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SKUPINOVÁ MOBILITA: IES “Elena Garc3a Armada“, Jerez de la Frontera, C3adiz, Španělsko

TERMÍN: 14. 10. 2023 – 21. 10. 2023

PROJEKT: The EU as a Palette of Cultures - Getting to Know Each Other as a Path to Tolerance and Respect

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA: IES ELENA GARCÍA ARMADA SCHOOL Kristýna Králová 8.A

IES Elena Garc3a Armada school is our Spanish partner school located in a city named **Jerez de la Frontera**. Name of this school was chosen in a project named: “Tell me your name” by students, parents and teachers. Every class did a project about famous Spanish woman scientist. Then they presented the projects and the voting began. The vote won a scientist named Elena Garc3a Armada. **Elena Garc3a Armada is a Spanish scientist and engineer**. She was born in a Spanish city named Valladolid in the year 1971. In 2002 she received her doctorate in robotics engineering from the Polytechnic University of Madrid. She is interested in the problem of children suffering from tetra paresis. **She made the first exoskeleton for children**. Robotic exoskeleton in a device designed to support a person's muscles while walking. Elena Garc3a Armada personally visited the opening of the school four years ago.



The school is a **modern three floor building** modernly furnished. Every classroom has its own interactive whiteboard, which can at first look like a television, and each classroom has its own Wi-fi which is always available for the students and teachers. In the school we can find **a gym, a library, a modern computer science classroom**, where they focus on programming.

Behind the school building there is a small garden where students and teachers try to grow some crops, for example eggplants. Students from the robotic class showed us their latest project, **a robotic hand**. We could watch the hand close and open and we were witnesses of the hand holding a pen in a fist. Unfortunately they couldn't show us everything this hand can do because they had some technical issues that complicated the whole presentation. But still it was an interesting presentation of their work.





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This school is also for **students with disabilities**. Students with disabilities had their own classroom next to the library on the ground floor. The students with disabilities were nice to us and some of us got a coloured city emblem and a small massage from them. We met them while making badges and sometimes in the school corridors. **Classes start** as in all Spanish schools

at 8:15 a.m. and students gather earlier in front of the school building or in the corridors. Something that surprised me was that **the outdoor speakers play music to welcome the students and also as goodbye at the end of the day**. I remember one song. It was: "Somewhere over the Rainbow" and it was played in the morning. I really liked it.

The age of students in this school is from 12 to 16 (ESO 1-4), which is secondary education, it is something like our gymnasiums. Before that is a primary education for the age group six to twelve. In primary education is taught basic subjects like Spanish, Mathematics, Physics and more. After the secondary education, students can choose between a VET (practise) and a **bachillerato (2 years) 16-18** where the students are expected to go to university.

Together with the Spanish students **we visited their classes**. My first class was **literature** where students read a book. They gave us (Czechs) a choice of some English classics. I choose Jane Eyre. The next class we had was **Spanish**. At the beginning the teacher went around the class and checked if the students had done their homework. If they had the homework she **put a smiling emoji**



in her tablet, if they didn't she put an angry one. The teacher didn't talk to us much. We had a class in which we talked about **how much time we should spend on our phone, how much time we should sleep and study**. Then we compared it with how we spend our time regularly. We were also involved in this class, but they spoke to us in Spanish so our hosts had to translate everything the teacher was saying.

It was quite noisy in the classroom during the lessons. Spanish students are very temperamental. They shout over each other. The teachers didn't do anything about it, they didn't even raise their voice. **The teacher used a microphone while teaching**. The entire lessons were divided into two blocks 3 + 3 lessons in a row always with a change of teachers every 60



min with 30 min break in between. **If somebody needs to use the toilet during class they get a card as confirmation that they are not skipping classes**. Students spend their break outside on the school grounds. They has a snack, played sports and talked. We all socialized a lot during this break and had a lot of fun. The Spanish are very direct, they especially admired those who had blonde hair or blue eyes which is rare in this area.