



AJ INTER JOURNAL

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Vol° 44

CARNIVAL IN CÁDIZ

VOLUNTEERS ACTIVITIES

ERASMUS+ TRAINING
COURSE IN TURKEY

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ACTIVITY

INTRODUCING OUR
NEW INTERN

VOLUNTEER'S
EXPERIENCES



Erasmus+



EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS

CARNAVAL
de
CÁDIZ

CARNAVAL DE CÁDIZ



The Carnival of Cádiz is one of the most famous and lively festivals in Spain. It takes place every year in February in the city centre of Cádiz, and it is a celebration of joy, creativity, and cultural heritage that in addition to locals attracts many tourists.

During the Carnival, the city of Cádiz fills up with people, energy and a great sense of humour.

The streets come alive with parades, lively music, and creative characters dressed in elaborate costumes. The atmosphere is full of joy and laughter, and people of all ages come together to celebrate.

It lasts more or less 10 days and during this time, especially on the weekends, you can see processions, concerts, comedians, children's shows (puppet theatre) and fireworks, as well as plenty of spontaneous singing in the street.



Central to the Carnival of Cádiz are the "chirigotas" and "comparsas," two distinct forms of musical groups that perform throughout the festival. The chirigotas are satirical groups known for their witty and humorous songs, often making fun of politicians, current events, and societal issues. The comparsas instead, focus on more poetic performances, singing songs that often convey deeper messages or tell stories, and they are known for their more classic musical talents.



Our Volunteers loved going to Cádiz and experiencing its own way of celebrating Carnival. Although for most of them Carnival is also celebrated in their home country, for some of them, it was the first time experiencing something like this. Despite the weather conditions being very unstable, the ESC volunteers went on both weekends with their spanish friends and the other Volunteers from Jerez.



"I've never seen the city of Cádiz that crowded and with so many people wearing costumes. In Italy we celebrate Carnival as well, but it is quite different: in my village we celebrate it during the weekends in January and February, and what characterises it the most are the carnival floats. They are very big and colourful and usually they are also created to tell stories or to make fun of politicians or societal issues. There are also parades and marching bands, but people do not wear as many costumes as they do here in Cádiz, which is a shame because it was so much fun dressing up to go to Carnival"

VOLUNTEERS ACTIVITIES

VOLUNTEERS ACTIVITIES

Our Volunteers work and take part in different activities throughout the week.

They spend most of their time in our Office in Centro Social Blas Infante. There they work on this journal, create content for social media, promote different projects or opportunities, share educational or fun content and learn Spanish. Apart from that, our Volunteers prepare their activities for the week such as the English Club, High School classes or the German Club.

ENGLISH CLUB

The A. J. Inter English Speaking Club is a great opportunity for people from Jerez as well as our Volunteers to experience a lingual exchange. Every thursday at 17:00 we discuss, tell stories and play games in english.



BY VOLUNTEERS FOR THE PEOPLE OF JEREZ

In today's society, being able to speak English is more important than ever. When you meet someone from a foreign country, English is the easiest way to communicate and exchange ideas with them.

The A.J. Inter speaking club is a mix of people with different English speaking levels. Which leads to an open space of learning without any fears of doing something wrong.

A usual session looks like this:

Every Thursday afternoon all of our Volunteers; Anais, Marko, Mareike, Sofi, Kaan and Joachim come together with up to 10 participants. We start each session with a different energizer. This is a fun game that encourages people not to take themselves too seriously. Then, a discussion circle is held, during which we discuss together up to 5 questions regarding a specific topic. Original topics are discussed every week, we talk about traveling, cooking, the European Union, celebrations of traditional festivities,... all of them are great topics and lead to interesting debates.

Most of the time, we take a short break with coffee or tea in which the participants and Volunteers enjoy getting to know each other personally. Afterwards, one or two games are organized. These games are the highlights of the English class for many participants. We play games such as "Who am I" or "City, Country, River" or "Memory" which are games that everyone enjoys and in which the participants learn the most about English.

MADRE CORAJE

Every Thursday, our mornings are spent having fun promoting second-hand clothing while also helping the community and strengthening our sustainable values!

Madre Coraje is a non-profit organisation where two of our Volunteers, Anais and Mareike, take pictures of donated clothing and upload them to Madre Coraje's online shop on Vinted.

The purpose of Madre Coraje's charity shop (both physical and online) is to give a second life to clothing, to promote the circular economy while generating funds that are used to improve the living conditions of disadvantaged groups (by launching social, educational and cooperative actions in Spain, Peru and Mozambique).



OXFAM



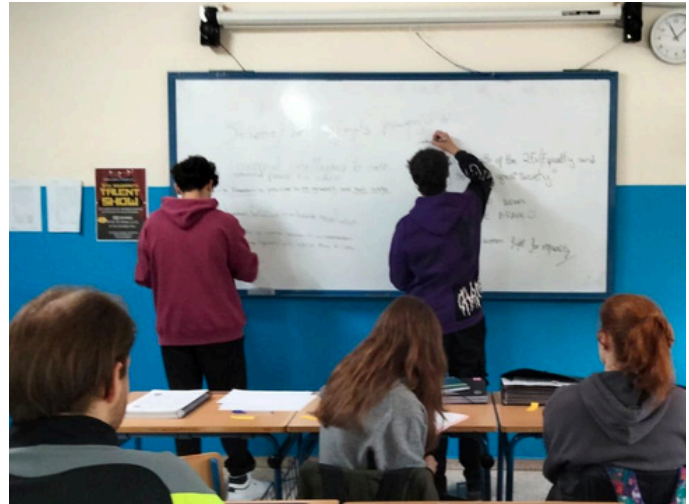
Each Wednesday and Thursday mornings, we have totally different working days. During these two days, we are going to the Oxfam book store, in the core of Jerez. While we are there, we sort the books by topic and condition and when somebody brings books in, we help them make the inventor of the books that are in the store and make sure that every book finds its place in its correct section. If somebody wants to buy any of them we are there to support the shoppers. Beside the books, we also have different music carriers and movies and to help the shop we check the state of the donated toys. Then, if it is possible, we fix and clean them as best as we can, so they are in a good state to be sold.

The book store is so important for the local community because all of the profit that is coming from the sales is donated in order to help the ones in need with food and clothes.

HIGH SCHOOL

On Thursdays, our Volunteers, Marko, Sofi and Joachim, hold cultural classes in IES Andrés Benítez. They have classes with two groups, the younger one has students of 15/16 years old, the oldest has students of 17/18 years old.

The topic of the classes changes every week and they usually choose it according to what is going on during the week: an event, EU opportunities or a tradition. The main goals of these classes align with the Erasmus+ goals, such as intercultural exchanges, non-formal education and learning from each other. As a matter of fact, we don't go to this school to give lessons as if we were teachers, we go to show them part of our culture and countries, to share our experiences and to talk about current affairs and opportunities they have access to as young citizens of the European Union.



Here the students were creating a Manifesto for the International Women's Day.

GERMAN CLUB

Our two German Volunteers, Joachim and Mareike, started to collaborate with Escuela Oficial de Idiomas for a German language exchange. Two Tuesdays in February, Mareike and Joachim hosted a Conversation Club in the school, they talked with participants from Jerez about their home cities, celebrations and traditions from their regions and about German food. The participants shared stories of trips to Germany and more about Spanish and especially Andalusian culture.

They also got invited to an intercultural event that the school hosted. There were multiple activities organised by the school, a so-called "Schnitzeljagd" (german word for scavenger hunt), a little flea market with second hand books in different languages and a cake contest. The students baked traditional German cakes at home and brought them for everyone to eat. Our Volunteers had the honour to taste all the cakes in first and decided with the teachers which cake was the best one. To end the day all students from the different language departments came together to learn how to dance swing.



**TRAINING
COURSE**

in

TURKEY

TRAINING COURSE IN TURKEY

From 26.02-04.03.2024 2 Spanish participants took part in Erasmus+ training course "Wherever You Are I Am There" in Tokat Turkiye, organised by TOKAT GENÇLİK VE SPOR İL MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ. It brought together 36 youth workers and youth leaders from Turkiye, Romania, France, Spain, Austria, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Italy.

The main aim of this project was to increase the effective use of social media and digital tools in youth work. During the week that we spent together, we discovered different online and offline tools that we are already using in our daily work. We also discovered some new ones that will simplify our work and make it more effective.

In the first part of the project, when we all were just starting to get to know each other, we shared during discussion circles and workshops our experiences with different tools that we like to use in our daily work. We also learned many new ones that our trainers introduced to us. At the end of the week, the list of tools to use daily was amazingly long. Now, for sure, we all have many new tools to discover and so many things to learn to find our favourite ones. Thanks to these tools, promoting the events and projects will reach more people, especially the young people.



In the second half of the week we had the chance to put tools we knew before and the tools that we had learned into action, and get ready for a presentation in a high school. With our team of participants, the coordinators and local Volunteers, we visited two high schools, with a common mission: spreading the word "Erasmus+" and the opportunities that young people can get from the project. Much to our surprise, the students already knew quite a lot about the project and were very eager to get to know more about it. They wanted to know what kind of chances they have access to, what experiences we have had through the project, and why do we recommend them to take part of it while they have the opportunity and are interested about the project.

All of the days were full of different workshops and a lot of new information, some days were really tiring and long and some of them were really surprising. For example, we had the chance during an evening to have a guided visit by the governor of Tokat. During the time he spent with us, he told us about the history and traditions of Tokat, what does the local community do to support youth people and how important are these kind of project like Erasmus+ for local community.

Our free time was spent by discovering the city, learning about the traditions of Tokat, learning about the culture and getting amused by the architecture of the city.

The city is located in the middle of nature which is really beautiful. We weren't able to resist it and we also conquered some of the mountain peaks that were surrounding us.



Thank you very much to all of the participants for your contribution and, of course, a really big thank to the organisers and the trainers, who made it possible.

LA GRANJA

high school

ACTIVITY

JORNADAS CREA VOLUNTARIADO



MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ACTIVITY

It encourages local youth in the city of Jerez de la Frontera to be active. Many non-governmental organizations and associations opened a stand in the garden of a high school in Jerez and introduced young people to the aims and objectives of their communities.

WHAT DID AJ INTER DO?

We introduced and informed local young people about the Erasmus+, Youth Exchange and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) Volunteering projects through the events we organized as AJ Inter.



"I had the experience of opening a stand and promoting a community in my own country, but doing this in another country was a



different experience for me. It felt good to interact with local young people who had different cultures and perspectives than me. I am happy to get to know Spanish youth and observe Spanish high schools."

INTRODUCING
new
INTERN

AJ INTER AND ME



HI!

Let me introduce myself. My name is Ana, I'm twenty six years old, I'm from Jerez de La Frontera and, currently, I'm studying for a Higher Education Degree in Socio-Cultural and Tourism Animation. I've studied other Higher degrees, like commerce and art pottery. I can speak Spanish, English and French.



I've always loved to do artistic things, but nowadays in society it is really complicated to live by my art. It is the main reason that I have never taken the big step of researching money from my drawings. Instead, I've been studying different degrees to know which one would be suitable for me.

NOW



I'm doing my training in AJ INTER, and I feel very comfortable in this organisation. Every member is kind, ready for anything that could happen. All of them are really good workers, responsables, creative and resourceful persons. Everybody has a role, task and ,the most remarkable thing that I appreciate since I have been working here is that everybody has the same right to give ideas, no matter if you have been two days or two years in the office, you will be able to give your point of view.



AJ INTER AND ME BUT



what kind of project have I done here? Good question. Now, let's talk about the amazing project that I have done:

TRAINING COURSE ON GENDER IN VOLUNTEERING- RELATED PROJECTS

Thanks to being in the AJ INTER organisation, I could access a master class about the equal rights of genders and get more knowledge. Knowledge that will help me in the future.



MOVIE NIGHT

In this activity, we learned through movies and films the culture of different countries. We were able to try a lot of food from Turkey, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Romania and Spain.

I did the planification of the Spanish movie, I chose the best comedy movie and the dishes that I wanted to serve to the participants. It was a little bit stressful because it was my first time preparing an activity, but it was successful. Good food and a wonderful film.

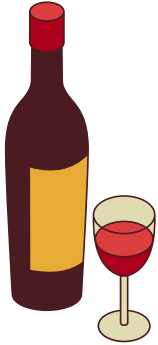


ENGLISH CLUB

In this activity, each Thursday afternoon we have a meeting where every participant enjoys several games and speaking. Ninety minutes talking in English, and a lot of funny games.

I really enjoy doing these kind of activities because we learn many things while we are playing and spending time with each other. Really enjoyable!

AJ INTER AND ME STEP BY STEP INTO YOUTH EXCHANGE PROJECT



I have participated in my first big project, even though I didn't organise it. Everything was chaotic at the beginning, and I didn't know how I was going to end this. I was very nervous for several reasons: first, a lot of people came from other countries (Estonia, Turkey, France, Rumania, Poland, Italy, Greece..) and secondly I wanted to make a good first impression.



In the end, I really enjoyed everything, the activities were focused on teamwork, organisation of activities for youth networks and all the tools necessary to create a social project. It was really interesting, I got to know many wonderful people and I feel proud of myself. Participating in this project made me grow a little bit. I'm going to remember this event for ages.



Gracias



EXPERIENCE
of
ESC
VOLUNTEER
KAAN



Adios Spain

My Volunteering Experience



Hello, I am Kaan. I completed my 2-month Volunteering at AJ Inter and I would like to share my Volunteering experiences with you as much as possible. I was very excited and happy when I was accepted to this project and came to Jerez. The fact that Jerez is a very quiet city was one of the first things that made me happy about living in Ankara, one of the crowded cities of Turkey. I can say that I improved myself in every aspect during my Volunteering time. During the project, I learned time management and responsibility management very well. Learning new programs expanded my skills and horizons. Throughout the project, I improved my English skills, which I had already started to improve. The project helped me become more confident in expressing myself verbally and in writing. Now I can speak English with average fluency.





I spent my remaining free time playing American football in the Jerez American football team. Thanks to Dolores and my Spanish teammates, I learned basic Spanish. During my stay, I had the opportunity to get to know the Spanish culture very closely and see the beautiful places of Spain (Barcelona, Granada). Over the years, I have observed how well Spain preserves its cultural richness. Most importantly, I learned empathy, teamwork, adaptability, responsibility and staying positive in every situation. I hope one day every young person will have the chance to do ESC. Adios :)



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