

IN RESTROSPECT.....

REFLECTING ABOUT THE INTERCULTURAL EXPERIENCE of BIODIVERSITY 2014

How did you feel before meeting your guests?

- A bit scared and shy, afraid of the new, worried to speak to foreigners,
- anxious not to be good enough, not to give a good impression
- stressed at the idea of speaking in public in formal English
- Excited and curious to meet new teenagers
- Enthusiastic about the new enterprise
- Happy because this is an unusual and formative activity at school

What did you think about the project in the beginning?

- A very interesting and useful idea.....
- An opportunity to establish contact with other youth
- Honoured of being part of the project.....
- An original way of learning by doing
- A waste of time (but the boy changed his mind afterwards!)

What impressed you during the exchange days?

- How easy it was to speak to each other even if we were strangers
- I did not expect the Slovenians to be so impressed of my school: I felt so proud of belonging to ISIS Malignani!
- The funny and surprised faces of the guests in front of the huge spaces of my Malignani
- The visit oto the colourful koper high school, so different from Malignani (smaller and cosier)
- The videos showing how to catch a bear to study its habits
- The excellent preparation of the guides of the village of bears
- The walk in the woods looking for prints of bears
- The delicious reception with fizzy drinks and tasty sweets at Koper school
- The interesting walk along the Rizana river and around the water plant
- The picturesque town of Capodistria with its Venetian style and its stunning blue sky
- The treasure hunt in the beautiful square of Capodistria
- The stone labirinth near the Rizana river

What did you dislike about the visits?

- Not enough time to get to know each other,
- The fact that during lunchtime very few tried to mix up: most students stayed with thier country fellows.
- The indifference of some students about our welcome work
- The feeling of exclusion when 2 Slovenian students spoke their language and I could not understand

Did you talk to anyone about the exchange days?

- I informed my friends and they were impressed and a bit envious
- I told my parents and they liked the activity
- I persuaded everybody with these words: "It was a perfect day"

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

- To break the ice with the language barrier: yes we can!
- To interact with strangers, to socialize in a natural way
- to demolish stereotypes and prejudices
- to open up our universe a bit more
- to overcome small differences united by major similarities
- to learn from peers in a meaningful context such as an intercultural day
- to learn by doing: to carry out the tasks assigned to each group by my teacher
- to increase the sense of responsibility
- to learn how to speak English in public to present a PPT
- to make new friends and keep in touch thanks to the modern social network

Can you make any suggestions for future meetings?

- Springtime is better than winter time for outings in fine weather
- Force students of different schools to work in pairs from the very beginning of the day
- Organise a weekend exchange to be more together
- Push students to eat their lunch with a foreign guest (not in their native group)
- The scientific part of the project should become prominent
- The scientific data and results should be handled in a more professional way