



# Erasmus+

## NEWSLETTER FOR THE THIRD MOBILITY

### DAY 1

**14th March**

On the first day of the mobility the welcome ceremony at Ekin Koleji had to be postponed because the students and teachers from Romania and Italy hadn't arrived in Izmir. Their flights had been cancelled due to bad weather conditions at Istanbul airport.

The Spanish students and teachers were welcomed by the Turkish teachers and school headmasters. We took a school tour and visited the various and beautiful school facilities.

After the school tour the presentation of students took place. The Spanish students were introduced to their host Turkish students. We were all given some gifts and we enjoyed some nice Turkish coffee and tea.

We had lunch at school and after that, a bus took us to Izmir Wildlife Park.



There we first visited the Education Center where we had the chance to see an exhibition of skeletons, skin, fur, horns, and eggs of animals.

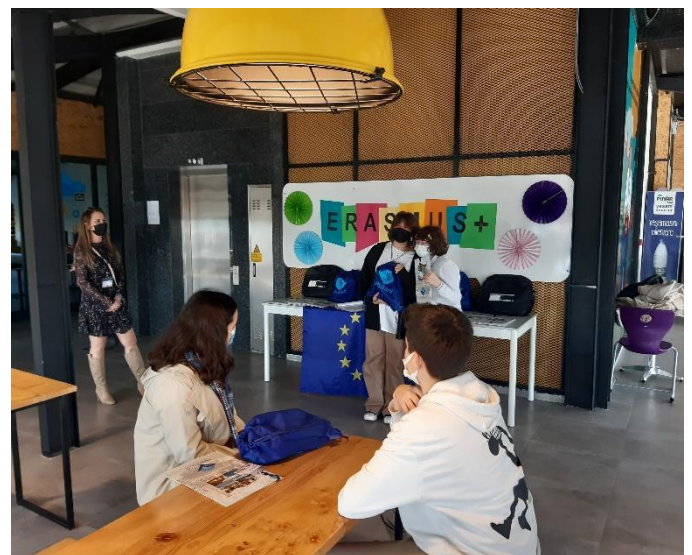
A presentation of the Wildlife Park was also given before we took a train tour to see more than 120 species of animals that are kept in the park.

In the evening the Spanish students met their host families and stayed with them until dinner time. The Italian team arrived just in time to have dinner with us at a place not far from the hotel. Dila Ciritöglu and Ayşe Göçer, both Turkish teachers, kindly kept the teachers company.

## DAY 2

15th March

**Pairing students:** On the second day of the mobility the Italian and Romanian students were introduced and paired with a Turkish partner. They were all excited and happy to meet new friends.



**Students' presentations "My Area":** The students from Italy, Romania, Spain, and Turkey gave their presentations about their regions. We all learnt about the different and beautiful places we are lucky to get to know thanks to the Erasmus project.





After the presentations we had a coffee break before attending a music workshop and an art workshop.



We had lunch in the school canteen together with teachers and students. During the whole week we enjoyed meals we had never tried before, and they were so tasty...

After the meal we were ready to follow the daily schedule. The school bus took us to **Hamza Rüstem Photography House Museum**. The museum shows the visitors the evolution of photography through time and has very old photo machinery and equipment as well as old pictures of Izmir and of different families. This is a museum where you can learn about the history of Izmir as well as the history of Photography. One of the rooms in the museum has been turned into a dark room.



In the evening the Italian, Romanian, and Spanish students were picked up at the hotel by their host families and stayed with them until dinner time.

## DAY 3

### 16th March

On Wednesday we got up a little bit earlier because we were going to visit the **historical city of Ephesus**, Virgin Mary's house and Şirince, and we had an hour and a half trip ahead. Ephesus was once considered the most important Greek city and trading center in the Mediterranean region. It was also the birthplace of the Greek philosopher Heraclitus. Throughout history, Ephesus survived multiple attacks and changed hands many times between conquerors. Most of the Ephesian ruins that remain today, such as the enormous amphitheater, the Library of Celsus, the public space (agora) and the aqueducts were built or rebuilt during Caesar Augustus's reign. We were fascinated by the beauty of the monuments and we took a lot of pictures.



After the long walk down the well preserved Roman streets it was time to continue our trip. We had **lunch at a traditional restaurant** in Şirince. We tried new dishes, all of them delicious, like the dessert called “shambali”. After the lunch we came back to Izmir. In the evening the Italian, Romanian, and Spanish students were picked up at the hotel by their host families and spent time with them. Then they brought them back to the hotel to rest after a long day. The teachers enjoyed dinner together at a restaurant.



## DAY 4

17th March

On Thursday the Italian, Romanian, Spanish and Turkish students attended a **photography workshop** while the teachers had a meeting at the school library. After that, we had lunch in the school canteen together with teachers and students.



After lunch we got on the school bus to start a **guided tour of Izmir**. The bus took us to some of the most important places to visit in Izmir city center. We visited the beautiful Clock Tower located at the Konak square in the Konak district of Izmir. It is considered as the main landmark of the city. We also visited the Izmir historic elevator (asansor).





We visited the **Agora ruins** and the **Atatürk House**, which is a museum founded by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the first president and founder of modern Turkey.



After visiting the Agora, the bus dropped us at **Konak Archaeological and Ethnography Museum**. There are two different museums in the same building. The Izmir Archaeology Museum shows visitors Greek and Roman relics, such as decorated sarcophagi, tomb carvings, or a Domitian statue taken from Ephesus. The Izmir Ethnography Museum exhibits items originally belonging to Atatürk, local art craft and customs such as pottery, jewellery, carpet, and weapons.



After visiting the museum, the bus took us back to the hotel. As the previous days the families picked up the students at the hotel and took them to dinner. Then they brought them back to the hotel. It was an incredible day.

## DAY 5

### 18th March

On Friday morning the students and teachers from Ekin Koleji were waiting for the Italian, Romanian and Spanish teams in the school big hall. They had prepared a surprise. As we entered the hall, we were given a big round of applause. Each team stood together holding their national flags while the national anthems were played. There were dancing and singing performances and after the show we took some photos with the Turkish dancers.



After the show the Certification Ceremony took place. Students and teachers from Italy, Romania, Spain, and Turkey received their certificates of attendance. There was a karaoke party and some dances performed by the Turkish students.

We had a coffee break and tried traditional Turkish dessert "lokma" for the first time. It was a nice farewell party. We kissed and hugged our friends goodbye until the next mobility.

