

My trip to Italy

I had been really looking forward to the Erasmus trip to Italy. I was curious to see if I would meet again the children who had visited our school in April. I looked up on the internet where the school in Novara is and checked the weather forecast in Italy. I had never been to Italy before, so I was curious about how Italian people, food, and cities were different.

During our stay in the Novara school, we could take part in special lessons where I could try many new things. There were lots of games and group activities. I tasted real Italian pizza, and I really liked Italian food. I learned a lot about Italy and I also learned some Italian words, a bit of sign language, and got to know some Italian customs — for example, that people take a siesta at noon. It was interesting to see how different school life is in Italy.

We managed to do all the programs our teachers had planned — we visited Milan and Turin and saw the local sights. I was also able to buy some souvenirs. Italian people are different from Hungarians in many ways — for example, they are louder, they gesture and shout more, but they are also more open and friendly. Milan is a very large and beautiful city, but I liked Novara better because it felt friendlier and more livable.

The school in Novara seemed cozier to me than ours; it didn't feel so much like an institution — it was more like being at home. We studied robotics in an IT class, which I really enjoyed. In Italian schools, the lessons are longer, the breaks are shorter, and the children call their teachers “prof”. This felt a bit less personal, but perhaps also more respectful than in Hungary. The classrooms are more varied in their decoration. In primary schools, pupils can already choose a kind of “specialization,” a subject that interests them more, and they have more lessons in that subject.

I feel I have become more confident in speaking English and also in getting to know new people and places.



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