

AGUILAR DE CAMPOO, PALENCIA, ESPAÑA

PERIOD: 13 TO 20 MARCH 2023

HOSTING SCHOOL: I.E.S. SANTA MARÍA LA REAL, AGUILAR DE CAMPOO, ESPAÑA

Description of the activity. Describe the content, methodology and the results of this activity.

- **Who were the participants in the activity (including local participants)?**
- **How was this activity related to or integrated with the normal activities?**

Participants: 15-16 years old, mixed boys and girls (24 and 22 from Scordia and Aguilar de Campoo, respectively), 2 Italian teachers and various Spanish. All the activities at school were related to Charles V and his visits to both countries (Spain and Italy). The cultural activities might be considered similar to a typical school trip.

The week spent in Aguilar de Campoo by Italian students included activities at school and cultural visits. The methodology was for students from both schools to interact as much as possible and to reflect their knowledge on Charles V. The results were very positive as students worked well together, in pairs and teams, and gained an insight into the above-mentioned king whom they knew little about. Students were encouraged to consider how they might improve the activities for future participants. A very positive attitude was noted among students.

ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED OUTSIDE THE HOSTING SCHOOL

- Reception at the Town Hall, Aguilar de Campoo. The deputy major welcomed the group of Italian students to the town. Before that, Italian students visited Santa María la Real monastery and Rom display.
- Geocaching activity for both Italian and Spanish students. Mixed group in which teamworking was essential.
- Trip to Valladolid (only Italian students). Visit to the Neapolitan Bethlehem and cloister of the National Museum of Sculpture. Afterwards, guided city walk.
- Trip to Palencia. A visit to the cathedral and a guided city walk.
- Trip to Burgos. A visit to the cathedral and a guided city walk.
- The Italian students said goodbye to their Spanish classmates and their families in the same place where they had been welcomed at the beginning of the adventure: at the bus station of Aguilar de Campoo.

ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED INSIDE THE SCHOOL PREMISES

- Welcome ceremony for the Spanish students by the headmistress and the head of studies of Santa María La Real high school.

- Talk on Charles V by Alberto Corada Alonso (Professor at the University of Valladolid).
- A Spanish language activity was carried out by one of the teachers from the Spanish Department of Santa María La Real high school.
- A Escape Room for Italian students was carried out by some teachers from History and Music Departments of Santa María La Real high school.
- Amazing performance of the reception of Charles V at school by both Italian and Spanish students and teachers. They wore some traditional costumes which are usually worn in the Charles V parade, an event that takes place annually in Aguilar de Campoo to celebrate his visit to the village.
- Spanish and Italian students worked on assignments within this project in small mixed groups. Evaluation took place.

How did the participation in this activity benefit the involved participants?

Participation in the activities was clearly beneficial to the students as they improved their understanding of cultural differences between the two countries. While there were clearly cultural differences, the two countries had a lot more in common than differences. The teamwork and communication skills employed during all the activities were good to see. Indeed, a number of meaningful suggestions were made by students in the feedback session at the end of the week.

The Spanish host families warmly welcomed their young guests and generously dedicated their time and resources to them throughout the stay. Good relationships have been established and this is undoubtedly the best silver lining.