



# Our Erasmus trip to Istituto Comprensivo Giovanni XXIII March 1st to 6th, 2026

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union





**MS Pazmanitengasse**  
**Mittelschule**  
mit Dual Language Programme



ISTITUTO AUTONOMO COMPRENSIVO  
**"Giovanni XXIII"**  
RECALE- CE

- ❖ As part of the Middle School Pazmanitengasse Erasmus project “025-1-AT01-KA121-SCH-00326955” 10 students and their headmistress Petra Mühlbacher, together with the Erasmus coordinator Angelina Breit, attended the AC Giovanni XXIII in Recale, Italy.



- ❖ Christine Frühauf also took part in a job shadowing mobility at the school. The whole trip was funded by the European Union as part of its Erasmus + programme.



- ❖ We were warmly welcomed on the first day by the headmistress Matrona de Matteis, the Erasmus coordinator Maria Rosaria Schiavo and her colleague Luisa Fattore.



- ❖ The Italian students were as excited as ours to finally meet, as they had already met online in a zoom meeting and also exchanged information about themselves on the digital tool padlet, as part of the accompanying eTwinning project.



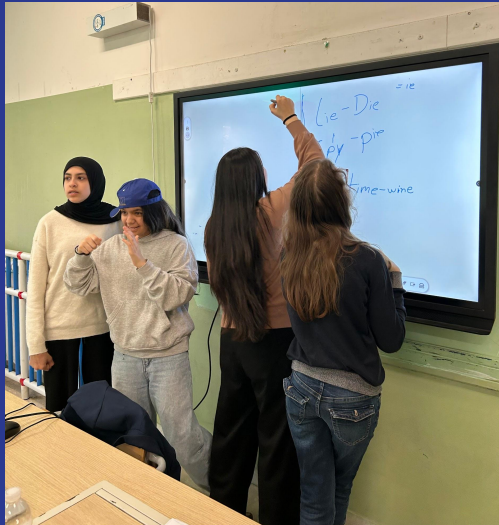
- ❖ We were welcomed by the pupils singing the national anthems of each country and a round of speed dating to break the ice. This was followed by the Paz pupils holding a presentation about their school.



- ❖ We were then given a tour of the school by the Italian pupils and their teachers. We were able to compare our school systems and discuss the differences.



After a morning snack with delicious Italian espresso, freshly squeezed orange juice and pastries, the pupils were able to take part in various lessons, including jazz chant sessions and karaoke as part of language learning. In the afternoon a workshop was planned which involved intercultural communication on the theme of our project.



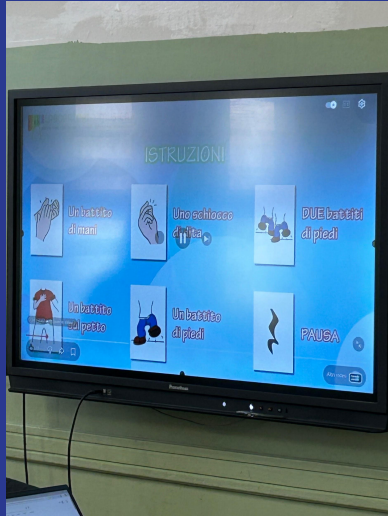
Our students were particularly impressed with the multi media session where they were able to interact with their Italian counterparts working with robots, 3D CAD programmes and VCR headsets. This was a great experience and enabled authentic language communication and the exchange of digital skills.



After taking part in a gym lesson it was time for a great buffet lunch prepared for by the Italian parents. Pupils were able to chat informally and form new friendships.



In the afternoon there was another workshop of interactive music collaboration. Our pupils particularly enjoyed the body percussion session. They were impressed by the musicality of the Italian pupils and the lack of shyness when performing, singing or playing instruments, which is in stark contrast to the situation in their classes in Austria, and they expressed a wish to adopt this ease and “Lockerheit” in class.



Our headmistress was able to hold a lengthy interview with her Italian counterpart while pupils attended their workshops.

The school day ended at 5pm, and pupils had experienced a strenuous but rewarding day full of new impressions and experiences.



The following day pupils undertook a trip to Pompeii, the city which had been buried under metres of ash in AD 79 after the eruption of Vesuvius and rediscovered in the 18th century. Pupils were able to interact with their Italian counterparts and listen to an archeologist who acted as guide in English.

Having worked on the theme of home, and the fact that many pupils at our school had lost their homes through war, meant that pupils were deeply moved by the events at Pompeii.



The following day was dedicated to a visit to Naples, whereby the most famous landmarks were visited and the cable car to the castle on the hill offered spectacular views over the bay. The pupils were guided by our Italian hosts and could compare their own city with Naples. They discovered many differences- specifically the public transport network and the hectic and bustle of Naples in comparison to the quieter, less overwhelming Vienna.



They were able to compare the housing situation with their own and with their Italian hosts who lived in a smaller town. Many PAZ pupils were appreciative of their own amenities and functioning infrastructure at home, something they had taken for granted. On the other hand some of the PAZ pupils had never seen the sea before and were envious of this, so Naples left a lasting impression on them.



A visit to Caserta and its palace enabled pupils to reflect on a different way of living in the past. We discussed what is actually necessary for a home to function and discovered that it is not the number of rooms and their grandeur which count, but rather the people who are an integral part of our home- namely our families and those we are emotionally close to.



Back in Recale, pupils explored the neighbourhood of their Italian buddies and compared it to their own. Through authentic intercultural communication they found both similarities and differences in their ways of life and home environment. They even noticed the role of the climate on housing and free time activities.





On our last evening all participants of the Erasmus plus week had a meal together at a pizzeria, paid for by the parents of our Italian host pupils. This was a chance to get to know each other more and interact on an informal level, thus improving English communication skills and intercultural social skills.



On the last day of the mobility pupils summarised what they had learnt during the week. They filled in a feedback mentimeter and reflected on their experiences. Teachers had the opportunity to plan for the return visit in May and discuss further activities for the eTwinning project. Finally the certificates of attendance were signed and distributed in a leaving ceremony.



We at the Paz would like to thank our hosts for their hospitality. We look forward to welcoming them at our school from the 4th to the 8th of May 2026, when we will continue working on our project “Home is where the heart is, in the heart of Europe”



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