

## REPORT OF TEACHERS PARTICIPANTS

Alcino de Oliveira Simões and Sara Maria Caetano do Rosário



### 1. Introduction

**Country origin** – Portugal

**Mobility** – Spain (Alfaz del Pi)

**Date** – from 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018



### 2. Brief description of the country and the region (history, economy, people,...)

**Country capital:** Madrid

**State:** Spain

**Capital Adm. Region:** Valencia (Comunidad Valenciana)

**City:** Alfaz del Pi      **Population.** 20 000

Alfaz Del Pi is a small city in Valencia, Spain. When you arrive at Alfaz Del Pi there is a sense of warmth bestowed by the extensive surrounding limestone mountains associated with freedom for being so close to the sea. Located just 50 km from Alicante, where there is an airport, Alfaz Del Pi has a very easy connection with all of Europe and the world. An extremely quiet place where you can enjoy the quiet atmosphere of a small village and at the same time you can get to great shopping and entertainment centres as well as the super active nightlife of

Benidorm with its many bars and shops. For those who appreciate nature more can travel to the beaches of Albir or Altea, where the harmonious landscapes between mountain and sea. Alfaz Del Pi is not only a place sought by tourists throughout the year, but also the place chosen by some to live permanently, as is the example of the Norwegian community that lives there (between 3000 and 9000 inhabitants). This large community resides in Alfaz Del Pi to enjoy a mild climate all year round, very different from what you find in your country of origin. Alfaz Del Pi is thus economically dependent on tourist activities. However, despite the harsh soil from the limestone, the village and the region where it is located has a significant production of oranges for juice and mandarins.

### 3. Brief description of the School

**Name:** Den norske skole Costa Blanca

**Website:** [www.costablancaskole.com](http://www.costablancaskole.com)

**Class:** 1th to 10th grade **Age of children:** 6/16 years

**Number of students:** 250 **Subject:** All



The Norwegian school Costa Blanca, Den Norske Skole Costa Blanca, is a private school in the village of Alfaz del Pi on the Costa Blanca, the east coast of Spain, owned by the Fundacion Noruega Costa Blanca and is managed by state aid approved by the Norwegian authorities. The Norwegian school Costa Blanca has approximately 50 teachers, 42 of which are Norwegian. They follow the same curricula and regulations of the public school in Norway. From the academic year 2004/05, the school offers the entire school course of 13 years. The primary school is full. Secondary education offers specialization in studies and disciplines of health and rehabilitation. Since the fall of 2017 the school has about 250 students enrolled, mainly Norwegian students, but we can say that it is multicultural because we find Brazilian students, Iraqi students, among others. Directed by Jorid Skinnehaugen Myhre fra Hamar, the Norwegian school Costa Blanca is the oldest and largest Norwegian school outside of Norway.

The Norwegian College of Alfaz Del Pi was built in 1972, consists of a main building facing the entrance and a more recent building located at the back of it, having on the ground the sports field. It has trees in outer space, where children play and swing apparently freely. In the central building there are administrative services and management and classes from 1st to 4th year. At the administrative level, the school has few employees, which may indicate more computerization or less bureaucracy. The families that enjoy this school have a high economic level, normally a parental element works outside the home, abroad, usually country of origin, while another one is dedicated to the education of the children.



#### 4. Brief description of the activities of the Exchange

The program included a welcome dinner, which served for the reunion of the teachers involved in the project and for the first meeting of others. It was an informal dinner where a very natural empathy was established, based on the feeling of believing in the good opportunities that the project entails for teachers, students and schools.

On Tuesday, March 13, all the participants were welcomed at the school, they knew the different spaces of the school and participated in various activities. The groups of students from the partner schools of the six countries involved in the project presented the foods typical of their regions. We followed a small walk through the streets of Alfaz Del Pi to the City Hall (Ayuntamiento) where we were received with great sympathy. Lunch was in a pizzeria with the presence of teachers, student hosts and visiting students. This sharing at the table was important for greater knowledge of all involved.

On Wednesday morning we attended some classes, followed by a visit with the students to the chocolate factory in Villajoyosa. The museum of the factory was visited and the origin of the cacao was explained. The visit to the factory was made by an air corridor over the manufacturing zone and, unfortunately, we were not given the opportunity to observe in detail the manufacturing process of the chocolate. Then we visited the chocolate shop. This trip ended at the seashore, where it enjoyed a beautiful landscape and where students could practice sports.

On Thursday, again all together, we spent the day in Valencia to see the *Fallas*. We visited the Municipal Market, where the students carried out activities related to food, in genre of *peddy paper*. The Market has made us aware of the most varied products, seriously whetting the appetite and remembering how the food variety is magnificent. In Valencia the students walked freely and carried out the activities in small groups, being able to develop the autonomy and the responsibility. At the scheduled time everyone was at the boarding point for the bus. They were very responsible.

On Friday morning we witnessed various activities carried out inside the classroom and in the other school spaces, such as the paella, typical Spanish food, the flamenco dance and the presentation of certificates of participation. There was still time for teachers to hold a meeting to outline strategies and procedures for upcoming activities and exchanges (Estonia from September 24 to 30, Portugal from January 14 to 20, 2019 and Norway from 1 to 7 April).

On Saturday, March 17, the students had a free day with the host families, performing trips and various activities. Teachers spent the day



in Alicante, where they could visit the historical, architectural and gastronomic heritage (castle, buildings, churches, market, etc.).

On Sunday was the day of return of this magnificent experience. Nostalgia was evident in students and teachers. We took advantage of this day to provide another experience to our students, traveling by train from Alfaz Del Pi to Alicante, where we visited the streets of Alicante and a Museum of Contemporary Art.

On every day of the stay the teachers met for dinner at the end of the day and made several walks, where we remember the visit to the lighthouse of Albir and the historic area of Altea. Thus, it was possible to ally the food to the physical exercise, fundamental for the balance of our organism. The dinners were in different places, experiencing very varied food (Spanish, Italian, Indian, Mediterranean, etc.). We visited the tourist and nightlife area of Benidorm and the historic area of Benidorm and Altea.

## 5. Others Topics

In the preparation of this exchange we carried out the following procedures: selection of students following certain criteria (participation in the project activities, level of English, behavior, ...); creation of a mini-business "Quinta do Mel" where students sold products based on honey; authorizations of the parents, the school and the Portuguese Ministry of Education; three meetings with students, parents and teachers; meetings with others school's teachers; one news in a local newspaper (see image); travel itinerary.

After the trip, we prepared a report on this exchange and a PowerPoint presentation, prepared the report of accounts and held a meeting for reflection and evaluation of the exchange with students and their parents. All these documents are published on the Portuguese website of the project <http://aepoiares.ccems.pt/course/view.php?id=209> (to enter without password, please click on "Entrar como visitante").

During the teachers' dinners, it was possible to know a little better the reality lived in each country regarding the school system and the environment of the schools. However, there was a lack of time for more detailed dialogues on these and other subjects, namely teaching methodologies, teaching materials, school activities and cross-disciplinary projects.

It would have been important to know the host school in more detail and to observe classes from various disciplines and in the laboratories.

The activities were very well organized, in perfect harmony with the theme of the project and well-coordinated in time.

The host students and other students at the school were always extremely friendly, fun and available.

In addition to the teachers involved in the projects, there was no significant contact with most of the teachers at the host school.



## 6. Final Reflection

The curiosity and team spirit was evident in the Portuguese group from the moment Vila Nova de Poiares departed for Lisbon airport until our return. We can say that we have practiced the principle "one for all, all for one", each one drawing attention to the rest in every detail, from the aerial view of the plane, to the new food, to the landscape, to the building, to the new people, ...

It was the first plane trip and / or abroad for the students and also for the teacher Sara Rosario. They all wanted to repeat it.

We have created a bond with a lot of sympathy and trust that has enriched us all and helped us to tread future paths towards autonomy, critical thinking, scientific curiosity, tolerance, respect and trust, facing new challenges with courage and efficiency.

We are very grateful for the good organization and dedication of the team that organized the various activities and stays, led by the dedicated Raquel Sarrias.

Thanks to the students Maria Vivo Lorentzen, Vilde Wendel Nyberg, Aurora Ottesen Espeland and Aryan Stephen Elliott, for the wonderful accompaniment and dedication when hosting our students.

Vila Nova de Poiares, April, 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Teachers

Alcino de Oliveira Simões and Sara Maria Caetano do Rosário



From left to right: Beatriz Silva, Ricardo Rosa, teachers Sara Rosário e Alcino Simões, Ana Campos and Inês Rolo.

## PROGRAM OF THE EXCHANGE FCE SPAIN 2018

## ALFAZ DEL PI - 12 to 18 March

FOOD CONNECTS EUROPE 2017/20 ERASMUS+

Date / Time	Activities (S=Students; T=Teachers)
<b>Monday 12th March</b>	
<b>Arrivals</b>	9h25 Netherlands (Alicante)      18h10 Norway (Alicante)      18h45 Germany (Valencia) 19h00 Portugal (Alicante)      23h45 Estonia (Alicante)      (Taxi from Alicante 80€)
	S = Go home with host family; T = 21h30 Spanish restaurant "Godoy" in Albir (around 15€)
<b>Tuesday 13th March</b> <b>ALFAZ DEL PI</b>	
8h15	Get to school (T = Taxi 10€)
8h45 - 9h30	Welcome and Tour of school. School start and get to know each other <b>activities</b>
9h30 - 9h45	Break
9h45 - 10h30	<b>Presentations</b> about food from different countries
10h30 - 11h15	Normal lesson
11h15 - 11h45	Lunch break (S = from host family; T = school canteen)
11h45 - 14h25	Little <b>trip</b> to Alfaz del Pi for the host kids and Erasmus kids. Visit to the town hall.
14h25	S = Go home with host family (remember pack lunch from host family for tomorrow) T = 17h30 Voluntary walk to the lighthouse in Albir - around 1 hour walk; 19h30 Indian restaurant "Kathmamdu" in Albir (around 10€)
<b>Wednesday 14th March</b> <b>VILLAJOSYA</b>	
8h15	Get to school (T = Taxi 10€)
8h45 - 9h30	Normal lesson
9h30 - 9h45	Break
9h45	<b>Tour</b> to Villajoyosa and Valor <b>chocolate factory</b> . We are two different groups. The first one can visit the factory at 10h30 and the second one at 11h30. We visit Villajoyosa and have some activities there. At 13h45 we take the bus back to school (arrive at 14h25).
14h25	S = Go home with host family (remember packed lunch from host family for tomorrow) T = 17h00 Voluntary trip to Benidorm; 19h30 Spanish tapas restaurant (around 15€)
<b>Thursday 15th March</b> <b>VALENCIA</b>	
8h15	Get to school (T = Taxi 10€)
9h05	Departure to Valencia by bus to see <b>Fallas</b> and arrive about 11h00. <b>Food activities and videos</b> in Valencia. 17h00 Departure from Valencia
19h30	Arrival at school S = Host family (remember packed lunch from host family for tomorrow) T = 20h30 Dinner at burger restaurant "The Grill" in Albir (around 15€)
<b>Friday 16th March</b> <b>ALFAZ DEL PI</b>	
8h15	Get to school (T = Taxi 10€)
8h45 - 9h30	Normal lesson
9h30 - 9h45	Break
9h45 - 11h15	Different <b>activities</b> around the school
11h15 - 12h00	Lunch break (S = from host family ; T = school canteen)
12h00 - 14h25	We make traditional Spanish food together. Follow-up activities from Fallas. Diplomas.
14h25	S = Go home with host family T = 17h00 Trip to Altea; 19h30 Dinner at Italian restaurant "El Castell" (around 15€)
<b>Saturday 17th March</b>	
	S = <b>Free day</b> with host family T = 10h30 Day trip to Alicante; 13h00 restaurant "La Mary" (around 15€)
<b>Sunday 18th March</b>	
<b>Departures</b>	8h00 Estonia (Alicante)      10h10 Netherlands (Alicante)      10h55 Norway (Alicante) 11h25 Germany (Valencia)      19h40 Portugal (Alicante)      (Taxi from Alicante 80€)