

QUINTO PIANO

EDIZIONE SPECIALE-ERASMUS +



Swetaly: Europe is us

From October 16th to October 20th, 2023, a group of 23 students from our school had the opportunity to take part in the Erasmus+ project, co-funded by the European Union.

In that week the Lussana students hosted girls and boys from Sweden and Turkey and our guests became part of our families. Together with the Erasmus coordinator, we scheduled a full week of school activities, outings, and moments of socialization. So on Monday after classes, we showed our beloved guests around the city, firstly the lower part and then the upper and most ancient one, which they loved. On Wednesday we went to Venice. They were fascinated by its gondolas and the narrow calle packed as usual with buzzing tourists and local people. On Thursday we organized a full day in Milan with its most famous landmarks and of course the shopping area. Tired but happy for the wonderful day we enjoyed a pizza together. Actually, it was their first real Italian pizza and they adored it. Time passed quickly and after an amazing week full of unforgettable moments the Swedish had to leave.

Needless to say, when it came the moment for us to visit them, we were more than excited.

On Friday 12th April at 4.30 in the morning, still half asleep we boarded the plane to Sweden. Once off the aircraft the freezing, rainy weather welcomed us but we knew we were in the right place. In the airport we met our long-lost Swedish friends we hadn't seen since October and in their cars, we reached Partille Gymnasium, their school.

The first fantastic experience we had there was FIKA, something that would have cheered up our single day afterward. A fika is a typical Swedish "coffee break" when you drink coffee, eat lots of kanelbulle (cinnamon rolls) and chat, and chat with people. But the great thing is that you can have it at any hour, day and night.

After our first fika the Sweds showed us around their school and soon we noticed it was very different to ours. The school is a pretty new building with sofas and small kitchen corners here and there and billboard tables in each department. There is a modern bar with tables and coaches where students can relax and socialize in their free time. Academically speaking they have a smaller number of students in each class and fewer subjects in their curriculum which also includes singing classes and bowling ones. Apart from some mandatory subjects, every day Swedish students can choose their classes so their schedule is variable and they have a lot of free time, including an hour for their lunch at the school canteen. It was a surprise for us to know that meals are free for Swedish students and that day it was for us too. In the afternoon we took part in some lessons and at 4.00 pm we headed home with our hosts. Having hosted them in October we instantly felt at ease and relaxed after the long journey.

On Saturday our Swedish friends showed us around Göteborg. You must visit it: it's fabulous! It is the second biggest city in Sweden and just ten minutes away from Partille. Göteborg is a typical Nordic city, with its canal in the middle, a spectacular greenhouse, and lots of museums. It is on the west coast, near the sea and it is a multiethnic city with people of Arabic, Asian, Moroccan, and African origins.

In the following days, we had classes again and some outings. We visited Copenhagen, the capital city of Denmark which we loved so much. During our week we also went to Stockholm and visited its famous Vasa shipwreck where we met Professor Giuliano Pontara a philosopher and pacifist who delivered us a short lecture.

Our half day excursions includes also the beautiful city of Marstrand which is on an island in the archipelago, its beautiful castle, and typical Swedish seahouses. On the last day, we had a lot of free time to enjoy Göteborg for the last time, so we strolled around with our Swedish friends to their favorite spots in the city.

Time flew but we felt like we had always lived there.

Unfortunately, on Thursday evening our week came to an end, and with tears in our eyes and sweet memories in our hearts we eventually flew back to Bergamo.

On behalf of all the students who took part in this Erasmus+ project, I do say that this international exchange has had a great impact on my life: I got to visit amazing places, experienced foreign habits, a different culture, and most of all meet a lot of friendly people I will never forget and hopefully will get in touch forever. Thank you to our Principal, and the Italian and foreign teachers who contributed to this Erasmus+project.

BEATRICE BERTACCO

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**Cofinanziato
dall'Unione europea**

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