

May 2023 vol° 36

# *Celebrate good times c'mon!*

**AJ Inter journal**

Training course in  
Estonia

Feria in Jerez

Elections

Eurodesk

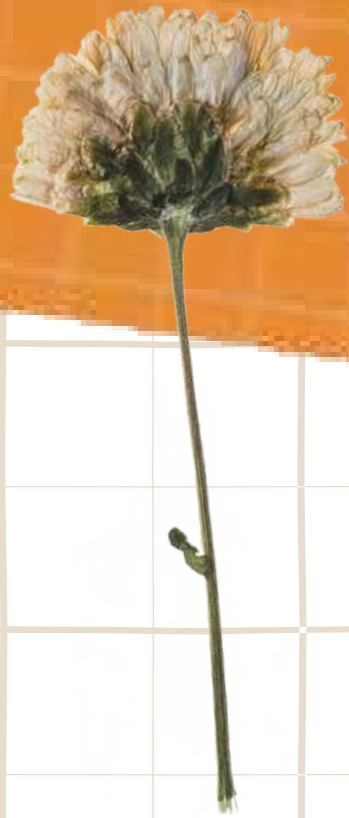
Europe Day





# Index

1. Training course in Estonia
2. Feria in Jerez de la Frontera
3. The results of elections in Spain
4. Spanish Eurodesk network
5. Celebrating Europe Day
6. Estonian Recipes





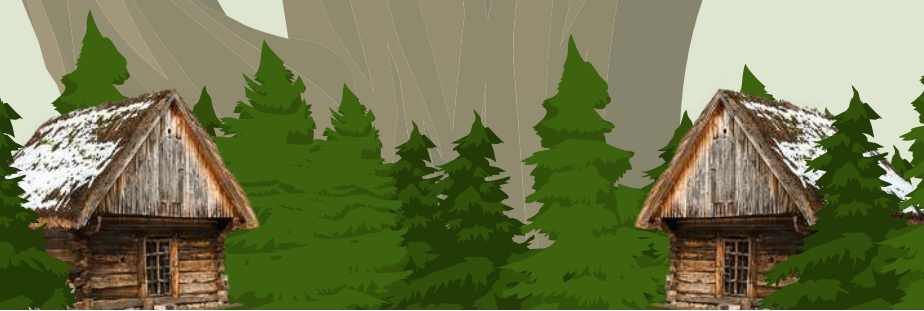
**Training  
course in  
Estonia**



# TRAINING COURSE 1ST WITH HONOURS (A1)

I'm back to tell you about the second part of the 1st with Honours training course. Once again it took place in Estonia but in a very different environment. We were staying in a village called Keava, more precisely in an even smaller Village called Linnaaluste which is a part of Keava.

We were staying on a farm which has been transformed into a place to host events such as weddings and often also summer camps. And there was no wondering why. Even though it was kind of in the middle of nowhere it was a beautiful location. We were staying in wooden buildings all individually decorated by the family that operates these places and by past guests. All around us was a forest leading to a large bog (a freshwater wetland of soft, spongy ground consisting mainly of partially decayed plant matter called peat). Which is a great location to take a walk through which a lot of the participants took advantage of.



One of the reasons why it was decided that this project was going to take place in such a location was that the participants have a different experience to the usual Erasmus+ project. And that was the case for sure, in most ways a positive different experience but in some ways a little negative or rather shocking, no working toilets and isolation not being the best in these wooden buildings. It took a little to get used to but once you start embracing this way of life it was really different, interesting and just great. A thing that cannot be forgotten is the food. With the project taking place in such a remote location you might wonder how we got our meals. Well this was another point where we got to live a true Estonian life because the wife of the family that operates this farm prepared every meal that we ate at the farm for us. We got to experience some true estonian home cooking, with sourcream and black bread being present for every meal.



Now after having talked about the location, the food and the experience and general let's get to the activities. Which is actually quite fitting since the activities did kind of take a backseat in the project. While we did do some activities the project was more about evaluating and reflecting about the first part and about taking in the experience. But one priority of the project was to evaluate the activities we created last time and perfect them so they can be posted online.



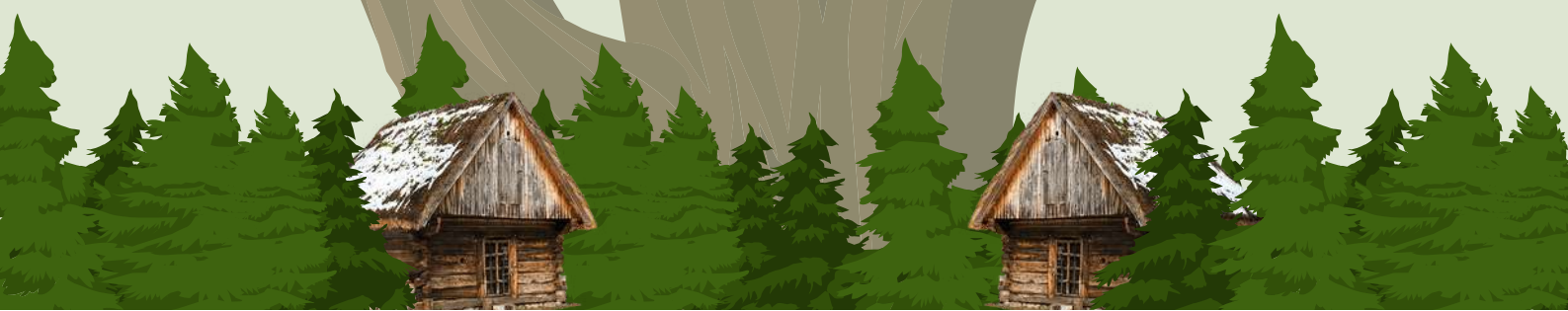
For that, first we sat down together in our groups and prepared them together so that we could play them with some students of a school in one of the nearby villages.

And on the second to last day we woke up and made our way to the school right away. A couple of hours later everyone had played their game with two classes, sometimes tries went better than others but we all got some feedback that we could use to give the games their final touch.

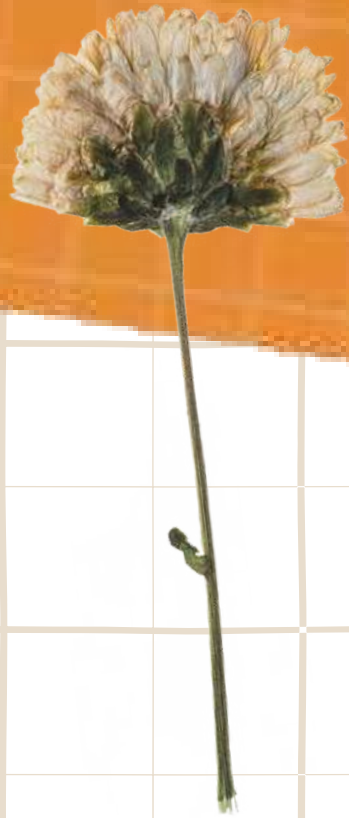


And then it was almost over we had an Estonian Cultural Evening which of course included a Sauna Evening and some truly food and drinks. Then another relaxing day and the evening where the youthpasses were given out and goodbyes were said.

It was a very interesting and relaxing project and maybe not everybody loved it (especially the location) but everyone will remember it that's for sure.



# Feria in Jerez



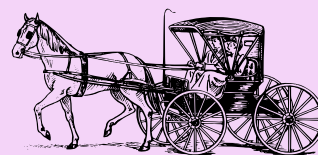
# FERIA DEL CABALLO 2023



May arrived and brought an amazing event to Jerez de la Frontera: the Feria del Caballo 2023 (the Horse Fair 2023). It took place between the 6th and the 13th of May in the González Hontoria Park, the biggest park in the city. This fair is considered one of the most relevant events in Jerez in terms of promoting the city as a tourist destination and its economic impact.

The foundation of this fair may be traced back to the middle ages, when for one week, farmers congregated in Jerez to buy and sell magnificent animals, primarily horses, and to celebrate the sales by drinking.

The first modifications to the fair concept emerged in the nineteenth century and, since then, the fair has evolved and turned into what we have today.



This year's fair was dedicated to flamenco fashion and Andalusian bailaora, singer and actress Lola Flores (born in Jerez de la Frontera) was chosen as the ambassador of the fair, as this year we celebrated the 100th anniversary of her birth.

Before the Feria begins, a lot of “party tents” are set up in the park and these structures are called “Casetas”. The “Casetas” are one of the most emblematic things of the feria and they are the places where you can gather to drink good wine or Sherry wine, eat delicious food and dance “sevillanas”. This year 175 “Casetas” were built and each one had a different aesthetic and were well decorated, both on the inside and on the outside. For this particular reason, the Town Hall every year organises a competition and in the end gives a prize to the best “Casetas”.



As stated before, in every “Caseta” it was possible to try a wide range of tapas and typical spanish food (such as croquettes, potatoes tortilla, fried fish, eccetera), have drinks and wine. In recent years, a new cocktail has become popular in the Feria, the “Rebujito”. This is a mixture of fino sherry, lemonade and ice, ingredients that result in a very refreshing invention.

Another important pillar of this event is dancing. Even though a lot of music genres can be found in the casetas (salsa, reggaeton, eccetera), the biggest stars of the show are Sevillanas, types of folk music and dance from Andalucía.



People, during this Feria week, spend a lot of time dancing together Sevillanas and they are willing to give you tips and tricks on how to improve your dancing skills or they teach you how to fake knowing how to dance. The best advice that we were given was “don’t think about nailing all the steps, you need to dance for yourself, not to look perfect for the others”

Next to the Feria park, there was a huge fun fair with a lot of amazing rides and food trucks with every kind of sweet and savoury food. On Tuesday 9th, as it was the “Día de los cacharritos” every ride was discounted, so it was a nice occasion to have a good time for a little money.



Honourable mentions of the Feria events are the performances that could be enjoyed throughout the day in each Caseta and the Equestrian programme but definitely the most breathtaking moment was the “Alumbrado”. On Saturday 6th at 22:00 all the 1.300.000 lights hanging on the streets of the Fair turned on, lighting up the park and creating a magical atmosphere.

Overall, it was an amazing week full of dancing, food and spending time with friends and we will always remember the magical atmosphere of the Feria, hoping to come back in the future to enjoy this event once again!

# The results of elections in Spain



# ELECTIONS IN SPAIN

This Sunday the 28th of May were the municipal in all and regional election in most of Spain which brought a lot of change to the country but also to the municipality of Jerez.

The former mayor of Jerez Mamen Sánchez from the party PSOE was defeated by her challenger María José García-Pelayo from the Partido Popular (PP). The new mayor of Jerez gained a stunning 42,77% of the votes, compared to the 28,09% got in 2019, giving her an absolute majority of 14 of the 27 seats in the municipality.



María José García-Pelayo, celebrating her victory



Mamen Sánchez admitting defeat

Due to this results the PP can now govern without any need for coalition and freely pass laws and enforce their policies in Jerez.

## THE NEGATIVE SIDE

However, the most shocking thing of the municipal elections in Jerez was probably not the change in government but the extremely low participation rate with just 52,88% of all eligible voters going to the polls of which 1,6% were blank or invalid, compared to 63,9% of which 2,84% were blank or invalid in the 2019 elections.

## CLASSIFYING THE RESULTS

The results in Jerez fit very well into the overall results of the elections overall as the PP also won the municipal elections in important town halls all over Spain like Madrid, Valencia, Sevilla Zaragoza or Málaga and the majority of autonomous regions like the Comunidad Valenciana Aragón, Región de Murcia, la Rioja, and the Islas Baleares.

On the regional level this might often mean that PP will go into a coalition with the far-right party VOX in autonomous regions in which they did not get an absolute majority to govern as a majority government. This could for example happen in Aragón, Cantabria, the Comunidad Valenciana, Región de Murcia and the Islas Baleares.



The leader of the PP Alberto Núñez Feijóo after the elections



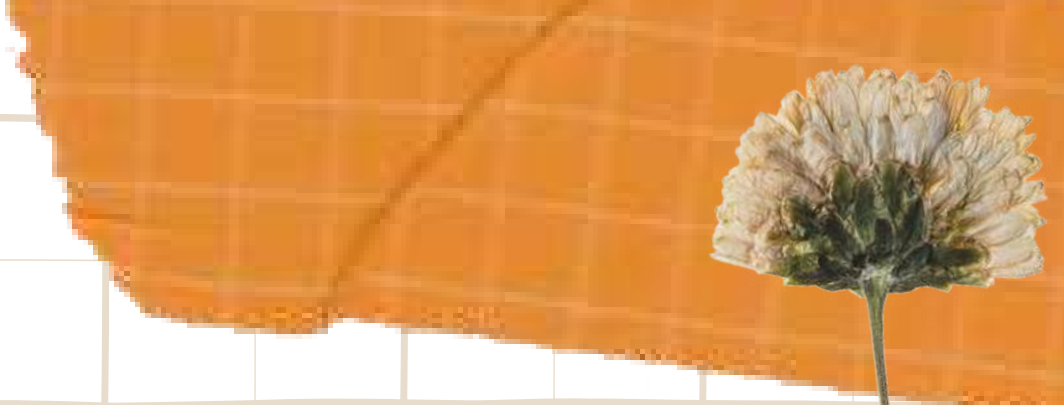


Pedro Sánchez, announcing that the general elections will be brought forward

The PSOE was only able to keep the majority in the autonomous regions of Castilla La-Mancha Castilla La-Mancha, Extremadura, Asturias and Canarias and the important town hall of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

## WHAT DO THE RESULTS TELL US ABOUT THE FUTURE?

How far the results of these elections will influence the general elections this year is obviously pure speculation but the strategic move of current Spanish prime minister Pedro Sánchez (PSOE) of bringing forward the elections from December to the 23rd July this year shows us that he did not want the same results to repeat themselves.



# **Eurodesk network**





We are happy to announce that AJ INTER will continue to be more active to share opportunities for young people, because we were granted one of the Eurodesk points this year.

## What is Eurodesk?

“

Eurodesk is a European youth information network created in 1990. As a support organisation to Erasmus+, Eurodesk makes information on learning mobility comprehensive and accessible to young people and those who work with them.

”



With a network of 39 Eurodesk Centres connected to local information providers in 37 European countries, Eurodesk raises awareness on European opportunities and encourages young people to become active citizens.

Our colleague Hande was in Toledo this month and she went to an annual meeting with people who are taking an active role in the Spanish Eurodesk network. We only learned how to use the Eurodesk network and met with other colleagues but also know the history of Toledo and make sightseeing tours.





# Celebrating Europe Day

# Celebrating Europe Day



Every year on the 9th of May Europe Day has been celebrated around Europe since 1985. Europe Day celebrates the peace and unity in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the historic Schuman declaration of 9 May 1950 that set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war between Europe's nations unthinkable. Unfortunately, as we all know, we are facing a war in Europe, since Russia invaded Ukraine.

## Open Doors Day

Every year in Europe Day the European Union institutions open their doors to the public in Brussels and Strasbourg, allowing citizens to visit these places. Also they have commemorative events to honour the historical importance of the date.

To celebrate this day our volunteers did an Instagram live talking about Europe, Europe day and the different opportunities that young people have through Erasmus+ (Erasmus study experience, Youth exchange, Training course and European Solidarity Corps).



For this reason, we present you with a short explanation of some of these opportunities that Erasmus+ offers you:

**Erasmus study experience:** Erasmus+ gives students across Europe the chance to spend part of their degree studying at a European university in another country.

**Youth exchange:** Is an experience abroad where you have the opportunity to meet and live with other peers from different countries, work on shared projects, learn and acquire new skills through non-formal education and develop competencies. At the end of this experience you receive a Youthpass certificate with the skills that you gained with it.

Youth exchanges have a duration between 5 and 21 days and are opened to people between 13 and 30 years old. The travel, accommodation and food costs are 100% covered by the European Union.



**Training course:** Training course is an educational learning, aiming to contribute to a higher quality in youth work and to improve participants' competences (values, attitudes, knowledge, and skills). Training courses in this context are primarily designed for youth workers, youth leaders and youth trainers.



**European Solidarity Corps:** It's an international volunteering programme by the European Commission for young people to go individually or in teams to another country, usually from one European country to another, to work for a non-profit cause. These projects can be in a wide range of fields – education and training, citizenship and democratic participation, environment and natural protection, migration, culture, humanitarian aid, and many others.

Young people between the ages of 18-30 can take part in this program and their volunteering experience can last from 2 weeks up to 12 months (they can do a short term volunteering from 2 weeks up to 59 days or a long term volunteering from 2 months up to 12 months). These experiences are also free, as the European Union provides the volunteers with food and pocket money, reimbursement of the travel expenses, accommodation, health insurance and more. To apply, young people have to log in on the European youth portal.



There's a lot of advantages you can get from all these different opportunities that Erasmus+ offers you, such as working in an international team, making new friends, developing soft skills, learning new languages, travelling, meeting different cultures (food, traditions, etc.) and so much more.



# **Estonian Recipes**



# Recipes from Estonia

## Crumble cake

400 g flour  
100 g sugar  
pinch of salt  
200 g butter  
5 dl jam



Mix flour with sugar and a little salt. Cut the butter into cubes and add to the flour, crumble everything together with your fingers. Cover the baking tray with paper and spread 2/3 of the mixture on the tray, press lightly. Spread jam on top and put the rest of the mixture on the jam. Bake at 200 degrees for ~35 minutes.



## Egg butter

4 Eggs  
2 tbsp of mayonnaise  
1 tsp mustard  
1 tbsp of butter  
Salt  
Bread and spring onion  
for serving

Boil eggs, peel and chop them finely. Mix the chopped eggs (preferably warm) in a bowl with other ingredients - butter, mayonnaise and mustard. Season with salt. Spread on bread, depending on your taste preference, and chop some spring onion on top.

# FOLLOW US!



AJINTER



AJINTER



ASOCIACIÓN JUVENIL INTER



AJ\_INTER



INFO.AJINTER@GMAIL.COM



[HTTPS://AJINTER.ORG/](https://ajinter.org/)



AJINTER

