

**IN RETROSPECT.....
REFLECTING ABOUT THE INTERCULTURAL EXPERIENCE**

**Class 2C LSA (28 students) Liceo Scienze Applicate, Malignani (UD)
- Class 2C (15 students) Liceo linguistico Sloveno Preseren (TS)**

13th December 2012

BEFORE	<p>How did you <u>feel</u> before meeting your guests?</p> <p>Happy and excited: I really wanted to meet new people! Worried: How embarrassing to mix up with strangers! Concerned with my PP presentation Curious about what makes us different Full of great expectations; optimistic about the future meeting Generous and ready to help... Happy and relaxed Anxious and thrilled about the new partners Never before had I met "half-foreigners" Impatient: I was looking forward to the extraordinary day! A bit bored by the usual working days Scared to face the unknown Eager to live the unique day Excited: first contact with Slovenians</p> <p>What did you <u>think</u> about the project in the beginning?</p> <p>Good to meet new teenagers/intercultural exchanges are worth trying Interesting to compare different schools/curricula, lifestyles Necessary for teenagers to improve English and to make school less boring Great Opportunity to meet s.o. and to see sth different Useful but not so sure if successful The best idea to interact with others in English The experience of a lifetime! brilliant Magic moment to discover my new classmates (I am a new entry) Initially doubtful but then motivated So near and so far: we live side by side but we are strangers A good chance to learn some words in Slovene</p>
DURING	<p>What <u>impressed</u> during the visit?</p> <p>Slovenians are bilingual: they speak both languages so naturally! Pleasant atmosphere together: we are complementary! We have a lot in common in spite of our different origins The chapel of Purity with Tiepolo's drawing (excellent guide)</p>

	<p>The toilets at Preseren (much better than thse at malignani) The walk along the sea in Trieste Piazza dell'Unità in Trieste and S Giusto I discovered unknown parts of trieste Positive first impression: mutual liking Willingness to cooperate and communicate among youngsters How natural it was to socialize with the other students Hosts and guests mixed up easily Most of them are girls and all pretty Classes are made up of 6 students at Preseren! Their school day is heavier than ours because they study more to become competent in more languages: Slovene, Italian, English, Russian, Latin, German The size of the school in trieste: so small if compared to ours! The girls were attractive: I liked the way they welcomed us The sun shining for us both in Udine and trieste</p> <p>What did you <u>dislike</u> of the experience?</p> <p>I could not understand what they were saying in Slovene More time for sightseeing/ the day was too short in Trieste The group work activity <i>What's in a name?</i> without sheet (silence) The money donated to the church for the guided tour Our SALA RIUNIONI: I prefer AULA MAGNA The behaviour of some of my classmates in Sala Riunioni Not enough time to stay together in peace, not enough free time Too much news about Malignani school and Arturo Malignani Boring presentations of both schools: better to invent games to play together involving visitors more I cannot see any flaw in the experience: it was all perfect and smooth Both town tours were too long, leaving not enough time for pleasure The close encounter with our headmistress who reprimanded us The fact we could not stay with our guests from the moment they arrived at Malignani but only from 11am</p>
AFTER	<p>Did you <u>talk to anyone</u> about this visit?</p> <p>I told my sister I enjoyed this experience; I spoke with my classmates and my family and friends; positive event but more free time; I use facebook to communicate with my Slovenian friends I informed my friends and they were happy for me Parents in favour of the experience, friends skeptical or envious I share the news with my parents and they were enthusistic YES, I spread the news of this fantastic day and I am in daily contact with the girls from Preseren Friends said they want teachers to promote this project in their schools</p>

Which conclusions did you draw about the exchange experience?

Class mates enjoyed the special occasion
One of the most significant experiences of the year
Exchange programs change you inside
Parents appreciated this kind of school activity
I am proud of belonging to the Malignani family: not all schools in Udine organize such contact seminars

Is it worth to organize such events? Why? What can you learn?

YES. I learnt we are different/ conversation in English/I have made new friends/ to get oriented in Udine and Trieste/ new encounters help students grow in self awareness and responsibility
Barriers fall apart and prejudices vanish in the air when you come in touch
You can learn about people and life in a more stimulating way (no books, no traditional learning method in the classroom)
English becomes a means to establish positive relationships
English is far more than a school subject
English in action is more rewarding
Wherever you go you will meet individuals worth talking to
You can make new friends with you break the ice.....
Absolute fun and learning: we must do it again!
To work in a group to plan and organize the welcome of special guests
To learn to be responsible for food, power point presentations
To live in a multiethnic world where harmony reigns supreme

Can you make any suggestions for future meetings?

More time spent together to get to know each other
More time to plan activities and organize the welcome party
A better organization of the morning at school
A sponsor to finance the intercultural project
More class exchanges.....more time for small talk
Class exchanges with far off countries with English as lingua franca
Organize more guided activities to involve participants
Preparing the meeting in advance to avoid last minute rushing...
More free time to encourage conversation
A school trip of 2/3 days together in the mountains or by the sea
To meet again on a voluntary basis without teachers
To visit more places together

