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FINAL REPORT

ERASMUS+ EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE



Etna from Bronte-Randazzo road, Bronte, Sicily, Italy

Hope Project

BEFORE GIACCHE VERDI

Before I come here, I live in Mersin which is placed in Mediterranean part of the Turkey. I was studying Molecular Biology and Genetics in Çanakkale 18 Mart University (COMU) in Çanakkale. I have always interested in learning and understanding Biology and I wanted to be a Molecular Biologist after I graduate. Generally, I interested in especially Botany, Plant Biotechnology and Plant Genetics. When my association in Turkey tell me about a voluntary organisation – It seemed interesting and when I make search, I realised that Giacche Verdi is suitable for me. I gave my decision in 2 days and directly go back my hometown to prepare.



City Center of Çanakkale, Turkey



COMU, Çanakkale, Turkey

This was my first experience to abroad. Even I don't travel much outside of my hometown because of my studying. I thought it will be a good chance to work in environment and also a good opportunity to clear my head. One week later, I prepared all paper stuff and planned everything.

CATANIA AND BRONTE

When I got here, I didn't know any Italian words. When I managed to go out from airport, I tried to speak English and told them how I can go to Bronte. It was difficult and scary because my telephone was not able to call, to text or use internet. But after an hour, I found some English-speaker at the Central Station in Catania and manage to get a ticket to Bronte. The journey to Bronte was so good and enough to observe some part of the Catania while going.



Photos from Catania, Sicily, Italy

GIACCHE VERDI



Giacche Verdi Office, Bronte, Sicily, Italy

Giacche Verdi Office is a nice and quiet on the main road of Bronte. Before working, proper clothes (such as hat, t-shirt, vest, jacket, pant, gloves) were given to me. If we didn't have to go to the field, we were staying in the office and did some research about some specific topic for our projects (for example how to abandon plastics, make games for the children etc.) or took care of the office (for instance garden organization, planting and watering the plants, take care of office's dog or cleaning office).

Our working hours were generally between 09.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m. then we were going to our house for the lunch. After 2.5 hour of lunch we were going back to work from. 3.30 p.m. to 06.30 p.m. If extra work needed, they were giving additional free time after.

Giacche Verdi has also a little garden in behind the office. We could plant and make practice for planting and build something for the children or for the garden.



Garden of the Giacche Verdi Office

WORKING IN GIACCHE VERDI

Depending on the weather conditions or availability of the place, we work in outside or inside. Sometimes we had planned the project but due to weather we have cancelled it. The details of the project or the work sharing is announced one week ago in the calendar on the office board or at least one day ago is told verbally.

The projects or organizations that I participated during my 3 months voluntary of Giacche Verdi can be sorted below:

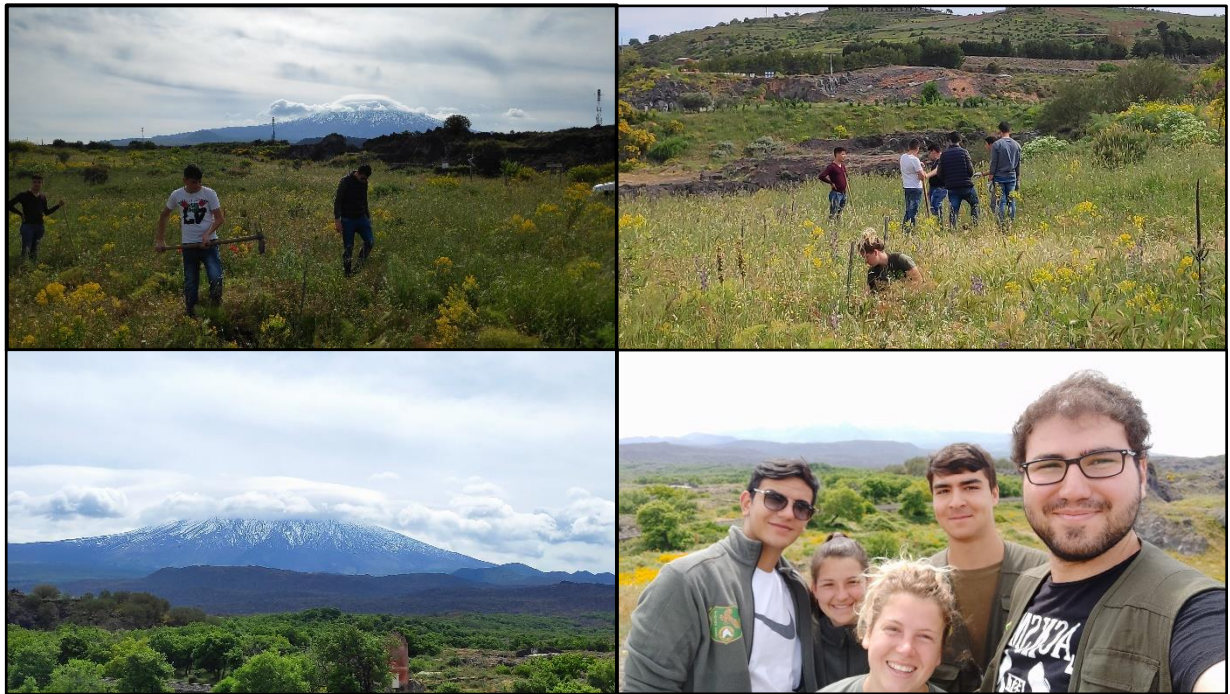
- Brignolo – "il Bosco dei Ragazzi per i Ragazzi"
- Frutti per la Biosfera
- Mercatino per la Biosfera

BRIGNOLO – “il Bosco dei Ragazzi per i Ragazzi”

Brignolo – “il Bosco dei Ragazzi per i Ragazzi” or Bosco Brignolo (Children’s Forest) is a place that previously was a garbage area. It was taken by Giacche Verdi to make a forest. They had planted trees and put some information boards have placed in the place before I have been here. Our aim was to take out garbage, to take care of and clear the area and to crop down a specific plant “Ferla” (*Ferula communis*) in that area. We sometimes worked with the students of a school in Bronte.



Me and Iris in front of the one of the information board in Bosco Brignolo, Bronte, Sicily, Italy



Photos from Bosco Brignolo

In the last photo, from left to right :

Cristiano Saitta, Viktoria Grötzinger, Natalie Exner, Fabio Traina and me

FRUTTI PER LA BIOSFERA (Fruits for Biosphere) :



Me, Viktoria and Iris in one of the school with the project head Andrea Aidala, Bronte, Sicily, Italy

One of our main and important projects was this one. During this project, I visited lots of schools around Etna. Sometimes we made a presentation for introduce ourselves, where are we from, what is our capital city and history, what are our popular foods, fruits, vegetables etc. to teach children. Also, we teach somethings about the importance of the biosphere.

In some schools, we made stations and a little garden to teach children some specific plants (such as onion, parsley, basil). I mostly prepared soil for the planting because I do not have enough Italian for these topics. Instead, when they asked something, I tried to reply. In stations, (generally we have 3 stations; plant, soil and the animal stations) we taught the children importance of the specific bugs, information about specific plants and soil.



Giacche Verdi team with Marco Melii in one of the school, teaching them how to plant, Randazzo, Sicily, Italy



Giacche Verdi team in one of the Garden with children, Maletto, Sicily, Italy

Sometimes, we visited some gardens with the children and made little lessons in the garden. I think this is the best way to teach the children about the nature. Seeing the plants and learning something from the local owners of the garden helps visualize and give the different perspective.

MERCATINO PER LA BIOSFERA (Markets for Biosphere) :



Children are coming to marketplace while Iris is standing, Mascali, Sicily, Italy

At the end of my voluntary, we made markets for the locals with the local vendors. Our aim was to present ourselves and to show our mission to the people. In these projects, we have some stations such as painting, information and food. I mostly worked in painting station to paint with children. I was so interesting and crazy experience for me. I tried to speak Italian with the children all the time and they were also tried to speak English with me. Most of them asked to me "Where did you come?", "Where are you from?".

Also, we mostly worked with other Giacche Verdi teams around Etna. This was so nice to see them and interact with them during the project.

AFTER WORK IN GIACCHE VERDI :



During my voluntary period, I have met 6 German, 3 Turkish, one Brazil, one Polish and one Italian people. This was the best opportunity to understand other cultures and notice our differences. After we had worked, mostly we have been making party or having a dinner together. In these events, I have learned so much new things, different words from different languages, different body languages and sayings.

I have tasted different Italian foods, I have prepared some Turkish foods, also they prepared their traditional foods. *We were all together and all whole although we came from different places with different cultures. I think this is the best opportunity to understand the world and look different perspectives.*



Thanks to Gino to be a father – actually a “Godfather” to us for keeping and protecting, thanks

to Ilkay Abila for guiding and better meals than Turkish dishes made in Turkey, thanks to Andrea for answering all the unnecessary questions that I asked, thanks to Stephanie for supporting and showing all the good things we do, thanks to Selina for teaching how to manage a party without destroying anything (but I failed), Thanks Natalie for showing how to become

a strong (especially cutting fellas), thanks to Natalia for brain burning articles and chitchats, thanks to Iris for teaching how to burn or hurt yourself, thanks to Vicky for jokes that made me laugh, thanks to Fabio for being kind and helpful, thanks to Cristiano for teaching Italian

language, transporting and opening his garden, and also good and wise (☺) Italian words for practising and thanks to Bengi for running after him, nonsense biting, not listening and being cute and thanks to ferla’s for being so hard to rip off.

And also thanks to my sending organisation for this 3 months experience and thanks to Giacche Verdi for making me see.

