

Turkey journey.

25 Wednesday

11:00 hours, Tuesday night. It's windy and cold. It does not seem the best day to start a journey, but we have a great dream of visiting Turkey. The European project in which we are working includes a meeting with Austrian and Turkish students in Aras, a Turkish population near Kastamonu.

The bus arrives twenty minutes late. Tried to sleep on the way to Barcelona, but it becomes quite difficult. Bus seats aren't comfortable.

At about four o'clock we arrived at the airport. We're pretty tired. We dropped our bags on the conveyor belt and let's move over.

I like airports. You can find lots of different people with different destinations.

We flew with Turkish airlines. This company takes special care with meals. Use quality products and their land to prepare food. Unlike other airlines, chicken tastes like chicken, and fish tastes like fish. This that should be normal is very rare with airlines meals.

We arrived in Istanbul and changed planes for the new route.

Once we landed at the airport in Kastamonu feel a relief. Although statistically flying is the safest mode of transportation, the sky is not the natural environment for people.

Kastamonu airport is very small. He came to wait for the Turkish delegation, and with a van we go to the hotel. We rested a bit and went for a little walk around the city. We thought it would be different, but is quite similar to an average European city. Perhaps the only difference is in the handkerchief that lead some women, and in the presence of mosques instead of churches.

At night we go to dinner at a local restaurant. The food is very good, and very Mediterranean. It's pretty much what we can eat in Castelló, with the exception of not finding pork, which is replaced by the lamb for religious reasons.

26 Thursday

We get up early, with the first song of the muezzin. Today is the first day of work. At about 9 hours come after us the driver of the van that takes us to Arras.

We began the session by presenting the members of the different teams. And we also present the schedule with different activities to be developed in the next two days.

Then we started with the first session of workshops, dealing with stereotypes and other cultural issues.

Different ideas are discussed. Stereotypes are great definitions that show many exceptions. Usually have some burden of negativity. We must understand that reality is much more complex than covering the different stereotypes.

Around midday we lunch Kastamonu traditional food. It tastes very good.

In the afternoon, the second working session was talking about geography. Members of different teams shown as are the reality of their region in which they live. The Austrian team proposes a participatory activity that treats different cultural aspects of the other regions.

At night we went to dinner at another restaurant together the Austrians. Turkish food whenever we like. We also found that there is nothing like a good dinner with a good wine to foster relationships.

27 Friday

Morning teachers have a meeting to discuss part of the web and to prepare the next meeting in l'Alcora. Students go to another room and do some small workshops about language exchange. We learn to say hello and have a little chat in the different languages of the participants, Turkish, German and Catalan.

We also talk about what is a migration, and the problems that migration people have in their integration in new society. An emigrant isn't a person who lives in another country for a period of time as a Erasmus or study interchange, an emigrant is a person who establishes its new home in a place different in which have their family. There are different causes to pull people to migrate, economics, politics, cultural, etc. In conclusion, we can say that emigrant is the person who have their heart in another place.

Then, taking advantage of market day we will visit. Markets are one of the places where you can learn more about how people really are. In the market you have a representation of the foods eaten, utensils they use, what they wear, etc. This is the best example of particular way of life of the people in everywhere. Yes, you have to go to local markets because as the large shopping centers are uniformed, and are the same wherever you are, both in Nairobi and in Paris.

After another traditional food, in the afternoon we draw the conclusions and the different lines of work that will further develop the project are discussed. Different activities are evaluated and the next meeting to be held in l'Alcora is prepared.

In the evening we farewell dinner. Took us to a restaurant in which there is a live band that plays different native songs. Then there is a small demonstration of dance, which later we join with more will than skill. But if you are among good people, who do it better or worse is not very important.

After the farewell we will get some sleep. In a moment we leave for the airport of Ankara.

28 Saturday

3:00 We got to start our trip to Ankara. The flight connections require us to this crazy schedule.

We take the plane without incident, and after a short drive we arrived in Istanbul. As tomorrow we do not return flight to Valencia, took the opportunity to take a little walk through the historic part of the city. We visited the Blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia. We will also be one of the big tanks that once supplied water to the city in the roman age. And wondering arrived at the Grand Bazaar. It's amazing the number of stores and products out there. Then we go to the spice market where we enjoy different aromas that evoke exotic and faraway places.

One of the things that strike us is the passion for haggling with merchants. Although we think is a weird thing you may not have a unique and equal for all value, and depending on the desire of buying and selling that have involved the price to pay may vary.

1 Sunday

In the morning we go to Istanbul airport to board the plane that will take us back home. We left Turkey with some sadness, but also with the joy of knowing that soon we will be at home with our loved ones.

Arriving in Valencia we realize that it is the first day of the Mascleta Fault. So from the station enjoyed, some more than others, this unique and spectacular event.

It's been a very busy days and we are very tired, but the experience has been very positive. Always remember fondly the people and places that we met. The truth is that with this type of project is like Europe, interconnect and European citizens are known, is created.