



Erasmus+ KA2 „Unique National and European Symbols of our Culture and Originality” (U.N.E.S.C.O.)

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**KA2 - Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices
KA229 School Exchange Partnerships**

PROJECT JOURNAL – Granadilla de Abona, Spain 07.05.2023 – 12.05.2023

Between 07.05 – 12.05.2023, teachers and students from partner schools participated in the last mobility within the project, in Tenerife, Spain, mobility organized by Instituto de Enseñanza Secundaria Los Cardones Granadilla de Abona, Spain.

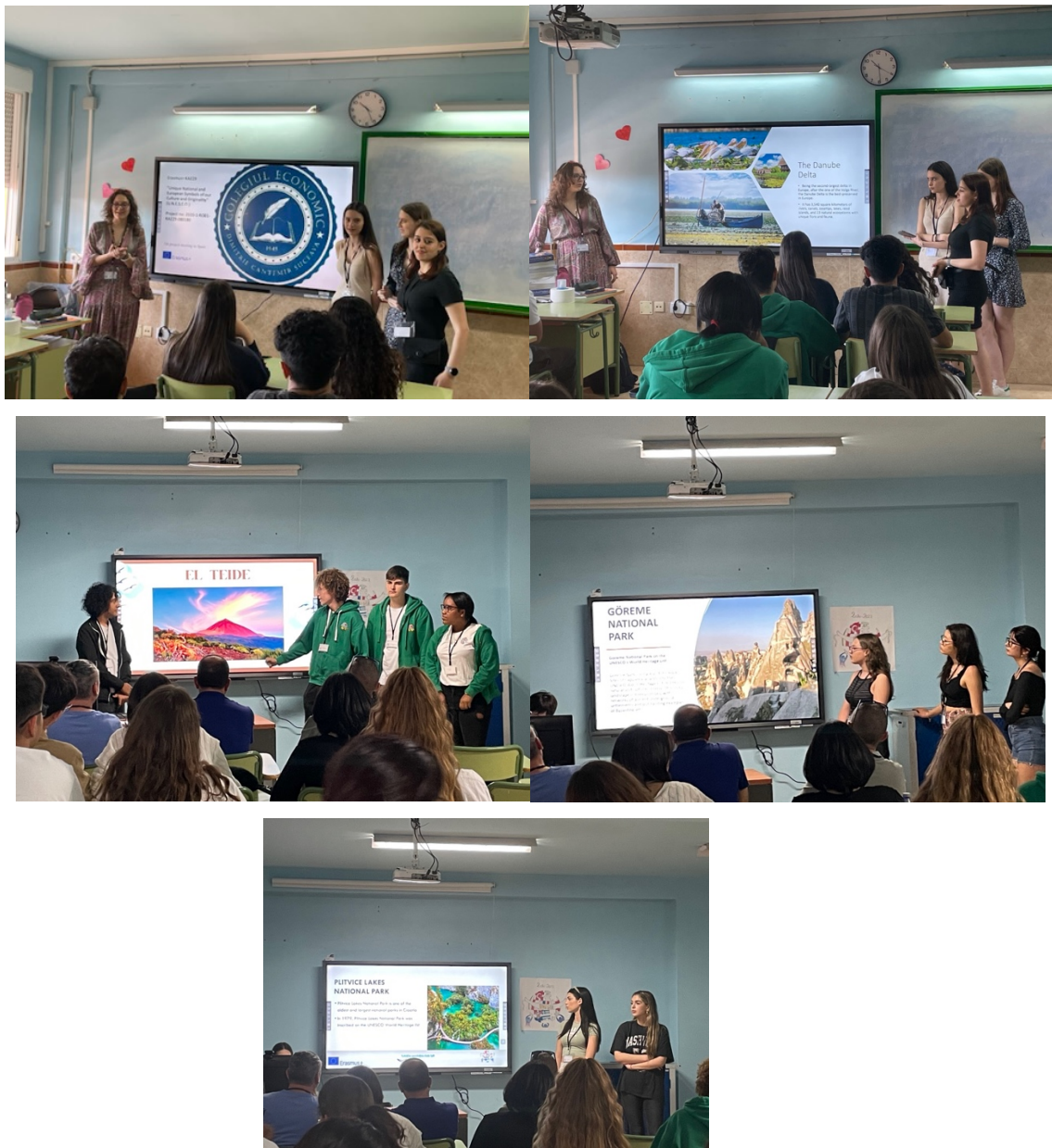
The activities had as their central theme "UNESCO natural heritage" and aimed at deepening the information related to the wonders of nature, nature conservation, wildlife conservation, fauna and flora, the histories behind some of the most diverse sites in Europe.

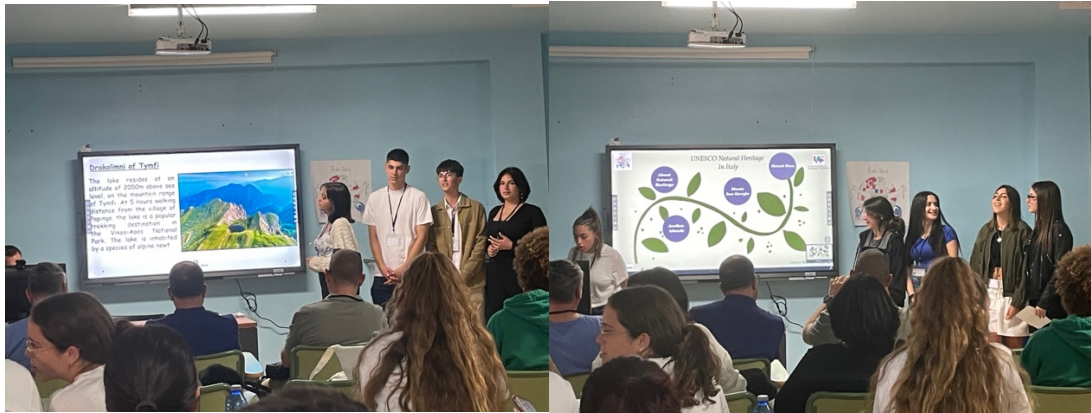
I chose this topic for the learning activity in Spain because the cultural and historical heritage of this country has preserved a variety of cultural monuments, points of attraction and fascinating places, being among the world's appreciated destinations. The mild climate, geographical location, coastline, modern infrastructure and art are some of the arguments that certify the natural beauty and special charm of this country. Spain's reward is a fitting one, because it managed to rank third in the ranking of the countries with the most objectives included in the UNESCO World Heritage - national parks, natural sites, architectural treasures and islands.



On 08.05.2023, the official opening of the project meeting took place, on which occasion the students promoted and illustrated 3 of the natural objectives included in the UNESCO heritage list, considered representative for each country. At the end of the presentations, the students participated in a Kahoot game on the same topic.

Next, the students participated in a workshop and a webquest on the theme of UNESCO's natural heritage.





On Monday afternoon, students and teachers made an educational visit to a plantation of bananas and other exotic fruits.



What did we find out?

In Tenerife, banana and vine crops already have a long history, as well as in the other Canary Islands. Bananas are grown and harvested all the time, there is no particular season, due to the warm temperatures throughout the year. Banana trees are currently planted in approximately 4,200 hectares throughout the island, and the maximum height at which a banana tree can be planted is no more than 300 m. A banana tree (mother plant) can make a bunch of bananas that can reach up to 70 kg in weight. The nets on the banana plantations have the role of protection against calamity. Calima is the wind that comes from the Sahara desert, loaded with fine sand particles. It is not harmful to people, but only to plantations. More than 200,000 tons of bananas are produced annually, and 80% of the production is exported. If in the south, a banana tree consumes about 21 l of water to be irrigated, in the north it consumes only 17 l of water due to the difference in precipitation between north and south.

The most delicious banana recipes and some of the most famous are: banana bread, banana cakes and banana pancakes. However, in Tenerife, banana wine is most appreciated by the people. Sweet bananas from the Canary Islands mixed with alcohol create a truly unique flavor. Besides Tenerife's famous banana wine, you can find other local products made with bananas at the banana farm's souvenir shop.

Since tourism dominates Tenerife's economy, agriculture has lost its traditional importance in favor of industry and services. But its contribution is vital and generates important benefits, such as the maintenance of the island's rural environment and traditional cultural values.

On 09.05.2023, Tuesday, students and teachers participated in an educational visit to the Teide National Park, a natural monument included in the UNESCO world heritage list.





Teide is an active volcano that in 2007 was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is located on the island of Tenerife of the Canary Islands archipelago (Spain). With a height of 3,718 m above sea level and about 7,000 m from the ocean floor, it is the highest peak in Spain and of all the islands in the Atlantic Ocean. Measured from its submerged base, it is the third tallest and most massive volcano on Earth

There are a number of reasons that recommend the Teide National Park as a tourist imperative on the island of Tenerife! The first would be the diversity of the fauna with its collection of invertebrates and mammals, but also of the flora made up of plants, which have integrated into the harsh ecosystem of the park and increased the ability to preserve the natural balance of the place. Moreover, the geological structure dominated by the volcanic formations of Mount Teide, along with the challenging routes, is the second reason that convinces climbers to face the obstacles and admire the views from a height.

Students captured evidence (pictures, personal notes) and then posted it on Instagram: #erasmusplusunesco. At dinner, students and teachers enjoyed authentic traditional dishes specific to the cuisine of Tenerife.





On Wednesday, 10.05.2023, teams of students and teachers participated in an educational visit to La Laguna, a city of exceptional universal value, registered in the UNESCO world heritage list.



San Cristóbal de La Laguna is located on the island of Tenerife, part of the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands in Spain. It was founded at the end of the 15th century on an inland plateau 550 m above sea level, next to an unsanitary lagoon. The property includes two original city centers, each belonging to a different time in history: the so-called Upper City is the original founding site near the lagoon and has an unplanned urban structure; and Lower Town, one kilometer to the East, which is designed on a grid.



On Thursday 11/05/2023, students designed questions for the online application and produced the sixth section of the game. One teacher and one student from each school selected the questions to be integrated into the game (30 questions). To promote the UNESCO natural heritage, the students presented their experience visiting the natural monuments and created digital stories using Microsoft Sway.

On Thursday afternoon, the students admired the aquatic flora and fauna of the Atlantic Ocean. Despite its small area, the island of Tenerife has a remarkable ecological diversity, which is the consequence of the special environmental conditions, the distinct topography and the local climatic conditions. The existence of several microclimates results in a rich and diverse flora (1400 plant species) of which over a hundred are endemic. The fauna of the island has many endemic invertebrates, unique reptiles, bird and mammal species. Tenerife's fauna includes 400 species of fish, 56 birds, 5 reptiles, 2 amphibians, 13 land mammals and several thousand invertebrates, in addition to several species of sea turtles, whales and dolphins.



The evening ended with the awarding of participation certificates at a festive meal, where students and teachers exchanged impressions and tasted traditional dishes and desserts of Tenerife cuisine.



The meeting was a real opportunity for professional and cultural training, exchange of experience and practice of linguistic and IT skills for the participating students and teaching staff. Thanks to the activities of the project, the students had the opportunity to learn more about their own country and the culture of other countries, about the different lifestyles in a non-formal learning environment, being active protagonists of the teaching and learning process.



Outdoor education – educational visits (students participated in a variety of adventurous challenges to discover Spain's Unesco heritage), curiosity and fun during activities (posting InstaStories, photos on social networks) increased the quality and quantity of the learning process. By participating in all activities and coming into contact with different cultures, students became receptive to European heritage, became more sensitive to the meaning of European culture, culturally aware and willing to consciously protect European heritage.

The activities carried out in school workshops and open discussions gave students the opportunity to show their artistic and creative potential, to participate in experiences that helped them learn not only scientific information, but also values, traditions.

Participating in lessons using webquests, using Microsoft and web 2.0 tools and the Google game in an intercultural way stimulated the students' academic success, improved their English language level and specific vocabulary related to natural and cultural heritage.

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