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Final report "Boschi per la Biosfera"

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The project "Boschi per la Biosfera" is arrived in the middle of my volunteering in Sicily. Six months of learning, teaching, exchange, fun and adventures! How did it change the way of my EVS?

In September I have been fortunate to meet 14 young people from around Europe. At the beginning of the project, we started to know each other during some workshops. It was a nice and funny way to introduce us. Then living, sharing and working with a cultural melting pot was an amazing experience! I learned how to live "in community" with its (dis)advantages and how to communicate in a group. We had good exchange of knowledge's and cultural staff (food, music, tradition, etc.)



We had some environmental workshops during which I could learn more about the Sicilian-Mediterranean flora and fauna. For me, learning with experts while visiting the area and observing the nature provided a different approach more interesting. Even the games and activities workshop were useful. I have realised after I would have preferred to receive too a short teacher training about how to react in front of children.



I think we made a wonderful project for the children and the planet. Making the oral presentation at school was not my favourite part but it was necessary to start by teaching. I was often surprised how curious and interested the pupils were about the importance of the trees, the forest and the nature in front of the climate change. Maybe also about us, young strangers, coming in their schools to sensitize them.



The practical parts allowed me to have more contact with the nature and with the children. This EVS' year, it was actually my first experience with kids. I really enjoyed to teach outside and make some games with them during the outings. By getting closer to the pupils, I could get more easily their attention for some activities like the "Biologic stand". Even if sometimes they made me tired or laughed at my French accent, we spent nice moments in learning.



The Conclusive Day, which we did in different schools or places, was a really good idea to end the project. Especially at the park of Mascali where we spent 10 intensive days cleaning, painting, building and fitting out. I enjoyed to get involved with the main team and I was glad of the final result. I think with this

action we gave a good example to the children and the local community about the protection of the biodiversity. I'm confident they will continue another beautiful environmental projects on these places.



Throughout the project I met nice local people: bosses, experts, mayors, volunteers, professionals or not, etc. I will not forget how helpful, devoted, generous they were. Even the teachers gave us a welcome warm in general at school. I worked in different teams always in a good atmosphere and with the sensation of being useful. I'm proud for having participated at a little part of the education of some future citizens.



So thanks to this volunteering, I made strong connections, I got experience in environmental education and awareness. I became familiar with the children and still more with the Sicilian culture and lifestyle. I'm leaving self-confident with new skills and very good memories.

