



- Biotechnology in our life -

SCHÜLERBERICHTE PROJEKTTREFFEN 2016/2017

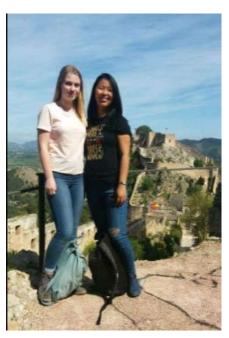
des von der Europäischen Union unterstützen internationalen Projektes

Drittes Projekttreffen: 25. – 30. März 2017

Xativa Spanien

Report from Paula-Ming, Angela, Nadia and Mar IES JOSE DE RIBERA, Xativa

The third meeting took place in Xàtiva, Spain from Saturday 25th March to Friday 31st March. We were so excited about meeting again all our friends from last meeting (St. Neots) and also about becoming the host of the last meeting, so we took this as a responsibility because we wanted everyone to have the best time here in Spain while we were all learning, working, exchanging traditions, know-hows and also having a really good time.



The organization was also a little bit difficult because we wanted everyone to be happy with all the activities. Teachers organized all the activities that took place during the morning and sometimes the afternoon whereas hosts from Spain (us) organized activities for the evening and sometimes the night. We usually thought about light evenings like visiting parks, have a drink with everyone else and chill or even go out for dinner, although it was quite difficult to fit forty people in a café or a restaurant. In spite of that, according to the opinions some of the guests told us, they were really happy with these kind of activities; because in that way we could get to know each other so much better as we stayed together

all the time.

First of all, the arrivals took place on Saturday 25th, luckily, everyone came and left the same day, so this Saturday we hung out, watched a football match and had dinner together and when we all met again, that feeling was such as one of the best ones ever.

Next day, despite of being Sunday, we all started working early in our presentations. Then, we had lunch and we went on a tour around Xàtiva. It was a really nice and sunny day, so we all enjoyed the Castle we visited which was located at the top of the mountain.



On Monday 27th, we went on a trip to the University of Valencia, where we did a laboratory practice called: "DNA Extraction". After that, at the Faculty of Physics, we attended a lecture by Prof. Dr. Joan Ferré about the safety of transgenic food. Then, with a guide, we walked around the center of Valencia, visiting the most important monuments there such as the Cathedral or the City House. Next, we came back to Xàtiva and after hanging out together; we went home and had a rest.



On Tuesday, we had a lighter day, where we attended a bioinformatics workshop ("Bioinformatic analysis in detection and identification of plant viruses") lead by Dra. Ana Ruiz and Dr. Antonio Olmos. Then, after having a break, we continued working on our final presentations and we went home to do the "siesta", something guests really loved from Spanish culture. That afternoon we visited "El Palasiet" a garden grown symmetrically in town which also has a noble house and a specific area for animals. Then, as usual, we went to have a drink and we finally went home, because next day was going to be very exhausting.

One of the best days was Wednesday 29th, one of the most complete days where we first visited a Life sequencing company in Burjassot and then, we visited the City of Arts and Science which consist of different buildings about different matters. First we went to its aquarium called the Oceanographic where we saw



lots of aquatic animals from all around the world. After lunch, we continued our visit through the Science Museum where there are several exhibitions and some of them consist of practical experiments for the demonstration and the acquirement of the theorical explanation.

Afterwards, we went to the IMAX Cinema where we watched a film called "Mysteries of the Unseen World". When we came back to Xàtiva, we brought everyone to try the traditional Spanish hot chocolate with "Churros", which I think that was a complete success for our guests.



The last day before the departures was Thursday 30th, that day we finally presented our topics in the House of Culture in front of the people from the project and also some students of the hosting high school. After presentations, Dr. Prof. José Miguel Mulet, a biotechnology researcher gave us the chance of asking

him some controversial questions about GMOs and farming biotechnology. After the last official event everyone in the project went to have a Valencian paella cooked by the high school staff which was a complete success because some students ate "anxiously" large amounts of that typical dish. For ending in a good mood this outstanding story we lived together, that day we ended it having dinner out, dancing and singing everyone together, guests and hosts.



Finally, on the 31st March, all guests left during the morning giving an end to this wonderful experience which we recommend to everyone who has the chance, because that is where we all acquired skills about biotechnology mainly, but we also learnt English, sightseeing, about other cultures, how to have fun, how to respect, how to take care of each other, but the most important thing, we have learnt a little more, just a little, about life.

