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SKUPINOVÁ MOBILITA: IES “Sáenz de Buruaga“, Mérida, Extremadura, Španělsko
TERMÍN: 7. 4. 2024 – 13. 4. 2024

PROJEKT: The EU as a Palette of Cultures - Getting to Know Each Other as a Path to
Tolerance and Respect

REPORT: GROUP MOBILITY OF PUPILS MÉRIDA, SPAIN WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL 2024

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Proserpina dam

The journey started at the school. It was a Day of the school. There were no lessons and all the students and teachers went on a hiking tour from school to **the Roman dam Proserpina**.



The journey started at school – we walked to the Roman bridge and on the island in the river (where we were accompanied by the police) across **the Roman bridge**. When we crossed the bridge, we walked along **the Guadiana River** on a small path where it was freshly cut. Nature was more like grass and a few bushes and trees here and there. A small forest with more trees was almost at the finish line in the second half of the journey. Halfway through, a few cars arrived and brought **apples and water** and we could rest.



We arrived at the Proserpina dam after 3 hours. It was a really nice dam to look at and the water was quite clean. It originated in the **1st or 2nd century AD**. It was built as part of the infrastructure that supplied the city with water. It measured 427.8 m in length and 5.9 m in width on average. It is also part of the Mérida

Archaeological Complex, which has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1993.

Cañada Real

The 'Cañadas Reales' are livestock routes reserved for **transhumance of cattle between different areas of Spain**. They were created in the modern age and are owned by the State. In principle, law said it was strictly prohibited to build in a Cañada Real. When it is very hot, animals have no grass to eat, so it is necessary to take them to the north where there is enough grass and for winter back. King owns these routes and they must be open to everyone. Close to the Proserpina dam goes also Camino de Santiago.





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Dehesa

Half the journey we walked through dehesa is a multifunctional agro-pasture system and cultural landscape of southern and central Spain and southern Portugal, known in Portugal as montado. They are mainly used for grazing and cattle breeding, such as **Spanish fighting bulls and Iberian pigs**, but they also provide a range of other products such as **game, mushrooms, honey, cork and firewood**.



Dehesa is derived from the Mediterranean forest ecosystem, which consists of grasslands with herbaceous species that are used to graze cattle, goats and sheep, and **scattered trees**. The main woody component is **oaks**, most often holm oak and **cork oak**. Acorns fall from the oak tree to the ground, and the **acorns are given to the black pigs for food**, and the pig makes a wonderful and tasty ham.

Games in the park

Afterwards we went to a nearby park, where we spend about four hours and **played numerous games like volleyball, football** and so on... There were even games prepared for us by the teachers, like a game where you had to make a paper airplane that will fly the furthest distance, there were more rounds of this game. We returned to school at about 4 p.m. by bus.

After school, about 4 p.m., we decided to meet up **in the centre to get some souvenirs and visit ancient landmarks in the very city centre**, such as „Temple of Diana”; „Plaza Puerta de la Villa” „or „Plaza de España” (picture below).

Some of the typical souvenirs are keychain helmets of gladiators, as there were gladiators' games in the roman history, traditional Spanish fans, minifigures of Ancient Romans and as usual...classical typical things like fridge magnets with various scenarios of Merida, Sevilla and surrounding of Extremadura, **pens and pencils, weights, postcards** and so on...



At Plaza de España, we met with the Finnish students, those were hunting the souvenirs as well. We stopped for about an hour and shared our experience about life in Finland compared to Czechia and with this insight then talked about how and what we like in Spain. The experience about souvenirs was also important, to have some more inspiration... After a while, some of us decided to go for near **ice cream shop**, as we knew, that it will take longer time for the nice weather to come to our countries to enjoy it fully at home.