



A Digital Diary from the Group Mobility of School Pupils

**I.E.S. Alhamilla, Almeria, Spania
14th-23rd November 2022**

*Bilingual Approach - New Digital Dimensions
B.A.N.D.D.*

2021-1-RO01-KA122-SCH-000014476

Day 1

November, 14th





Dear Diary,

Let me tell you about our first day as participants of the Erasmus+ project - "Bilingual Approach: New Digital Dimensions" in Almeria, Spain. When we first arrived at the Playacapricho Hotel in Roquetas de Mar, we couldn't imagine it would be so close to the beach. Day 1 went great, even though we had some peculiar adventures. In the morning, on our way to school we missed the bus, but that didn't stop us from continuing our 1 hour journey to the "I.E.S Alhamilla" school. Despite arriving later, we still took part in the icebreakers. The first game we participated in took place in the European room and helped us learn our new friends' names and hobbies, favourite music, food, subjects. Then we moved to the school sports hall for another interesting game, which was about memorizing the other children's hobbies and names while imitating their hobbies through actions. We met students from the Netherlands, Germany and Spain, who were great and friendly people with smiles on their faces, who greeted and welcomed us in their group. I liked meeting the other pupils, learning about them and finding similar interests. What amazed me even more was the city sightseeing game, where we went in groups to visit landmarks like "La Alcazaba", a Muslim king's castle, "Plaza Vieja", the location of the city hall and a spectacular monument, and the local theatre "Teatro Cervantes", and many more interesting places. We got closer after spending time with each other. After school we went to a local cafe to grab a meal, we went by bus back to our hotel, and to end our first day we took a bath in the jacuzzi having fun, splashing water, laughing, and chilling together.

Antonio-Cristian Bumbar Pace, 11R grade

Day 2

November, 15th



- Dear Diary,

It's us again, our second day was above our expectations. We woke up a little bit earlier than yesterday so we could arrive at the bus station on time. The trip to Almería has the most astonishing views, Spain always finds a way to impress us. Once we arrived at school, we met Elizabeth Rott, a 23 years old qualified Spanish teacher and English teacher assistant from the U.S. We learned a lot of new things about the scholarship in the States and how well the teachers are paid. Between the two sessions of writing our graduation papers we had one class with the Spanish kids, getting to know each other and playing badminton together.

After school, we went to a restaurant nearby and had a great lunch, talking and feeling close to home once we met the chef that was actually Romanian. We took the bus back to the hotel, then we spent our afternoon by the interior pool. After all the splashing, we had dinner at a restaurant close to our hotel, "Don Jamón". We were more than pleased after eating their traditional dishes.

Personally, I consider evenings the best. The staff at our hotel organise different activities every day. For example, we ended our day spending time together, listening and dancing to live, traditional Spanish songs. We had a great time, hoping for tomorrow to be at least as fun as today.

Vanesa Foana, 11U grade



Day 3

November, 16th



Dear Diary,

Of course it's us again. It's our third day participating in this mesmerizing program and things are going greater day by day.

This morning we had plenty of time to enjoy our delicious breakfast because everybody woke up in time. We took the bus to "I.E.S. Alhambilla School" and got there only 10 minutes late due to an unpleasant event. Everybody started their day by continuing the magnificent graduation papers. The teachers encourage us more and more every day and writing seems to become much easier. After a few intensive sessions of writing, we participated in an English class, in which we got the opportunity to talk about many distinctive topics with the Spanish students. We were very grateful to be there and they were very welcoming. They even suggested us plenty of places that we must visit before leaving this breathtaking country. They were extremely friendly and kind, which made us really happy. We talked about the differences between our school systems, our cultures, the beauty of their country and their future plans. After this memorable experience, we went to one of our favorite places to eat here, which is called "Ruben's". We had the tastiest Paella. Afterwards we decided to visit the admirable Almería. Thirty minutes later, we finally arrived on the beach, the view of it being absolutely out of this world. We enjoyed every second of it and went back to the hotel. After we arrived, we gathered around to rehearse our traditional dances that we have intensively prepared for. Because we love so much the activities that happen at the hotel we are staying, we could not miss the bingo night. Everybody took part in the game and three of us even won unforgettable prizes. We ended the day by laughing a lot together, telling jokes and having lots of fun. It was a really successful day with memories to share back home. -

Bianca Andruta, 11 U grade





Day 4

November, 17th

Dear diary,

Here we are after another day. We started the morning with our daily routine. Everybody came down from their rooms one by one in a very specific order, that surprisingly never changes no matter the day. We had breakfast and afterwards we all headed for the bus station. The long drive gave us the opportunity to catch up with our sleep. We arrived at school on time and started working on our papers. After a few minutes, Elisabeth, the young teacher from the States that we met a few days ago, came in and helped us by giving us ideas and suggesting changes in our papers, from the perspective of a native speaker who was born, raised and studied in an English speaking country like USA. Today just like yesterday, a few of us attended an English class at I.E.S. Alhamilla. There were two groups.



- The first one talked about our Romanian traditional songs, which they were more than willing to listen to and even dance to. Even though the communication was not at its best, the Spanish students tried to understand and learn more about us. The second group had a more relaxed class where they talked comfortably with the Spanish students about similar topics. Some of us made some significant progress with our papers and the others are still researching. Nonetheless it was a productive day at school.
- After we ended our program, we went to the restaurant close-by where we spend our lunchtime. Here we made friends with the staff, so it became a more familiar place to us as days went by. A special moment of this lunch was the chat we had with the chef of the restaurant who is Romanian as well. She surprised us when she said that she has been living in Spain for over 17 years. The talk resulted in a picture with all of us and our favorite staff members.
After our meal we headed back to the hotel where we separated into groups since some of us wanted to go on a stroll by the beach and the others preferred to stay indoors and enjoy the indoors swimming pool.
The hotel provided us once again with a BINGO night, this game is one of the most anticipated as well.
After the event we all had something to eat since it was already dinner time. Since the next day we were going to have plans later in the evening, we stayed up late today playing games and laughing with each other. We told stories, jokes and we all enjoyed each other's company while winning and losing at different types of games.
Today was a day filled with routine, relaxing time and of course the never-ending fun. Looking forward to our next days, I am quite curious to say how they will unfold.
Angela Bustean, 12U grade

Day 5

November, 18th





Dear Diary,

Today was our last day with the students from Germany and the Netherlands, the day of the Cultural Evening. As we didn't have to go to school in the morning anymore, we were able to sleep for a few more hours, having our breakfast at 10 a.m. peacefully, without having to worry about catching the bus to Almeria.

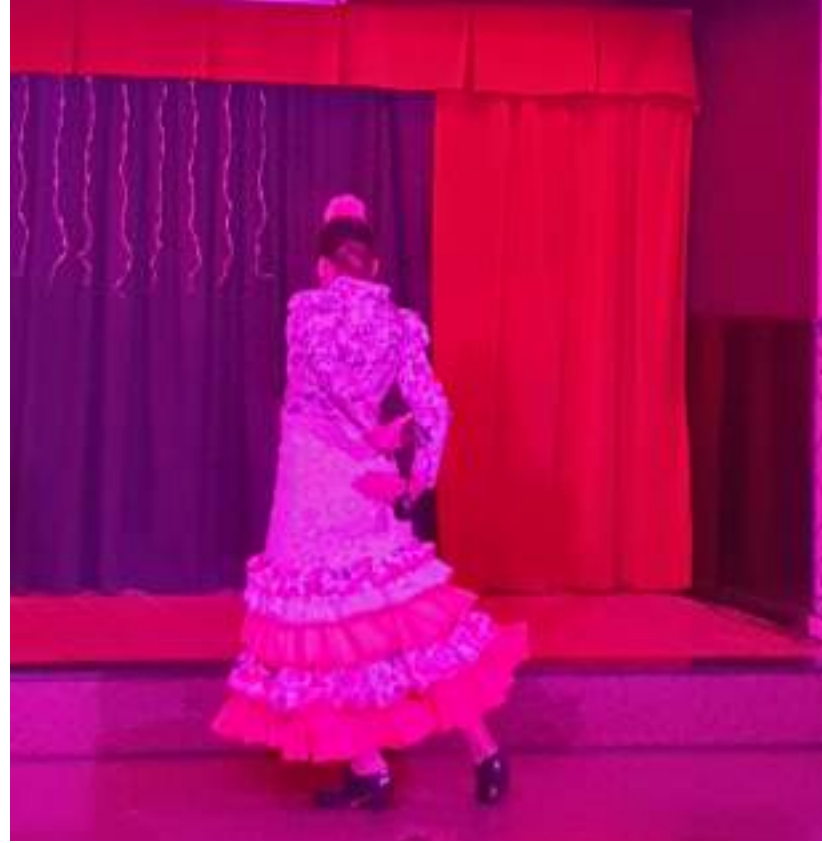
While some people went back to sleep after eating, the rest of us gathered into one room and spent some time together, before going to rehearse one more time for the evening. After making sure everyone knew the moves, we went to eat at Don Jamon, where we all enjoyed our orders.

On our way to school, in the bus, half of the girls had their hair braided by Angela, who did an absolutely wonderful job, giving the stressful situation she was put in. When we finally arrived, we all helped setting up the tables with our traditional food and then went into a big room, where some of the other exchange students were going to perform. While the German kids had a puppet show about Don Quixote, the ones from the Netherlands hosted a Kahoot game about the Dutch culture, in which most of the people present joined. After that, the Spanish danced Macarena and, last but not least, we performed everything perfectly: the song and the three traditional dances.

Hardly had we gotten back to the hotel, when the karaoke night started, making us hurry back to the first floor. We sang five or six songs and then went to play cards in a colleague's room.

Honestly I think that this day has been the best one so far, although it is a shame that we're not getting to see the other exchange students anymore. However, we wish the Spanish kids a wonderful week in the Netherlands and for us to have as much fun as we had had today.

Ariadna Dinca-Enea, 11R grade



Day 6

November, 19th

Dear Diary,

It's us again, but today was the first day that was very relaxing for us. We started the day later than usual because it was a weekend day. At first, some of us went down to eat breakfast and some remained in our rooms to get more sleep.

In comparison to other days, most of us went back to sleep after breakfast, which was a godly sleep. At noon, we took the bus to Gran Plaza, where we spent almost our entire day shopping for souvenirs and enjoying everything that shopping center had to offer.

At 6 o'clock we gathered at the bus station to go back to the hotel to enjoy the evening even more. Just like on previous days, we had another unfortunate event with the bus, which delayed our arrival, but in the end everyone was pleased and recharged after all of that free time. We came back with our hands full of bags which made us gather in one of the rooms to do a haul of what we had bought. Our day came to an end with a mesmerizing flamenco show, performed by two Spanish professional dancers. We got to taste more of the Spanish culture by dancing with them, after being invited to join.

In my opinion, this was a much-needed relaxing day for all of us. Looking forward to tomorrow to see more of what Almeria has to offer.

Thank you, Spain, and many more thanks to all the people of Spain for helping us make this stay more interesting and pleasant so that after we leave, we have stories to tell and memories to share.

Raluca Nechitescu, 12 U grade



Day 7

November, 20th



Dear Diary,

Today we had a free day that we decided to spend in Almeria, visiting a few museums. Unfortunately, as it was Sunday, all of them were closing at 1:30pm. We managed to visit only one: The Guitar Museum. We were able to see how guitars were made and all kind of different materials that were usually used in that process. There were many exhibits with guitars from different periods of time. Upstairs, there was a section with pictures of famous guitarists, and a section where you could listen to some songs using the headphones attached to the screen. There were also a few screens attached to a wall, on which you could take quizzes about guitars and their history.

We wanted to visit another museum that was really close to this one, but to our displeasure, it was already closed. We decided to go to a restaurant and eat, before visiting more of the city. On our way, we couldn't help but notice the striking sound of music played by the church orchestra. We entered the church and got a little carried away listening to the great music that gave us goosebumps. After reaching the restaurant and ordering food, we spent the time talking. We were extremely pleased with the food as it was delicious, and with the service provided by the very kind waiters.

Having nothing more to visit at that time of the day, we agreed to just walk through the city and see what was still open. That quickly turned into a mini shopping session. While walking around the city, we stopped at an ice cream parlour where we stayed for a good 15 minutes. After eating dessert and buying a few souvenirs, we were delighted to find the Ferris wheel open. We drove past it everyday on our way to school, but everytime it was closed. We got even happier when we saw how cheap the tickets were, taking into consideration how long the ride lasted.

That was the last activity of the day, but I'm excited to see what the next days will bring us.

Andrada Daiana Muresan, 11 U grade



Day 8

November, 21st





Dear Diary,

It's us again, starting a new day in Spain, but in a different way, the best way possible actually. Early in the morning we went to the beach to watch the sunrise. It was lovely and we were excited to watch the sun coming out from the sea exactly like in movies. We recharged our batteries with a lot of good energy and went to eat our tasty breakfast. After that, we took the bus to school, like every day. Arriving a little bit late again to „ I.E.S Alhamilla" school, we immediately started to write our final papers, after two days of weekend, but that wasn't a problem for us.

Because we are writing on topics we are passionate about, time flies so we soon had to leave for lunch. Of course, we went to Rubén's restaurant, our favourite from Almeria. After eating really well, like we are used to, we took the bus to the Gran Plaza. We were secretly preparing a surprise birthday party for our friend Livia, so we went to buy little presents to make her feel loved and appreciated here with us on her 18th birthday anniversary. After a quick shopping time, we took the bus to the hotel, a place we call home after 8 days here, in Spain. We organised ourselves really well for the surprise to be a success. Some of us stayed in the hotel to blow up the balloons and make a pretty arrangement for her and others went to buy a cake. We left all that in our rooms and went on a special night ride around the city.

After we arrived back at the hotel, we all gathered in one room, with our teachers too, and throw the surprise party for Livia. It was amazing that we were all together feeling incredible and excited for the birthday girl to come. We surprised her with balloons all around the room, with a cake and candles and we put all our presents on the bed. We sang "Happy Birthday" to her, and she was so happy and excited, which made us all feel fulfilled because our surprise was a success and she had no clue about it. After she opened her presents and cut her birthday cake, we took some pictures together to remember this day and went straight to sleep.

Amelia Vatca, 11 U grade

Day 9

November, 22nd



Dear Diary,

Today we woke up with a new day ahead of us. We went to breakfast and after that we headed out for the bus station. While on the bus, we saw a beautiful landscape that made our trip to school way better. We arrived at school and got to work on our English graduation papers. It wasn't long until the small break and we went out for a quick snack. We got back to school and did a little more research on our topics.

After school, we went to our favourite restaurant, deRuben, and ate a Romanian lunch. Afterwards, we visited the beautiful castle called Alcazaba, not far from I.E.S. Alhamilla school. After a 10 minute walk uphill, we started to discover the magnificent architecture of the building, the luxuriant vegetation of the gardens and an amazing view over the whole city and the port of Almería. We took some pictures to remember this trip. Together with the teachers we headed back to school to participate in a special activity organized by our native speaking teacher, Elisabeth Rott. There we had the opportunity to meet some Spanish students and native speakers from the States. We shared our interests and traditions about Christmas and learned about their country. Then, we got back to the hotel and had dinner at an amazing place called Don Jàmon. We ate some traditional food and talked about what we were going to do the next day.

Damian Morcan, 11 U grade



Day 10

November, 23rd

Dear Diary,

This is the last time you'll hear from us. Today has been a very sad day for us due to having to say goodbye to a lot of new friends whom we might never see again. Unfortunately, some of us couldn't go to school on the last day because one of our friends felt sick, so her roommate and one of our teachers stayed at the hotel with her. Thankfully she feels better now. At first, we took the bus, arrived at school and had a P.E. class with the Spanish students. We were busy jumping ropes and getting to know each other, before they taught us some Spanish games that they used to play when they were little kids. During the break we met some of the students we interacted the most with and said our last goodbye which was heartbreaking, knowing that we were not going to see each other soon or maybe never again. We continued the day with our graduation papers that some of us, doing an amazing job, had already finished. I am so proud of my friends! When the break came we were invited to receive our Erasmus Participation Certificates with our teachers who also got very nice presents.



- There were two other Spanish teachers and the principal of the school, who told us such beautiful words about this experience, being so pleased with us, hoping to meet again soon. Our teachers were so happy and proud of us. We worked on our final papers a little more, before we had lunch at our favourite restaurant with two of the Spanish teachers who took part in the project. After we finished, we said our last goodbye to our friend Ruben who always served us delicious food and took great care of us, so saying goodbye was very sad and hard.

On our way to the hotel we stopped at some souvenir shops near our hotel, we went to a supermarket to buy some supplies and then we started packing. After we packed, we were waiting for the transfer ride to the airport, while playing cards like we used to every night before sleep.

This project helped us achieve a beautiful experience in which we have learnt so many things about Spain and the daily routine of other cultures, observing many differences between our schedules. It has also helped us see a tiny part of the world, it has helped us improve our communication skills, teaching us how to interact with foreign students by developing our social skills and our English. We have also met beautiful souls, students that made us feel so welcomed and so well taken care of, even if some of them didn't speak English very well. It was very hard for us to say goodbye and for them as well, because we have built beautiful connections. That's why we will keep in touch and hope to meet again. Maybe one day, they will come to Timisoara, because some of them, even Spanish teachers have told us they are very excited to visit. I offered two souvenirs, one to a Spanish girl and the other one to a girl from the Netherlands and received one back.

We have learnt so much from this experience from many points of view, we absolutely loved it! It felt heartbreaking to leave, but we are also very happy we had the chance to live moments like these. - Tania Deak, 11 U grade





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