

# Portugoul

## Teachers

**A**taturk once stated that "Happy is the one who calls himself a Turk". After the Comenius meeting in Bursa, where we had the honour and privilege to experience the immense Turkish hospitality firsthand, we have to announce that "Happy is the one who has been to Turkey".

When we embark on a new adventure, it is only natural to have expectations. We have to confess that our expectations regarding this trip to Turkey were tremendously high. First of all, we had already had a glimpse of the extreme Turkish amiability and kindness through the teachers and students we had met in Romania and Portugal. Secondly, we were absolutely thrilled to set foot on the Asian continent

and to learn more about the Turkish lifestyle, culture and religion. However, nothing could have had prepared us for the beauty, gentleness and hospitality we experienced. We were - and still are - completely won over by the concept of taking pride in caring for others. We fell head over heels in love with this country and its people.

It was an extraordinary experience! We loved everything about this trip: the people, their hospitality, their ongoing smiles; the fabulous food; the traditions and customs; even the chaotic traffic.

Everything was truly perfect! Thank YOU for sharing your magical world with us!

Portuguese Team: Ana Catarino, Cláudia Serrano and Maria



# W.A.T.E.R.

We all treasure elements and resourus

# Portugoul

## Students

**L**ife is full of encounters, and these encounters are always unforgettable experiences. At least, that is what happens with the encounters of the Comenius Project.

The third meeting of the Comenius Project took place in the week from the 7th to the 14th April. This time the host country would be Turkey. Teachers and students coming from five other different countries - Portugal, Greece, Croatia, Romania and France - would get together there.

Thus, on the morning of the 7th, three teachers from Vouzela Secondary School - History teacher, Maria Figueiredo, Cláudia Serrano, the English teacher, and the Project Coordinator, History teacher Ana Catarino - along with three students - Rita Rodrigues, who is in the 11th year; Isabel Monteiro and Inês Silva, who attend the 12th year, departed from Vouzela bound for Bursa

It was a long journey to get to Bursa, the city where we would meet the families that would host us during the week we would spend there. We had to undertake a long and adventurous quest until we finally arrived: two nights where we barely slept, the airplane food, the five-hour trip on the minibus from Istanbul to Bursa, during the deep dark hours of the night, in the middle of a terrible storm ... But the week paid off.

We learnt so very much during the days we spent in Bursa, together with the other project members and the host families - to whom we acknowledge our deep gratitude and appreciation for the tremendous hospitality and availability. Staying with them enriched us culturally and intellectually in a way that would not have been possible otherwise, just by reading or getting to know second hand information. It was necessary to go to Turkey to taste their food packed with spices, yoghurt, cheeses, sauces, and with mysterious names such as "Baklava", a dessert made with pistachio; "Manti", a traditional food of pasta and meat; and "Pide", - a Turkish pizza. It was equally necessary to go there to understand how much they love to receive and welcome visitors; to get to know their hurry and confusion in the midst of an inconceivable traffic; and to realize their love for dancing their traditional songs and their will to preserve their cultural heritage. Moreover, it would never have been possible to feel the energy and the pulsing of the city if we had not been there. Bursa does not stop, it just slows down a little, to start the next day with even more energy, more confusion and a greater determination to expand and be noticed.

It may have been a quite complex week for all those involved in the project, who had to work and always be "on top of things" so that everything came out well. This exchange trip was not organized by

some trick of magic. Before embarking on this trip, teachers and students had a lot of work to do, specifically on water and its preservation, in accordance with the theme of the project: W.A.T.E.R - We All Treasure Energy and Resources. The outcome of our work was presented to the teams from the other countries in Turkey.

In the end, what remains of this exchange is not, of course, easily expressible. But maybe we can transmit others the memorable days we spent in Turkey through the Turkish music, through all the new words we learned, and through the smiles that come to our faces whenever we remember the friends we made and the experiences we went through.

The students Inês Silva, Isabel Monteiro, Rita Rodrigues

# France

## Students

**T**here are a lot of things that come to our minds....

It was an unforgettable trip, it was beautiful, and most of the time very interesting. We saw a new type of life, of culture and architecture too.

But, for us, the most important are the people. We will never forget our new friends, not fake friends, you know, but real friends with a capital F! Even if we didn't share the same language, we laughed together all the time, there were perfect moments, and tears for the departure too...

We found it strange because, in one week only, very strong bonds were formed, and it was the first time we had experienced something like this.

Apart from that, as for the city of Bursa, it is a beautiful and big city, with two distinct neighbourhoods: an old one and a modern one.

For our part, we have seen things which we will never forget, and which have changed our way of being and thinking. This project has been a great experience for us and we know how lucky we

# Croatia

## TEACHERS

### Ljiljana Plazek-Bogojević

I am very glad that I had the opportunity to join the Comenius W.A.T.E.R. Project and spend a beautiful week in Bursa. What impressed me most was the hospitality of everyone we met in Turkey: teachers, students, their parents and even the people we met in the streets of Bursa. Through various activities and study visits connected with the main topic of the project we once more became aware of the importance of treasuring water and taking good care of natural resources. Our sightseeing and cultural activities helped us a great deal to understand the culture and religion so different than ours. I will never forget the Sema Ceremony of Whirling Dervishes nor the sounds of the evening singing prayer which started at the same time in all the mosques in Bursa and we heard it in the mountains high above Bursa. It was magnificent! Once again, I would like to express my thanks to Mrs Ulku Yildirimli, the headmaster and all the host teachers and students for the warmest possible welcome.

### Irena Tišljar

It is very difficult to put into words how enchanted we felt by Turkey and our hosts. That's why I have decided to name this short report "Bursa-Istanbul-I" because we all together form one beautiful journey. That journey is full of sounds and smells of Turkey, full of spring beauty that has woken up the spring flowers that was still asleep in Croatia. As a biologist and a chemist I will always remember every flower we had seen, every rock we had passed and especially water in all its forms. Still, a country is not made of rocks and flowers but of people who give it its soul. The rich spirit that we felt in Bursa, the simplicity in conduct with people, the kindness and sincere welcome and joy have all shown us the greatness of our dear hosts. I am thankful for their effort in creating the activities for teachers and students as well as for their willingness to introduce us to traditional and contemporary Turkey through beautiful, interesting and educational field trips, conversations, smells and tastes. We came back to Croatia, to our friends and families, full of beautiful impressions, pictures and memories with silk scarves and Turkish delicacies as reminders of our new friends in Turkey.

I am looking forward to the next meeting!

### Josip Horvat

From the moment we landed in Istanbul to the time we had to go home I was very much impressed with nearly everything that surrounded us: the grass by the road which is neatly cut, tulips everywhere, so many new extravagant cars, beautiful eyes of women wearing pure silk, magnificent mosques and other monuments we visited, delicious food, Turkish music that I liked so much, shops that offered quality, and above all the hospitality of people that we met in Turkey.

Dear hosts, both teachers and students, thank you once more for the opportunity to see so much and to feel how it is to live in Turkey.

## STUDENTS

### Ana Lulić

My stay in Turkey was so much more than I had expected. I will always remember the good food, the crazy traffic and, most of all, the incredibly friendly people. I will be forever grateful to the Comenius project for giving me the opportunity to meet new, interesting people from all over Europe, as well as make friendships which I will cherish all my life. My friends and I had the pleasure to spend a week in a beautiful corner of our world, an experience we will surely never forget.

### Ana Imbriovčan

The trip to Turkey allowed me to get to know a culture that is completely different from mine. I was surprised with the hospitality of Turks. Everybody treated me as a part of family. I made some new friendships. Now I can say that I have friends in Turkey, Portugal, Greece, Romania and France. All in all, it was a great experience which I will never forget.

### Renata Puhač

Turkey and Croatia are completely different countries. Our cultures differ a lot and it was wonderful to see and experience something new. The people in Turkey are very friendly and hospitable—they treated us in the most amiable way. I had a great time and if I could, I would do it all over again, a million times.

### Martina Petric

Turkey, or to be more precise, cities of Bursa and Istanbul, exceeded my expectations.

Alongside beautiful monuments and sights, I have been intrigued by Turkish culture and customs. What impressed me the most was a warm and relaxed atmosphere during my whole stay in Turkey. All the people were friendly and welcoming thus making me feel as if I was not in a foreign country. All in all, I liked the experience so much that I would like to go there again and my advice to everyone is: "Visit Turkey, I guarantee you will not regret it!".

## Reflections about the trip to Turkey

If, one day, I decide to make a list about the best things that have ever happened to me, I will surely include my week in Turkey.

There is a reason behind this decision. You are only able to see how strange and complicated and big the world is, and how full of surprises it is, when you are far away from home. In Turkey I totally realized this. For 5 days, I had the chance to experience a culture so different from my own – when it comes to the food, to the language, or even the social behaviour and the religion – and all the situations I went through were so rich of meaning and taught me a lot!

Now, I feel that I know more about life, about people, about the world. I know the true meaning of the word "respect" – intercultural respect – and, this has made me a better person, a better friend, a better human being. One day we all have to grow up, step out of our comfort zone and face the obstacles of life. So, when that day comes I am already prepared to face them. Thanks to my Turkish family and Turkish friends I finally understood the real concept of friendship, generosity, kindness and love. After all, we only grow up when we take risks and go out on an adventure. My adventure in Turkey was definitely my passport to all of it! I will use this amazing experience to live life at its fullest.

Inês Silva

Portuguese Comenius Team



# Romania

## Students

After the long trip by train, by plane and by bus, the Romanian team arrived in Bursa. We met the families, which showed a great hospitality to us, and made us feel exactly like at home. We laughed, we discussed about our countries' traditions and we got to know each other better, so I made a really good impression about the family members, which fastly became my friends.

During the week spent in Turkey, we visited a lot of historical and cultural places, old cities, lakes, waterfalls, all in the city's area, so I fell in love with Bursa, which is a really beautiful and big city, full of life, where you'll never get bored of exploring and finding more of its beauties.

We also spent time at school, doing different activities every day. I was impressed by the full-equipped classrooms, the kind teachers

and the way they were holding a lesson. The students were very happy all the time and they seemed to have a whale of time at school every day.

One more thing that impressed me in a very good way, was The Nestle Water Factory, a very important place near the city, where tones of water were bottled every day. The machines they were using and the advanced technology were really impressing and new to us.

When time to go back home arrived, we were very sad and disappointed that we couldn't spend some more days in Turkey, were we had a really nice experience. I for one, the most impressive thing of all was certinely the atmosphere, specific to the country where everyone is happy and stressless, Turkey !!!

Fratila Maria, 9A

## AlizeDagdeviren

I'm really glad for you because you came to Turkey. Our project is very important due to the fact we learnt something about water, but the most important thing is that we met each other. I like your country's people. It was a great week.

I'm sure I will never forget this Turkish experience. Every single thing was amazing: people, activities, culture, traditions, Bursa. I really hope we will meet again sometime, either in Romania and Turkey. I can't wait for that.

## EsverDikici

Firstly hi! I'm very happy for meeting you. You're a very good friend. The Romanian team was wonderfull. I hope you like Turkey. Maybe another time we can do something together. I love all of you!

## Dan Comsa

I had a wonderful time in Bursa with my friends because we had a lot of good time and I think we gained experience in communication. I liked very much Turkish traditions, people and food. I would like to come again to stay in Bursa with my partner and his friends!

## CezarBarbu



Hi everyone!

My name is Maria Amarantidou and I come from Greece.

When I was told that I was about to go in Bursa, I was very excited! My teachers told me that some of my friends would go too and that's why I found this trip more interesting. The family I stayed was very friendly and I felt very comfortable from the first moment! I met new people from different countries

and they were all very kind that's the reason we became very easily friends! We visited



some very interesting places as I learned the culture from a different country. I really look forward to seeing again all my new friends!!!





Hello Turkey,

I am Fani Chondrou from Greece. It was a nice pleasure to visit Bursa. We really had a great time with the Comenius team. It was an opportunity not only to meet the Turkish culture but also cultures of other countries such as Croatian, French, Portuguese and Romanian.

First of all, I have to admit that Bursa is a very big city with many hospitable people. All the Turkish students hosted us with the best possible way. One of the most interesting visits was in the Bottled Water Fabric – Erikli/Nestle because we wore those



Hello to you all!!!!

I have so many things to tell about this amazing trip! First of all, I was amazed of how beautiful your city is. It is true that at first I was a little embarrassed because I did not know the pupils there. But, Melis made me feel very comfortable at first sight. In addition, Melis' s mother was waiting for me and she was so sweet. But, the most exciting



thing is the behavior of the students there. They were everyone so hospitable and they gave us the sense of family. For this reason, we relaxed and we



especially designed costumes in order to explore the Fabric. It was so funny! In addition, the most impressive place we visited, was the Doganci Baraji Ziyareti. It was a really wonderful landscape! I don't think I have ever visited again a place like this! Another special experience was the visit to Karabaş-i Veli Tekkesi! It was a quite strange "habit" and a little scary.

To sum up, visiting Bursa was one of the best experiences in my life! I will never forget this week, whatever I learnt and the people I met!



enjoyed the company of them. I felt that we had been friends for a long time and we made jokes, we learnt about each other's life and interests. Generally, I could not wait to meet all the Comenius team and exchange ideas, emotions...Also, we had the chance to come in contact with other civilizations and other perceptions and this is very



beneficial for us. I am grateful that I met so kind-hearted people and I created so warm friendships!! It was certainly once in a lifetime experience and I could do everything to live it again. I look forward to welcome the team to my country next year. I miss so much Comenius. I can say that it was the most beautiful week in my life and I have to thank you for this AMAZING experience!!! Greetings to everyone!!

Ioanna Dimopoulou from Greece!!!

...and these are some personal photos!!!!





Name: Saniye  
Surname: Berkeh  
Age: 48  
Family: a girl, single  
Occupation: English teacher in Yıldırım Beyazıt Anatolian High School  
Interests: Swimming, dancing, computer games, travelling, to do puzzles even 2000 pieces  
Personality: I'm quite, sociable and friendly. I like meeting new people. I'm patient enough  
E-mail: saniyeb@hotmail.com



Name: Ece Nur  
Surname: Saruhan  
Age: 17  
Family: mother, father and a sister  
Interests: Seeing new places, meeting new people, watching tv series (The Carrie Diaries, Game Of Thrones)  
Hobbies: Listen to music, read a book, shopping, swimming  
Personality: Friendly, talking, energetic, helpful, funny, sensitive  
E-mail: eceenursaruhan@hotmail.com



Name: Adnan Güven  
Surname: Yüzel  
Age: 18  
Interests at school: I'm just here for English.  
Extra curricular interests and activities: I love spending time with kids, foreign languages and taking photos  
Personality: I'm talkative. Very talkative...  
E-mail: theramos96@gmail.com



Name: Ezgi Kabaca  
Age: 17  
Family: mother, father and two sisters  
Interests: Foreign languages, meeting new people, watching tv series (The Originals, Arrow)  
Hobbies: Swimming, volleyball  
Personality: Serious, friendly, helpful  
E-mail: ezgi\_2112kbca@hotmail.com



Name: Melisa  
Surname: Ayyılmaz  
Age: 17  
Family: mother, father and a brother  
Interests: Foreign languages, art, cinema  
Hobbies: writing thing, keeping a diary  
Personality: Cheerful, optimistic, helpful, funny  
E-mail: melisa\_saga@hotmail.com



Name: Alize  
Surname: Dağdeviren  
Age: 17  
Family: mother, father and a brother  
Interests: listening to rock and metal music, foreign languages, poems, watching tv series (Supernatural, Doctor Who)  
Hobbies: Read a book, keeping a diary, seeing new countries, taking photos with friends  
Personality: Friendly, cheerful, funny, pessimistic



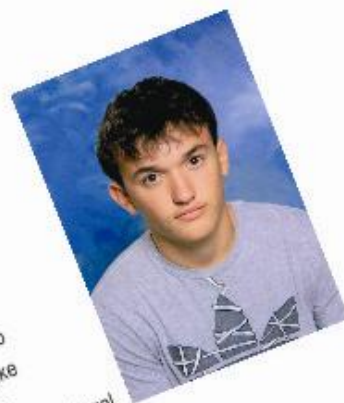
Name: Esver Dikici  
Age: 17  
Family: mother, father, two brothers and two sisters  
Interests: pop music, foreign languages, EU projects, computer programme  
Hobbies: Basketball, preparing new projects, seeing new countries, meeting new people, taking photos  
Personality: Energetic, organized, helpful, friendly, cheerful, dynamic, social  
E-mail: es21\_248@hotmail.com



Name: Ayça  
Surname: Çolak  
Age: 18  
Interests at school: I like philosophy and history lessons.  
Extra-curricular interests and activities: I love taking photos, spending time with my cat...  
Personality: I'm funny and quiet sociable.  
E-Mail: aycack2@gmail.com



Name : Louis  
Surname : SCHOUTITH  
Nationality : French  
Age : 15 years old  
Grade: 10th grade  
Interests at school: In school, I like physics and chemistry, science, English, Spanish, mathematics and French (a little) Extra-curricular interests and activities: In my home, I like playing guitar, it's my favorite activity. I enjoy playing video games and watching films. I like cooking. Personality: I am greedy and funny. I am serious and friendly. I like going out with my friends. I am broad-minded and I like discovering new things. I have very good relations with people



Name : Loic.  
Surname : Roquel.  
Nationality : French.  
Age : 16.  
Grade : 11<sup>th</sup> grade  
Interests at school : I particularly like science and maths.  
Extra-curricular interests and activities: My favorite activity is handball. I practice handball. Personality: I think I'm extremely outgoing. I have no problem with people I don't know. My friends think I'm funny. I think I like travelling. I can communicate easily in English. I think I will be able to manage in Portugal. I have never travelled and I look forward to going to Portugal



Name: Martina Petric  
Age: 19  
Family: parents, older sister Petra  
Interests: art, design  
Hobbies: drawing, painting, drama group, girls' choir  
Describes herself as: creative, fun, chatty



Name: Ana Imbriovčan  
Age: 17  
Family: parents, four brothers and one sister  
Interests: writing  
Hobbies: writing and drawing  
Describes herself as: hardworking, optimistic and fun person



Name : Lucie  
Surname : Caggiano  
Nationality : French  
Age : 16  
Grade : 11th  
Interests at school : the things that interest me at school are physics and chemistry, P.E. and especially seeing my friends  
Extra-curricular interests and activities : I practise handball and drama. Apart from that, I draw a lot and play guitar  
Personality : I'm not very talkative but I am friendly, I'm cheerful and I laugh a lot. I'm interested in everything but I must confess that I'm a little lazy and dizzy...



Name: Lea Bobovčan  
Age: 15  
Family: mother, father and sister  
Interests: visit Egypt, England and Greece  
Hobbies: reading, watching movies, playing computer games  
Describes herself as: sleepy, forgetful, sarcastic



Name: Mario Kodba  
Age: 16  
Family: mother Mira, brother Bruno  
Interests & hobbies: cycling, running, surfing the internet, music  
Describes himself as: hardworking, kind, simple



Name: Tarriet  
Surname: Laura  
Nationality: French  
Age: 16 years old  
Grade: 11th (Economics)



Interest at school: i like school in general.

Extra-curricular interests and activities: I practise handball and enjoy all sports. I like going out with my friends. I go sometimes to the cinema and concerts.

Personality: I'm a cheerful person, I like chatting with people because I'm open-minded. I'm sociable and talkative.

I'm curious because I like discovering lots of new things.

I'm sporty and I like adventure and thrills....



Name : Chloé  
Surname : Boudeau  
Nationality : French  
Age : 16  
Grade: 10th grade  
Interests at school : At school I love English, French, history and art.  
Extra-curricular interests and activities: I love photography, IT, listening to music and nature.  
Personality : I'm impulsive and determined, but I'm fun and very greedy too. I'm friendly and understanding, I love shopping and talking with my friends. I think travelling in other countries is amazing! And I love speaking other languages.



Name : Chrystelle  
Surname : Rigaud  
Nationality : French  
Age : 35  
Family: unmarried  
Occupation : History & Geography teacher in Le Lycée Prieur de la Côte d'Or in Auxonne  
Interests : I love reading, especially SF and fantasy (I'm fond of Tolkien's world !). I'm very interested in history and art and it's a pleasure to discover other cultures.

Personality : curious, patient, attentive. Always here for friends. But a bit shy too and it's something common to see me stressed. I need time to feel comfortable with strangers. And I don't speak English very well : something usual for a French person !?

Name : Julien  
Surname : MASSE  
Nationality : French  
Age : 37  
Family : not married, a seven-year-old son  
Occupation : physics and chemistry teacher in Le Lycee Prieur de la Cote d'Or in Auxonne  
Interests : I'm keen on mountains, especially in winter when there is snow. I like particle physics and astronomy very much: if I had to choose another profession, I would like to work at the CERN. I've been once to Turkey and I loved the Cappadocia.  
Personality : curious of many things, patient, I always want to do lots of things. I like talking, but when I have to speak English you may not even notice how chatty I am!



Name: Juliette  
Surname: Coiquil  
Nationality: French  
Age: sixteen  
Grade: 10th grade  
Interests at school: I'm crazy about all scientific subjects, but my favourite is biology. However, even if it's very important, I don't like French at all, it's a nightmare to go to this class! I love art but I didn't choose this option.  
Extra-curricular interests and activities: Outside school, I do drama every Friday evening. I'm passionate about photography, I love taking photos of my friends or my family.  
Personality: I think I'm kind, open-minded and tolerant, I love meeting new people. I'm serious and I've got a great sense of humour, I like chatting with people and I love learning new things. I hate intolerant and rude people, I can't understand why some people hurt others



Name : Catherine  
Surname : Bourgin  
Nationality : French  
Age : 51  
Family : married, a 22-year-old son and a 20-year-old daughter  
Occupation : English teacher in Le Lycee Prieur de la Cote d'Or in Auxonne  
Interests : reading, movies (usually independent movies, but I loved Skyfall too), travelling and meeting new people (and staying away from the bores)

Personality : curious, well-organized and reliable. I can't stand being stuck somewhere, I get antsy very quickly. If you get on my nerves, you will notice it very quickly!



Name: Ljiljana Plazek Bogojević

Age: 50

Family: married, daughter Lana, son Adrijan

Interests & hobbies: tending flowers, reading

Describes herself as: kind, organized, helpful



### TEACHERS

Name: Hrvoje Baltić

Age: 32

Family: in a relationship

Interests & hobbies: music, concerts, travelling, fishing and vineyard

Describes himself as: extremely curious, hedonistic ( Be the master of your pleasure-not the other way round) and my greatest virtue is hiding my flaws well



Name : David  
Surname : TARNAUD  
Nationality : French  
Age : 34 (born in 1978)  
Family : married. Three children (a girl and two boys)  
Occupation : English teacher in Le Lycee Prieur de la Cote d'Or in Auxonne  
Interests : I love boardgames (believe me, there are other things than Monopoly ...). I'm always willing to learn new things. I like it when people are happy and when I am having a good laugh  
Personality : curious ( I mean interested in many things, not weird), patient, even-tempered, I hate conflicts. I hope I have a sense of humour. I'm not a quick thinker, I need time to make a decision. I can't stand big-headed people.

Name: Thomas

Surname: TROPET

Nationality: French

Age: 16

Grade: 11th grade (Economics)

Interests at school: English, Spanish, French, Science

Extra-curricular interests and activity: music, guitar, singing, art

Personality: I'm quite sociable. I like to put a lot of efforts into activities, meeting people, travelling around the world. I'm quite funny and I love communicating.