

# REPORT ERASMUS+ GROUP MOBILITY FINLAND

15th -21th/04-2024

This report is about an ERASMUS GROUP MOBILITY organized by IIS E. FERMI.

The Mobility took place in Finland, in the small town of Mäntsälä, where Italian teachers and students could visit and learn about the local Liceum from the 15th to 21st APRIL 2024.

## THE ERASMUS PROJECT

The Erasmus Project “*A Journey through History, Culture and Perceptions*” was organized and constantly monitored by the Referent Ms Prospero.



The teachers involved were Ms Inzitari and Ms Angotti, both of them English teachers of IIS E. FERMI.



Ten students took part in the mobility, all of them coming from different classes of the 4th year of Liceo Scientifico E. Fermi.

The students were chosen according to their passion for English language, for being highly-



motivated to improve their communication skills in English and to learn new cultures and

ideas.

Italian students were hosted by Finnish families in April, while the Finnish students will

come to Italy next autumn.

We left on 15th April early in the morning from Lamezia airport to Bergamo and then, in the afternoon, we could fly to Helsinki airport. The flight was quite long but all of us were so excited!





When we landed, Ms Tarja Alanko, our Finnish colleague, welcomed us and all together moved to Mäntsälä on a small van.



## MÄNTSÄLÄ



It's a small town of about 20,000 inhabitants, in the area of Unsimaa, about 60 km from Helsinki.

There are some small shopping centres and also restaurants and pubs where you can eat local typical food. You can find also different churches and schools.

Our host school was MÄNTSÄLIAN LUKIO, a high school for students from 16 years old.



There, our students could meet their hosts and left together while the teachers could stay in a small and nice hotel "RUSTINNA KAMMARI"

## MÄNTSÄLIAN LUKIO

The school is quite big and modern.

The building structure is really attractive and its spaces well organized.



At first we were introduced to the Principal and her staff, Ms Tarjia Alanko and Ms Laura Hari. Our colleagues showed us all the school, with detailed descriptions of the single classrooms or of rooms for other uses.

The first thing we noticed was the extraordinary silence, even with a lot of students there.



Some of them were in their classroom for the lessons but others were studying on the sofas well arranged in shared spaces or in small groups around tables, each of them using a laptop lent by the school.



## SCHOOL ORGANIZATION



On the other hand, each teacher had his/her own classroom where he/she could store their laptops, school materials and books.



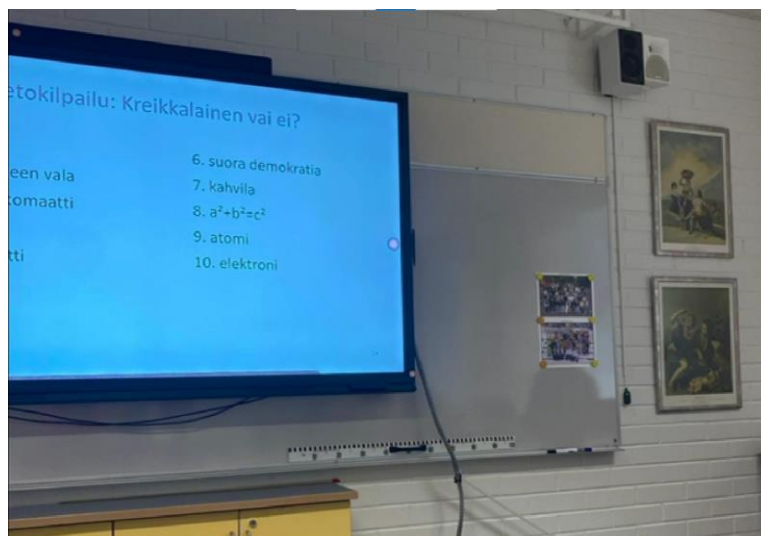
So, a small group of students used to move from one classroom to another to follow their lessons according to a given timetable.

In Finland school is compulsory from 7 to 16 and there are no exams in the passage from one order to another. No marks are given to students until they are 13 not to stress them and, as a result, they get better outcomes in reading skills and are more self-confident (OCSA data).

There isn't a teacher's desk in the classroom and the lesson is presented through questions about a topic, trying to involve all the students to solve problems. Cooperative working is encouraged and personal autonomy is a main goal.

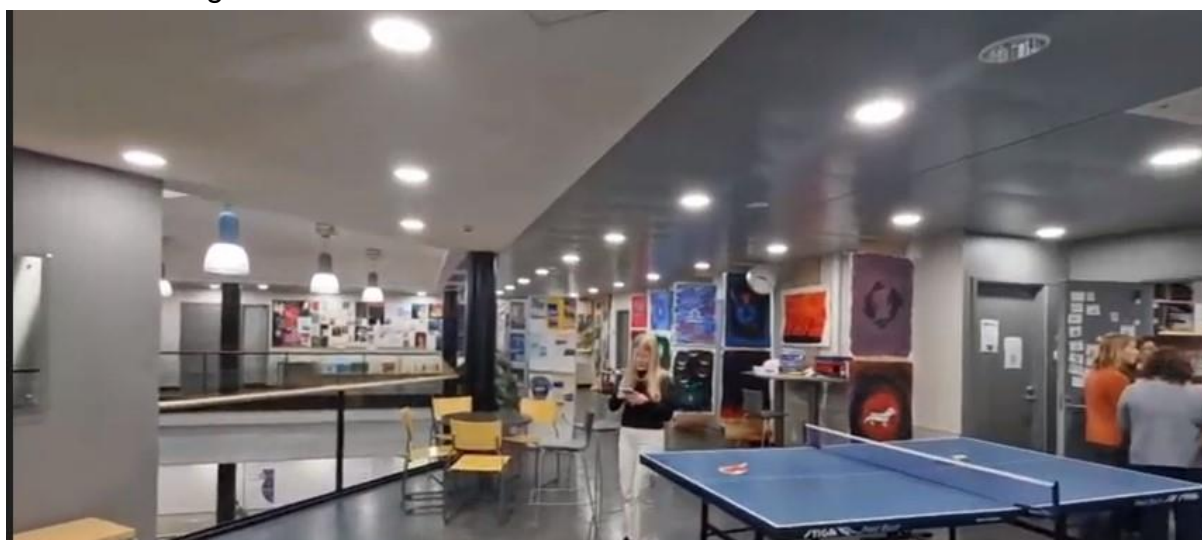


After a short presentation of the topic by the teacher, students are given instructions to practice and only a little homework to leave them the opportunity to spend their free time with friends or families.



Attention is paid to every single student and the ones with more needs are constantly followed by a specialized teacher who plans individual school paths to help them.

Each lesson lasts 45 minutes followed by a 15 minute break to relax in or out of the school building.



The school time is organized into five days, from Monday to Friday.

## STUDENTS ACTIVITIES

The students have followed this schedule :

Tue 16.4.	8.30-9.50	<b>Welcoming</b> , visiting the school premises, <b>presenting</b> the project
Tue 16.4.	14.30 -	Presenting <b>Mäntsälä</b> > walking tour in the center
Wedn 17.4.	8.25-9.40	Workshop in international teams: <b>Culture (fine arts)</b>
Wedn 17.4.	9.55-11.10	Presentations of Italian culture/history in English or geography class
Wedn 17.4.	11.40-12.55	Presentations of Italian culture/history in English class
Thu 18.4.	8.25-9.40	Workshop in international teams: <b>Culture (food and drinks; holiday traditions)</b>
Fri 19.4.	9.55-11.10	Workshop in international teams: <b>stereotypes, customs and manners</b>
Fri 19.4.	14.45-	<b>International dinner*</b> at Riihenmäki school
Sat 19.4.		<b>Helsinki</b> visit (museums, sights, free time)





## THE SCHOOL CANTEEN

Students usually have lunch in the school canteen where old people from a nearby retirement home are used to join for lunch. This was a way not to waste food and to raise awareness in teenagers towards the elderly.





The students enjoyed a lot with their hosts.

## VISITING PORVOO

It's a medieval small town with typical coloured wooden houses by a river. Tourists can find a lot of shops and restaurants here.





## SAUNA PARTY

The students could have a fantastic experience with a special sauna by night at one of the hosts'



## SKATING TOGETHER

The students went skating to the nearby skating rink and it was the first time for most of them!





## INTERNATIONAL DINNER

The school organized an international dinner with the participation of students from France, Australia, China, Italy and Finland.

Each country prepared its typical dish and everything was delicious!





## VISITING HELSINKI



On Saturday, we spent all day in Helsinki. We visited OODI, the famous and beautiful library where people can do a lot of other activities (such as playing instruments, using sewing machines or playing video games,...)

Next we visited the **NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM**



and **THE MODERN ART MUSEUM.**





In the end we had a walk in the centre of the city, while it was snowing!



## OUR CONCLUSIONS

We could learn not only a very different school system but also other ways of living, from the deep respect for nature to simple habits in daily life.



It was a complete experience and, thanks to these shared differences, all of us feel better today!





**Thanks  
Finland!**

