

## Erasmus+ trip to Talavera de la Reina

The group set off from the school, then we boarded the Wizz Air Budapest-Madrid flight at Liszt Ferenc Airport without any problems. We saw many beautiful things from up there, and although we had an overshooting before we managed to reach the ground, overall we had a calm flight. From the airport, a minibus took us to Talavera, where the host families were waiting for us. We spent the rest of the day with the families.



On Monday morning, a bigger group gathered in front of the school: in addition to our small group and their hosts, Julcsi Németh and András Vörös, who were spending their one-month mobility, joined us, as well as an Erasmus group of 8 Spanish and 8 Croatian students. Of course many teachers came with us too. We arrived at the border of Toledo around 10 o'clock, and we got off the bus at the San Martín bridge. The city of Toledo is a fairy tale turned into reality: the mediaeval city centre, surrounded by the river from three sides, offers a beautiful view from the outside, and anyone walking through its streets, will be overwhelmed by its inimitable atmosphere. Its history, cultural heritage and architecture are also impressive: the coexistence and mixing of Jewish, Islamic and



Christian cultures can be seen in every corner of the city. After roaming the city together, everyone had a bit of free time, then we paid a visit to the cathedral, and then we headed home. On the way home, we got off the bus and after a few minutes' walk, we saw the Barrancas, a picturesque setting of a reservoir in the Castilian mountains, full of olive trees. After arriving home, the teachers leading the project participated in a dinner together.

On Tuesday, the group spent the first half of the day in the conference room and library of our host school, IES Gabriel Alonso de Herrera, where, after a brief introduction and introductory presentation, we talked and debated together in a two-hour project block with the Croatian and Spanish Erasmus students about current issues of gender equality. From noon, we took part in a guided tour of the historic downtown area of Talavera de la Reina with the Croatian students (and had great conversations), we



walked along the banks of River Tajo, and we saw the city's oldest church, the bullring, the Roman-era bridge and the old city wall. Then we went to the town hall, where we were welcomed by the mayor and the chairman of the Educational Council. Together with them, we were able to tour the town hall building, and sit in the council chamber and the room where they hold press conferences. When we got back to school, a real Spanish feast awaited us: the teachers prepared a huge portion of paella, and the host students prepared a variety of typical Spanish dishes and sweets (and we brought them Pick salami and Pilóta cookies). After we had lunch together, we said goodbye to the Croatian team, and we spent the afternoon and evening with our hosts and in the city centre together.



On Wednesday, we started the day by eating churros together during the first class, then we participated in the theatre festival of the city's schools. We watched two performances in English by the students of our host school, IES Gabriel Alfonso de Herrera. The first performance (The Wizard of Oz) was performed by 12-13-year-old students, the second (From Tragedy to Comedy) by 16-17-year-old students, with great success. Between the two plays, we visited one of Talavera's old ceramic shops, where we were shown the steps of making and painting the famous ceramics of Talavera, and we could even try out the painting part ourselves. Then we spent the afternoon with our host students.

On Thursday, the group participated in two English lessons. During the lessons we had the opportunity to talk to the students of our host school and we could try some traditional Spanish dishes again. We finished the project with the Spanish students. At 12 o'clock a running competition organised by the school began in which everyone ran the one mile, moreover Lili and Julcsi tied for the third place in their category. We spent the last afternoon and the evening with our host families, and at 7:30 some of us went to the local theatre to watch the teachers' performance that closed the theatre festival.





On Friday morning, we said goodbye to our hosts in front of the school and started our journey to Madrid where we visited a bunch of the historical monuments and buildings of the city centre (for example: Palacio Real, Puerta del Sol, Museo del Prado). After that we spent some time in Retiro Park and at 3 o'clock we headed to the airport from where we flew home with the Ryanair Madrid-Budapest flight.

During the week we participated in many activities and we could be a part of the colourful everyday of the Spanish. We got a glimpse of their customs and gastronomy as well. We got to know cheerful, open people and a close-knit community, who experience every day as a holiday. We hope all of us took a little home from this.