



Erasmus+ Qualified Generations 2022-1-SK01-KA220-SCH-000087555

Teacher journal: Mersin, Turkey

Heli Groschup, art teacher

Day 1.

On our first day of visiting, we got to know our Turkish hosts and the school. The reception was warm, and the school conveyed a positive image. The children were eager to interact with the guests, and the young people involved in the Steam project got to know each other through drama exercises. The first Steam activity took place in the afternoon after lunch, starting with small group Scratch workshops where they coded. The young people got to know each other better in mixed groups. We stayed in the same place as the Portuguese and the young people continued to socialise in the evening.

Day 2.

The morning started with an activity where the challenge for the young people was to get out of the escape room. They participated enthusiastically and ended up putting together a puzzle at the end of the game. The challenges were Steam inspired. After lunch, we travelled by bus to the local science fair. The centre was new, and provided an opportunity to learn about the natural phenomena that had shocked the locals a few years ago. The earthquake machine at the exhibition served as a conversation starter here. The exhibition comprehensively highlighted the effects of climate change on nature. In the evening, we gathered to learn about the local culture by tasting Turkish delicacies. We had some interesting discussions about cultural specialities and school.



Day 3.

The workshops inspired people to try their hand at coding dancing legos, to think about the load-bearing capacity and structure of bridges by making spaghetti bridges

and their strength test, and to build electrical appliances in small groups. There were plenty of activities during the day and only a lunch break interrupted the day. The students learned about the phenomena and tested them with practical exercises. In the afternoon, we took a bus trip to the surrounding area to explore the caves shaped by nature and the human constructions in the environment. The excursion was interesting and opened up new perspectives on nature in Turkey.

Day 4.

A day trip to the sea offered natural beauty, hiking, grouping and exploring the local landscape. The students grouped together even better and swimming was an experience of a lifetime.



Day 5.

The departure ceremonies were wistful. The young people danced, tasted the delicacies of different countries and presented them to each other. Each one also picked out a song, which was danced together.

The young people exchanged contact details and vowed to see each other again.

The whole week was filled with a varied programme, the host school was welcoming and the programme was carefully planned. The local young people did a fantastic job of ensuring that groups from all countries were included in the programme and evening entertainment. The hosts were always helpful to assist when needed and the young people and teachers went home very happy with the week's experience.

