

## **FRIENDS ALL AROUND THE WORLD**

**Have you ever been living in other countries or even lived? Steps towards ecological planet (STEP) is an Erasmus project focused on knowing people from different countries, their customs and their lifestyle while you learn how to reduce human impact in our planet and reduce the climate change that affects us. Through this project, even if we didn't actually move to those countries, we had the chance to experience the lifestyles, cultures, and ways of life of our friends from different countries by staying in their homes for a whole week. We all spoke different languages, had millions of different thoughts passing through our minds, wore different clothes, and received different educations. But there was one thing we intersected on, our humanity, and the steps that needed to be taken for the future of our planet, to leave a livable world for future generations. What could we do to tackle global problems like global warming, climate change?**

**In this Erasmus project 4 countries has been participating for a week, Spain, Turkey, Croatia, Finland. Spain was the first country to host the rest of the students later continue Turkey, Croatia and for the last Finland, been a total of 36 students from different countries.**

**Firstly, we can talk about Spain, the first host country, during these 6 days student were there they can enjoy it beautiful summer weather while visiting some iconic monuments like The Alhambra in Granada or the Arrecife de las sirenas in Cabo de Gata one of the most famous beaches in that part. From the ecological part the student could learn how people in the south of Spain reduce the coal footprint and make ecologic energy from wind, they leverage their windy weather and big hours of sun to make clean and sustainable energy from windmills and solar panels.**



**Our second stop was Turkey. Although countries and cities changed, the warm welcome remained constant each time. While we could communicate in English with our friends, there were moments when we stumbled upon the language barrier with our families. But even then, a sincere look and a smile were enough to convey everyone's lessons. At this point, one of the most important things this project taught us was that the first step in saving the world and its future is truly wanting it, feeling responsible, and being sincere.**



**After the meeting, we delved into what ecology meant and what our main problem was by reading articles and listening to presentations prepared by our classmates. Then we divided into groups, and each group became experts in different areas to solve these global issues. These areas were seas, forests and jungles, grasslands, frozen worlds, and freshwater. Our experts in these areas presented themselves to the five world leaders we chose to represent the world and discussed what solutions we could come up with in the real world. And thus, we completed our World Summit.**

**After the Summit, we joined workshops where we produced new things from recyclable materials to implement and experience what we had discussed and learned in theory. Following these workshops, of course, we didn't neglect to explore Istanbul, filled with historical beauties. And now, throughout our tour of Istanbul, our minds were more discerning and environmentally conscious at every glance.**

**We visited Croatia as the third step towards the ecological planet. On the first day we went to the Croatian school system and also made some group projects to get to know each other better. After the introduction we also went to get to know the capital city of Croatia which is Zagreb. On the third day we went to water factory where we got to see the water system of Zagreb which produced clean water. And on the fourth day we went to see the wastewater treatment plant. Also, on the fourth day we went to Nikola Tesla Museum.**



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**In this article, we tried to encapsulate all the moments we've experienced, all the important things we've learned, and all the wonderful experiences we've gained into a few words. But as we wrote this article, we realized that we've shared so much with each other that there are likely many more amazing moments we've forgotten to mention.**

**But in this entire adventure, we cannot complete these lines without thanking our teachers, who have guided us and been by our side at every moment. Dear teachers, we are grateful for the trust you have in us. We will continue to take new steps to do better each time, and as we take these steps, we will not forget to be beneficial individuals to our surroundings**



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