in
Whisky all around, and beer
The people's chant
Such a friendly atmosphere

Now I'm an Irishman
I drive a bike
I live in a minivan
This is what my days are like



Video International Interpretations

Belgian Food

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEvbR3Jnsnc&feature=youtu.be>

Turkish Food

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7OdTTZk7oI>

Belgian Social Life

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gV8arw_-ROw

Italian cooking

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gg7ITL_UqhA&feature=youtu.be

Norwegian Student's Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UH8WczTPgIO>

GENERATION AND YOUTH DAYS

Generation Day Czech Republic, June 21, 2015

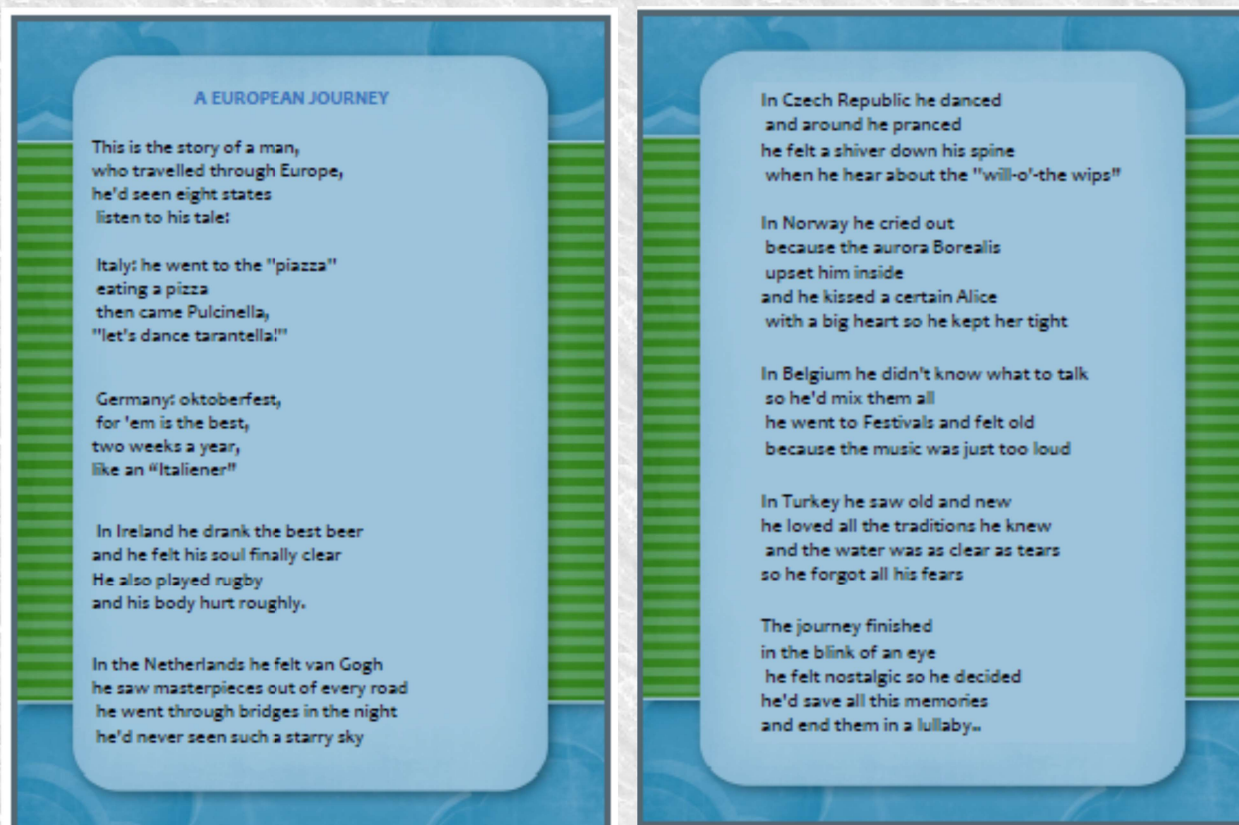
Students prepared a half-day full of different activities. They introduced the project, spoke about conferences and showed photos, sang Turkish dances, played musical instruments and sang songs together with the grandpas and grandmas. This was followed by lively discussion. Seniors could try samples of Turkish sweets and enjoyed watching Ebru paintings. The activities included interviews with the residents of Domov Senioru Dobris.



Youth Day Germany

The partner schools from Belgium, Italy, Germany and Ireland informed the pupils of the primary schools about the project. It was done on open-class days throughout the year. They showed the final products, explained the goals and the methodology of the project.

**Youth Day Belgium****Youth Day Italy**

E4U SONG**A European Journey**

A EUROPEAN JOURNEY

This is the story of a man,
who travelled through Europe,
he'd seen eight states
listen to his tale!

Italy: he went to the "piazza"
eating a pizza
then came Pulcinella,
"let's dance tarantella!"

Germany: oktoberfest,
for 'em is the best,
two weeks a year,
like an "Italiener"

In Ireland he drank the best beer
and he felt his soul finally clear
He also played rugby
and his body hurt roughly.

In the Netherlands he felt van Gogh
he saw masterpieces out of every road
he went through bridges in the night
he'd never seen such a starry sky

In Czech Republic he danced
and around he pranced
he felt a shiver down his spine
when he hear about the "will-o'-the wips"

In Norway he cried out
because the aurora Borealis
upset him inside
and he kissed a certain Alice
with a big heart so he kept her tight

In Belgium he didn't know what to talk
so he'd mix them all
he went to Festivals and felt old
because the music was just too loud

In Turkey he saw old and new
he loved all the traditions he knew
and the water was as clear as tears
so he forgot all his fears

The journey finished
in the blink of an eye
he felt nostalgic so he decided
he'd save all this memories
and end them in a lullaby..

"A European Journey" created purposely for E4U project by students
(including original music)

MEMORIES

**E4U Conference Ramsgrange Community School, New Ross, Ireland,
November 4-9, 2014**

We were with my school friends in Ireland. It was really fun ! There were also German, Norwegian, Belgian, Italian and Dutch students. We spent a lot of time together. We went on some trips and it was interesting. We lived in an Irish family. My host was the Butlers family. Their daughter Caroline was very nice and we spent good time together. She is a tall and beautiful girl with dark long hair. She has good sense of humour. Our hosts became our friends, so I think that's great. I was surprised when Caroline told me, they start school at 9 a.m.. I tried their traditional food called Bacon and Cabbage which was very good and healthy.

One day we baked some desserts from our country and it was really interesting. We also had to present our school, traditions and country. My school friends Iveta and Martin wore Czech folk costumes and they danced our dance called Polka. We tried to learn some of the students dance called Rufus. I think, they really liked it. Everybody was very polite and helpful. I really enjoyed it. I would like to visit such an event again ! So thank you for this experience!

Helena

When I hear a word Ireland, I can see hills, clovers, drizzly weather, Guinness beer and whiskey. Yeah that's it - whiskey and beer. Seriously, I am glad that I could have participated in E4U project. I not only saw a beautiful landscape with lots of historical sites, but I had a chance to make new friends from different countries, who were as excited as me. We taught them a few dances, they tasted our desserts and we taught them a few words in our language too. A big advantage of this stay was our accommodation because we were living in the host families of our Irish friends. We were able to see their everyday way of life. They were very friendly and polite. I am really grateful for this opportunity and I am decided to come back to Ireland. Get to know Ireland deeper and see my friends.

I would like to thank to our teachers for giving us this chance and for their patience !!!!

Natálie

Our visit to Ireland was really great. I liked that we were in families. The family, where I stayed, was kind and nice to me. For example, the mother of my host took us to The Hook Lighthouse, to the cinema... The Hook Lighthouse is one of the oldest lighthouses in the world. I met many friends of my host, too. All of them were friendly and talkative. Or when there was cold at their home, they gave us more blankets. For dinners we had delicious meals. There were lots of dishes on the table and we could take whatever we wanted. After dinner we had a dessert so we were always full.

I think that was good that there were only four people from each country (except for Ireland) because we everybody could speak together. It was more international. The best way of meeting other people was when we worked in workrooms. There were one or two students of each country and we could get to know each other better. Maybe one or two days moreover would be suitable to make friends with more people.

The idea that we came one day earlier and visited Dublin was excellent. Dublin is a wonderful city and it would have been a pity if we hadn't seen it. The trip to Heritage park wasn't very interesting but it was because of rain and our visit to Kilkenny was super.

I think that it was an unforgettable experience. It's important to make international relations and I really like to get to know new people. And our English improved as well. If I want to go to Ireland, I will be able to stay at home of my new friends or if they want to come here, they will be able to stay at my home.

Iveta



*At the conference at Ramsgrange Community School, Ireland
November 6, 2014*

Fatma Emin Kutvar Anadolu Lisesi, Balikesir, Turkey
April 19-27, 2015

The first three words that come to my mind when I hear Turkey are “an amazing experience”. This trip was even better than we expected in the begging. We got an incredible opportunity to live according to Turkish life for the whole week. And even better we stayed in local families, which is not usually possible. We realised that in many ways their lives are quite similar to ours. We got to know that our hobbies were almost the same. Especially dancing, which we all enjoyed a lot, got us pretty close together.

The thing, that impressed us probably the most, was the hospitality of all the families that we stayed at. That made us feels like we were at home. We also really liked the programme. Thanks to the “treasure hunt” we visited the most known places of Balikesir. We also had an opportunity to try an interesting technique of painting called Ebru. The most important fact is that we established friendships that could last (and we hope they will) for ever.

Anna

This year, I was involved in an international project called “Europe 4 you“ and I was chosen with other 7 girls from our school to take part in the project conference in Turkey. This meeting took place at the end of April in a Turkish town called Balikesir. There were 4-8 students from 8 countries.

Our Czech group came to Turkey about 3 days before the opening of the conference so we could visit Istanbul, where we saw the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sofia and the palace Topkapi. Then we also visited an ancient city called Efes together with Norwegian students. We were accommodated in Turkish families, where we were cordially welcome. Even though most of the family members didn't speak English, they took care of us and they were very hospitable. All Turkish students were very kind and friendly, we spent a lot of time with them even before or after the official program at school. The conference started with presentations of our countries and we were carrying out some tasks in groups of students and walking around Balikesir in the afternoon. The next day, we tried to paint pictures using a technique called Ebru and we danced some Turkish dances. The following day, we went on a trip to the sea, we visited some towns and the olive oil museum. This day was unfortunately the last day of the project conference. Our Czech group stayed there for one day more but then we had to return back to the Czech republic. I'm glad that I could take a part in this project because I've got know a lot of new people, places and also the Turkish culture. It was difficult to say goodbye to the Turkish students and their families. Our hosting families were really kind and generous and we all returned to the Czech republic with our luggage full of gifts from them.

Jitka

On 19th April began my best week ever. I was in Turkey for the first time and it was great. Everything started on Sunday when we landed in the multi-cultural city of Istanbul. I was very surprised by Turkish people. They are very kind, friendly and helpful. Wherever we went, they always asked us how we are and if we needed anything. During the whole week I stayed by Ayca's family. They were very nice and they looked after me like I was their own daughter. I tasted here traditional Turkish meal for example iskender kebab, köfte or traditional drink Ayran. I can't forget Turkish dessert like Turkish delight, baklava or hosmerim. I think that Turkish cuisine is simply delicious. I am glad that we arrived to Turkey four day earlier because we could do a tour in Istanbul and we also visited one of the seven wonders - Efes. I will never forget about the moment when I could go through the antic town and saw the thousand year's old buildings. The programme in the school was great too. We could try Turkish traditional painting on the liquid and besides we learnt a lot of about Turkish culture and history.

The whole week was amazing and I will never forget this visit. I met there great people, which I spent a wonderful time with. I also hope that I will have a chance to visit Turkey one more time.

Andrea



At the Conference at Fatma Emin Kutvar Anadolu Lisesi, Balikesir

April 24, 2015