

# EUROPE TOGETHER: KNOWLEDGE, COMPETENCES AND CITIZENSHIP



With the support of the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

## C4 – MOBILITY TO BARCELONA, MARCH 6 TO 12, 2022

This is about an Erasmus project which started two years ago but was blocked by the pandemic situation that began in 2020. Despite this, we did not stop and especially the teachers did not give up and after hard work and online meetings, we managed to achieve the real part of the project, the face-to-face meetings. Hosted by the Spanish school Institut XXV Olimpiada, one of the partner schools, our class, 5DL, left for Barcelona to experience what cannot be considered an ordinary trip, but the heart of the Erasmus+ project. This programme is based on the debate method and focuses on European issues. The vehicular language is English, not for another reason is the project called "Europe Together: knowledge, competences and citizenship". We had the opportunity to discuss specific and very current



topics with youngsters of our age. In Barcelona we were together with students from Monza and Barcelona and altogether made up a group of about 60 students. Unfortunately, our partners from Cyprus were unable to join in, but we hope we'll have the chance to see them in May in Strasbourg for the project final meeting.

We departed on Sunday, March 6. During the week of our stay, in the mornings, we had the opportunity to visit the city. Unfortunately, it was a rainy week, but despite this magnificent Barcelona enchanted us with its historical and artistic monuments. From the *Sagrada Família* to *Sant Pau* hospital, from *Casa Batlló* to the

*Fundació Joan Miró*, from *el barri Gòtic* with the *Basílica de Santa Maria del Mar* to *Park Güell*, magnificent places visited with our debate companions and guided by our hosts. Even the food did not disappoint, Barcelona with its *paella*, *tortilla de patatas*, *pollo asado a la catalana* and many other dishes captured us from the very first days.

In the afternoon we met all together at school. For the first three days, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, we discussed and prepared our debates divided into eight groups. On the remaining two days we debated against the other teams. The motions to be debated were four, two prepared and two *impromptu*, which are two debates prepared at the moment.

Here are some of our opinions on the trip and the experience of debate.

"It was a wonderful experience. The city was amazing, the people were really nice and friendly and debating gave us the opportunity to talk about topics that at school are not dealt with and, above all, to see different points of view on the same topic. During a debate I had to support a point of view with which I did not agree with at all, but that's where the beauty lies. Through this I could understand even more what I believed in and at the same time I could better understand the other point of view. I really loved debating and it was unexpected, because I thought it wasn't my thing, but now I realize that I like it and I see that I'm rather good at it." – E. M.

"I found the city of Barcelona really interesting and suggestive with a huge number of incredible and marvellous works of art and architecture. It was amazing to go deeper into the Spanish habits and culture and explore all the secrets of the city. Also, the people were helpful and gracious. The debate experience has been enriching, even if I found out that I'm not too good at it. Despite this, I've been able to improve my team-skills and my ability to share and compare my ideas with the ones of other people. To sum up, it has been an amazing and enriching experience from every point of view." – S. C.

"This journey to Barcelona gave me the opportunity to look at the rest of the world with new eyes: I realized that every place is my "spot in the world" and this allowed me to leave my heart away from home for the first time." – C. R.

"The experience that we had in Barcelona was amazing. The city was wonderful, and I really liked getting the chance to know the Spanish culture, the people, and their language better. The experience of debating was unique, it helped me to develop ideas from different points of view regardless of whether I was in favour of a topic or not. Thanks to the other students and their support, I had the opportunity to develop my skills and discover that most of the topics that we discussed are important and knowing about them contributed to improving my own cultural level." – S. M.

"It was a wonderful experience. Returning to travel after a two-year break, it was thrilling. Thanks to this project I have rediscovered the beauty of studying foreign languages and getting in touch with new cultures. I tested myself and was very satisfied with the results." – M. T.

"I truly enjoyed this experience in Barcelona. Even if the weather wasn't very good, we had the opportunity to visit the city and its amazing monuments, such as the Sagrada Familia, one of my favorites. Regarding debate, it was our first time debating and it was interesting, seeing myself in a new situation. I was happy with the results and with the fact I could practice my abilities. Also, the people I met contributed to making this trip wonderful and unforgettable." – G. Z.

"Debating was not what I had expected, and it turned out to be great. At first, I was a bit scared and dreaded presenting myself to people I didn't know, talking in front of them seemed an impossible thing to do for me. However, after a few days of work with the other students, I realized it was not so bad and enjoyed the general experience more. It allowed me to overcome, even if only a little bit, my shyness, and I was able to put into practice what we had learned about debates over these years at school. Visiting Barcelona was wonderful and since it was my first time there, I was really excited to discover how beautiful the city was." – A. P.

"The Erasmus in Barcelona was an experience that particularly impressed me. I met a lot of new people, from Monza and Spain. We had a great time together, of fun and happiness. But not only that, we also discussed how to prepare for the debates. I really liked the city too, it was really beautiful, despite the weather, the Sagrada Familia was a visit I will never forget for its beauty." – E. A.

"The experience in Barcelona gave me the opportunity to get in touch with new people and to practice what I've been learning about debates in the last few years. I also was able to challenge myself and overcome some of my insecurities." – M. B.

"This mobility not only gave me the opportunity to get involved through the debate experience but also allowed me to work in a wonderful team. I'm really pleased to have worked together with people from different schools and share with them our visions about several topics. Moreover, the city of Barcelona with its history and buildings was the perfect background for this experience." – G. F.

"This Erasmus project has meant a lot to me. Visiting new places and meeting new people was amazing, but I especially enjoyed the atmosphere that was created. We were all together and excited about the new adventure, which turned out to be special and unforgettable. I thought debating would be very difficult, but it was not. We all helped each other and spent exciting moments that will always be part of my heart and my memories. Especially the city itself,

which is one of my favourite ones! *Casa Batlló* and *Sagrada Família* moved me, thanks to their wonderful architecture. I'm really grateful for this opportunity and I hope there will be many others." – F. B.

"This experience in Barcelona allowed me to take on a challenge and try something that was out of my comfort-zone, as it helped me to develop new skills. Moreover, I met new people who enriched me as a person and for this reason I will always be grateful for this opportunity." – S. B.

"I found this trip interesting, because I got to know other people of my age through the debate we did and visit places I had never seen in person, but it was also essential for a personal reflection and to improve, albeit slightly, the relationship with my classmates and my way of seeing myself." – G. S.

"I believe the experience we had in Barcelona was the chance to put into practice what we have been learning in the last few years about debating, confronting other students and sharing our ideas, even in multiple languages, trying to make the most of it all. Apart from that, traveling is what makes me feel my best self, so having the opportunity to do that, especially during a time when it has not been so easy, was amazing." – S. F.

"I thought that the complex words of debating would have oppressed the magnificent evenings in Barcelona, yet it was not so. Indeed, the various comparisons explored in the activities gave me the opportunity to enrich perspectives and acquire many others." – D. S.

Finally, we would like to add that We are happy to have been able to take part in this project and we are even happier that it is not finished yet. Another trip has already been planned in Strasbourg, and once again we, with the support of the teachers, will have to take the challenge to make our voices heard. After all, we are the generation of the future, and we need to start fighting for what we believe in right away.

Class 5DL

