



ReNewed SPACES

Maiori, Italy



Municipality of Maiori



Our group, first photo together

The Beginning

Day 1

Minori a small town in the Province of Salerno, in the Campania region of south-western Italy became a wonderful host for 24 young people representing 10 different European countries. Young, energetic people from Italy, Germany, Croatia, North Macedonia, Romania, Spain, Estonia, Portugal, Bulgaria and Greece came together to exchange their knowledge and perhaps make this world a better place! The aim of this talented group was to renew abandoned space in Minori and use this

experience back home for the betterment of the community. 'Casa religiosa di Ospitalità-Amici di San Francesco' a charming old convent just opposite the coast became home and working place for the participants.

So, how do you make 24 people from different nationalities and cultures comfortable and ensure the success of the project? Well, the answer is having good innovative rounds of energizers. Reka, one of the project coordinators had an ingenious approach which made participants from 10 different countries feel like one team in no time. Going around in a circle saying our name would have been a mundane approach, but making a sketch of each other followed by questions about the person made it a memorable experience. Just reciting out the objective of the project would have made participants lose interest, but giving the objective as a puzzle and forming a sentence out it made participants not only form a sentence but also understand the meaning behind the objective. Within no time, participants were also using their imagination to convey information about their organization. The day concluded with presentations from the participants about 'Abandoned spaces' in their home country where we not only learned about problems but also good practices which can be implemented in our respective home countries.

In conclusion, it was a great beginning to a long 6 days journey which is ahead of us.

Social entrepreneurship

Day 2

The main point on Saturday was to learn and to memorize what is Entrepreneurship, Social Entrepreneurship in the most creative and successful way. And we succeeded in it. 😊

We had a short presentation with definitions about what is this and how to become a social entrepreneur and how to encourage the youth to develop Social Enterprises.

After this, we had a practical case study. Our aim was from a ruined, abandoned cemetery to make a nice place, to renew it. We decided that the best way to renew it is to make a beautiful garden, to keep the discrete atmosphere and to make it for multiple purposes.

From this case study, we learned how to make an effective marketing plan, how to organize and promote the place. In our opinion, the best way to promote the place these days is on social media and for the elderly population to make some flyers using eco materials. We also made a good programme with events like open cinema, picnics, workshops, library and concerts with calming and relaxing music.

Social entrepreneurship

Each country had a desk with typical food and sweets. At the same time, each group prepared a short presentation about the proposed products. It was very interesting to discover more about other cultures and their food traditions.

Monika and Hana brought to us from Croatia the delicious *Lino Lada*, with other sweets, liquors and drinks.

Nora and Durshika, from Bulgaria, proposed a variety of Bulgarian teas, cheese, the amazing *Ljutenica* and rose-flavored tablets. Bulgaria, indeed, is particularly famous for the production of rose oil. Durshika also prepared some English breakfast tea, as a callback to her British roots!



German table



Greek table



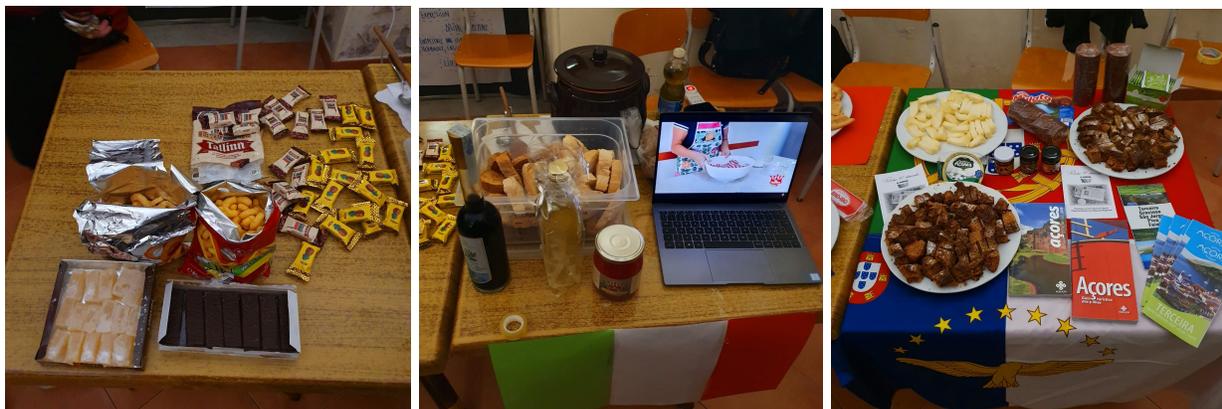
Spanish table

Me and Antonio, “the locals”, presented a special variety of tomato cultivated in our zone: the *pomodoro Re Fiascone*. Antonio explained the history of this “restored”, ancient variety of tomato. Antonio also prepared a sauce with these tomatoes and served it as *bruschette*, spread on bread. On our table we had also the *pane biscottato*, which is a variety of bread cooked twice, whose original recipe is from Medieval times, when Amalfi was a maritime Republic. To finish, we had traditional digestive liquors called *Limoncello* (made with alcohol and lemon’s skins) and *Concerto* (prepared with alcohol, a mix of herbs, barley and coffee).

Paul and Alesja from Estonia brought us many sweets from their country. Paul introduced his country with a very pleasant explanation of Estonia’s history and traditions.

Zorica and Marija proposed a selection of sweets from Macedonia and pizza flavored snacks.

Barni and Orsi also brought some sweets from their region, Transylvania, in Romania.



Macedonian and Estonian table

Italian table

Portugal table

Mónica and Renato, from their wonderful island Terceira, in the Açores, delighted us with cow cheese, served with a selection of jams, cookies and a delicious cake made by Mónica. Then, they entertained us with a very interesting video about their amazing island.

Andrea and Macarena gave us the flavor of southern Spain: Jamón on bread and some amazing pastries!

Hannah and Kaushal brought us back to childhood with German specialties: *pretzels*, Haribo candies and Kinder Schoko Bons! Hannah also explained the origin of the name Haribo, which comes from a combination of the name of the founder, Hans Riegel, and the name of his city, Bonn.

Last but not least, Elpida, Iohana and Adonis from the isle of Lefkada, Greece! Their presentation was definitely the funniest. Adonis presented to us some delicious homemade Greek wine and *Ouzo*, Greece's most famous liquor. It was all accompanied with Lefkada's salami, dry bread, sweets and olives. They also presented a brief and

interesting introduction about their island and of the typical products.

After the “eating” part, we dedicated to the activities: Iohana taught us some Greek dances and Andrea involved us on a very funny quiz game, with general questions about Spain, won by the Portuguese team!

Even though we were all very tired because of our busy day, we had such a good time. It was very interesting to know more about each other’s cultures and, literally, take a bite of it.

This is the magic of Erasmus projects: you can share your traditions, your roots, but at the same time you include a bit of other’s cultures in yours!



Bulgarian table



Croatian table



Meeting and discussing with the locals

Football - Most important thing

Day 3

We began at 9am with an energiser followed by a recap of what we will do today: The schedule consisted of a tour of the convent by Gerardo followed by a walk to the abandoned place and a meeting with the local children.

Gerardo met with us and told us about the origins of the convent. It was constructed in 1405 however it was destroyed and damaged several times, initially due to attacks from the Arabs and Ottomans and later damaged by the sea.

This monastery was ordered to be repaired and renovated by St Francesco hence the name Amici de San Francesco.

After lunch, we arranged with the local kids to meet at the playground by 15:30 – so we met. First, as usual: ENERGIZER! We played a get-to-know-each-other game where everyone in a circle would go to the centre and say their names as well as make a movement that they feel it represent them.

Once everyone was familiar with each other, the situation was explained, what we had to do and what did we have for it – objectives and materials. One kid and one Italian speaker per group (so we could smoothly talk with them) all together discussed what were the needs of the local youth and what could we do to satisfy them. So, we all learned one thing: **football is the most important thing**. Every group's idea was around the same thing: to make it a safe and playable football pitch. Painting the lines, making new gates, balls, etcetera. Lastly, we debated which ideas were doable and which were to much of a fantasy. At the end, we all reached an agreement and finished earlier, as for the next day it would be the hardest and gratifying one.



Tour around the convent



Meeting with mayor's office

Let's do it!

Day 4

Monday is always the laziest day of the week, but not in this project. :D

We started the day full of energy and motivation, because after meeting with the local kids we felt that our help can really contribute to their life.

Unfortunately, we couldn't finish the work as we wanted, they still miss the football pitch and the goal posts but at least we cleaned their place and we have presented them the force of the community. If a group of people wants to change something on local level, then the force of the mass can really have results in a short time.



Hannah doing the bench

Let's see what we really managed to do:

- Clean the place. CHECK!
 - Paint and clean all the walls. CHECK!
 - Making benches. CHECK!
 - Painting games like twister, X/O, number jumper, stone target and other games which can be played without equipment. CHECK!
 - Having fun. CHECK!
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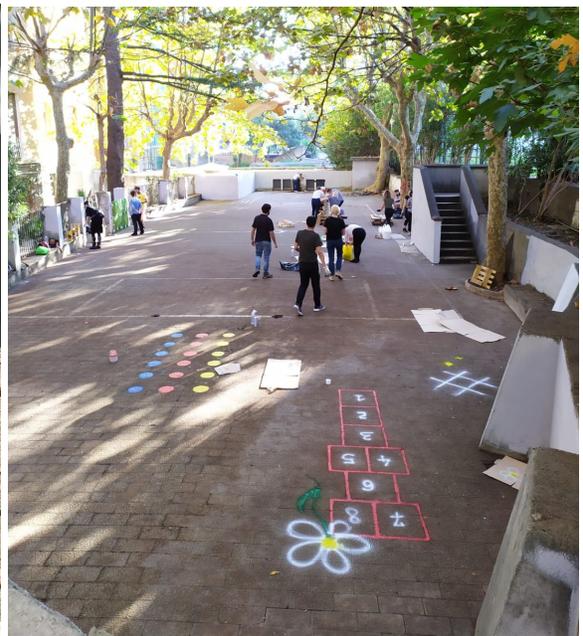
Adonis doing the door



Antonio and Monica painting



Macarena doing the sign



Atmosphere from above



Discussing with the group

The toolkit

Day 5

We have started the day with the energizer that allowed us to stay active the whole day. This energizer helped us to boost our team work and negotiation skills. We were divided into the working groups. The groups were working on various tasks in relation to the Toolkit that can be used by youth workers and young people.

The first group addressed the introduction and the programme about abandoned spaces. The second group creatively defined public spaces with an accent on abandoned public spaces.

The third group worked on social, cultural, environmental importance of the public spaces. The fourth group worked on needs and engagement of youth.

The fifth group made a description of actors that could be potentially involved in the renovation of abandoned public spaces. Another group addressed the initiatives by the young people for the benefit of young people. The seventh group collected good practices in renovation of public spaces in Europe. It was a very productive day.

In the evening we were rewarded by delicious Italian pizza.
