

Erasmus-Meeting in Marbella/Spain 3.4.2016- 9.4.2016

Report Andrea Lady & Gerald Grois, Austria

As teachers of the NMS Staudingergasse in Vienna we were very happy to be a part of the Erasmus-programme and of our Austrian delegation in Marbella.

Our journey and visit to Marbella started in the very early morning of Sunday 3.4. We met at the Airport Vienna Schwechst already at 4 am in the morning and were glad that none of our pupils had overslept.

All went well during the flight to Malaga Airport and during noon our group of 8 pupils and 3 teachers arrived in Marbella by Avanzabus.

The first impressions of the host-families were great, our kids were so cordially welcomed that we were overwhelmed and truly amazed of the situation.

The kids stayed the Sunday together with the hosts and we teachers tried to enjoy our BnB in the old town of Marbella- very cosy, nice and beautiful. Until the next day we walked through the old town of Marbella and also down to the seaside.

On Monday 4.4 all members of that meeting came together at the school „Sierra Blanca“.

There we met our partners from Germany, France, Greece and the teachers and pupils we knew from the visit in Vienna in December.

It was great to meet again!

We were mixed in groups and then we had some guided tours to get information about the building and the functions of different rooms and sections of the big school campus.

This school has its main focus on educational training for professions in tourism on one hand and on the other hand it's a grammar school. There are more than 1000 pupils in this school and we were amazed to see that their sports ground was bigger than our entire Viennese school!



The School Library



The impressive, huge Erasmus Wall



The smaller Sportsground



In the Biology Room

We from Austria liked the idea a lot that every teacher here has got an own classroom and that the pupils come there to have lessons, not like in Austria, where you go to the classes. Here teachers have space to put all their material and books into one room and they don't need to carry the stuff they need for the lesson around through the whole school.

After some games to get to know each other the students held presentations about the schoolsystem of their countries.

So we all could see the variations, differences and similarities of the different educational systems.



France



Spain



Germany



Greece



Austria



Here you can see some impressions of the different presentations

Then another main topic of the day was to collect ideas about structures of support for the kids living in the city of 2020.

A long session of exchange and group work between the students of Austria, France, Germany, Greece and Spain came to an end in the afternoon with a list of wishes for the mayor of Marbella, who has worked as a teacher in the IES Sierra Blanca before becoming Marbella's mayor.



Before the group work starts in the school Library

Due to heavy rain we visited the shopping center La Canada after school to try some montaditos there together with the Spanish colleague Sofia.



With Sofia at 100 Montaditos in La Canada

During the next day the pupils were divided in two groups. At the beginning the main topic of the day for the first group was how to make and cut a video, a student of the IES Sierra Blanca gave lessons about how to work with a special programme.

The other group attended lessons like German, PE or English at school.

Then the groups were changed.

During the session a journalist from the Costa del Sol Nachrichten made an interview with the German coordinator about the project and took some pictures. This newspaper appears daily in German because at the Costa del Sol there are about 100 000 German speaking inhabitants.

Every day when we were at school we got breakfast at 11:15. The students of the tourism school cook breakfast for the staff every day!



Breakfast served at school at 11:15

After the morning lessons and after having had breakfast we were taken by bus to a luxury 5* hotel called „Don Carlos“.

Different employees of the hotel told us about the jobs available in a hotel and then guided us through the huge garden areas, the beach club, the laundry and the pool sections. Our pupils were really impressed by the luxury scenery and it was so amazing to see backstage areas of a hotel where you usually as a guest can't go to when you're on holiday.



2 Backstage Corridors



The hotel Don Carlos



The Austrian pupils



near the beach



beautiful flowers everywhere



The beautiful garden area



one pool area



outside the hotel



The Lobby



In the Laundry



Some impressions of the hotel Don Carlos including a picture of our Erasmus group of pupils from Austria

We found out that even the staff in the hotel laundry spoke English because we talked to them and asked them about their work. We were told by one of our guides that rooms in the hotel Don Carlos are from 300€ up to 3000€ for a suite per night in the higher season.

In the later evening we met in „La Venencia“, a typical tapas bar for dinner. Everyone enjoyed chatting, eating and we had a nice evening together!



Dinner on Tuesday evening

With a mystery rally through the narrow streets of Marbella's old town we had the chance to learn more about Marbella through the forenoon on Wednesday.

After that we had the fascinating meeting with the mayor at the old townhall in the center of Marbella. The big main meeting room was crowded with pupils of the Erasmus-group, journalists and photographers.

After the welcoming speech of the mayor it was a Spanish girl, a student of the „IES Sierra Blanca“-school, who declaimed the list of important wishes of ideas for a better support for kids in education, health, and everydaylife.

A guided tour through the rooms of the townhall and the surroundings showed us great architectural treasures.



The Erasmusgroup in the townhall



The Mayor, local authorities and the coordinator



Waiting for the meeting



Taking photos during the meeting



The Austrian group



Inside the old part of the Townhall
In former times this was the place for trials



During the guided tour in the old part of the Townhall

After visiting Marbella's townhall, the mayor and the old town we had some free time in the old town which we used for having an icecream with our pupils.



In a beautiful Heladeria in the old town

After the freetime we met at the bus stop and we were taken to Porto Banus which is the most expensive part of Marbella. Here the pupils got some tasks about tourism to fulfill before the bus took us back to school again.



The Austrian teachers



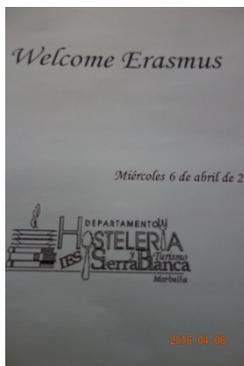
and the German teachers in Porto Banus



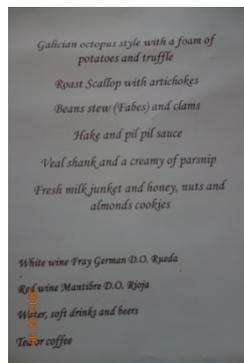
The Yacht Harbour of Porto Banus



In the afternoon the Erasmus-teachers were all invited to a great meal which had been prepared, cooked and served by the the students of the tourism school. The restaurant at school is for training for waiters and kitchen staff. So every week they cook meals like the one we got and people from Marbella can make a reservation and get such a great meal for a bargain. It was like a symphony on our tongues and everyone made a fantastic job!



The Menu



Also people from Marbella and staff of the IES Sierra Blanca are enjoying lunch



The first course



Everybody really liked the great lunch!





The dishes were not only well-tasting, but also a treat for the eyes!



This was our main course

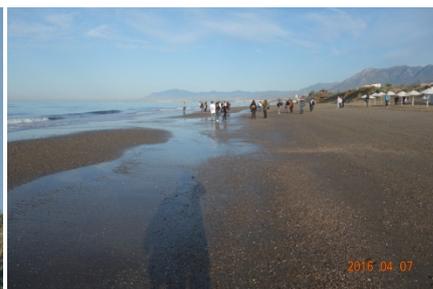


Before desert was served oranges were filleted

On Thursday morning we started with half an hour on the beach near the Andalusian Lab, it was an area with protected sand dunes and the beach was empty in the morning.



The natural sanddunes



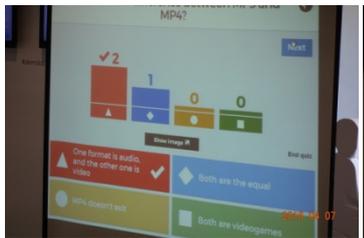
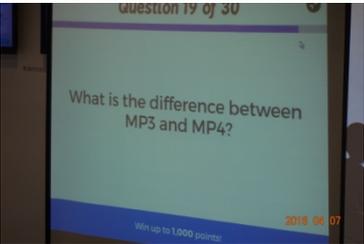
Thursday morning before visiting the Andalusia Lab

So we got some fresh air and then we started with the visit of the Andalusia Lab- a smart office building for supporting various requests of tourism to learn about nearfield communication, modern smart office technologies for solutions in tourism and how we could get best information about the guests in a hotel.

At the end of our visit the pupils could do a very exciting quiz in groups which they really enjoyed a lot.



In the Andalusia Lab



Here you can see how the quiz worked –

every group loved it!



A group photo in the Andalusia Lab

When we were back at school, some busy students and their teachers had already started to prepare two different kinds of Paella – one with chicken (because Germany and Austria had muslim pupils in their Erasmus groups) and one with pork in two huge Paella pans for all the Erasmus-group.

We enjoyed it as much as we could ;-)!

Some tasty icecream afterwards made us so happy with this place and all the warm atmosphere with the cordial hosts. This was definitely not a week for weight-loss!



The first preparations for cooking in the school yard



You have to stir well and with a lot of patience



Paella is ready! Everyone's enjoying it! In the beaker you can see Gazpacho, the typical, cold Andalusian vegetable soup



.....And some icecream for desert!

On Thursday evening we also had a great experience-we were invited to Sofia Morales' home where we could enjoy a self-prepared dinner and a wonderful view over Marbella. Sofia was in January in Vienna in our school for two weeks of job-shadowing and it was great to see her again and she made our stay in Marbella even more fantastic! I also was allowed to try on her Flamenco dress-that was something which I always wanted to do!



The wonderful view over Marbella



I fell in love with Sofia's Flamenco outfit

Friday was our day in wonderful Malaga- we went to the city by bus and there we had so much to see -from the top of an old castle we had a perfect view down to the seaside.



The great view on Malaga from the castle



We walked down into town for a visit of the old moorish Alcazaba with the narrow streets and with amazing architecture.

The visit of the world famous Picasso museum was the next sight we were taken to by our hosts- there we were so impressed by our pupils and their ability to discuss with the guide about the meanings of the paintings made by Picasso and of the paintings themselves. Unfortunately we weren't allowed to take any pictures in the museum itself.



Here we are at the Picasso Museum with our great guide!



After the guided tour we had some freetime to explore the citycenter with a lot of places and shops.

We went with our pupils to one of those famous pintxos bars to have lunch there which everyone enjoyed.

Pintxos are nicely decorated sandwiches with a stick in it, you pay after the shape of the stick (heart, sword, wooden,...) and the amount of sticks you have on your plate.



Pintxos-yummy!

After lunch we went for a ride on Europe's biggest ferris wheel situated in the harbour of Malaga- all covered in the great Andalusian sunlight.



On the Ferris Wheel in Malaga Harbour



On the bus back to Marbella

In the evening the teachers met for a farewell dinner in a Tapas bar near the beach-again to taste some different Andalusian food. For us from Austria dinner always was really late and our stomach was so full because we always ate too much because it tasted so good!



Impressions from our farewell dinner



The starter obviously was too small for the two hungry Austrian teachers 🙄

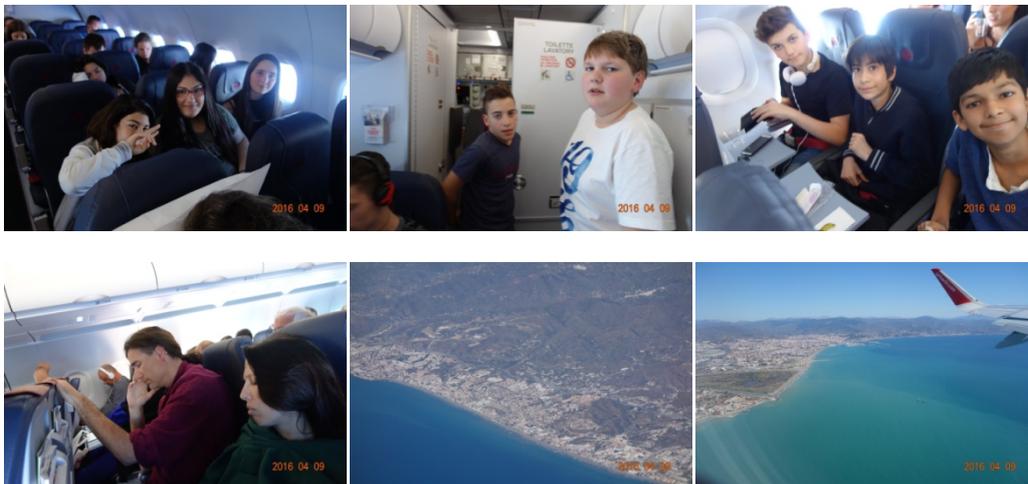
The starter obviously was too small for

Finally on Saturday we had to say good-bye to our great hosts from school, to our Erasmus-partners, the host families and also to the hosts from the B&B where we had stayed, for everyone's hospitality was so impressive and it was an enriching meeting with our colleagues of the Erasmus-group.

What a wonderful week we had with the exchanging of ideas and meeting great people in such a beautiful part of Spain.

We only can say „Thank you“ to everybody who made our meeting such a remarkable experience!

And see you again in France in September!



On the plane back to Vienna with a lot of new impressions!