

# AR.AC.NE

## ITALY 2021

MAIN CHARACTERS:

TEACHERS



Vláďa.



Monika.

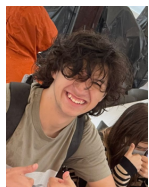


Jirka.

STUDENTS



Zuzka.



Mety.



Tina.



Ňaňa.



Karla.



Elen.



Milda.



Nina.



Áďa.

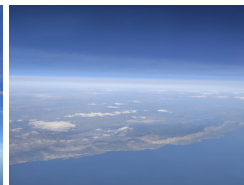


Sára.

**SATURDAY 2.10.2021**

How everything started?

Everything started at eight o'clock on Saturday morning. That day our amazing delegation from Czech Republic got on a train to Václav Havel airport to Prague. Our flight from Prague to Bari was super great and after the flight we went by train to our hotel where we stayed for one night.



When we put our suitcases at the hotel, teachers told us we can go to the center of Bari to have some good food. So, we went. Our delegation split up and went to restaurants. Like a typical tourists in Italy, we had to taste the most famous Italian food "pizza,, .But to be clear, yes, it was the best pizza in our lives.



After that, we just went back to hotel and prepared for another day in Italy.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> October**

We left the hotel in the morning and went to the center of Bari.



We locked out the suitcases and went for breakfast. We visited a bakery and there were a lot of pastries and sweets.



After breakfast, we walked through the city and went to the sea. The city is very beautiful.



We also had our first Italian ice cream, and it was so delicious.



Later in the afternoon, we got back our suitcases and waited for a minibus to take us to Gallipoli. When we arrived in Gallipoli, we met the Romanian delegation in front of

our hotel for the first time, they all seemed so nice. We checked in at the hotel and went out. We walked to the old part of the city, and there was a beautiful sunset.



We had such a great time visiting and exploring Bari and we were looking forward to going to the Italian school and meeting Italian students.



#### **4<sup>th</sup> October**

Monday marked the beginning of the official AR.AC.N.E program. However, we had until 10:30 am before it started. First some of us went for a morning walk while others were asleep.

Sunrise in Gallipoli



Then we had breakfast, which was on the roof of the hotel.



At 10:30 am a bus came for us and took us to the host school. There the Italian teachers showed us the school. Besides classes, we saw some art works done by the students at this school.

After the school tour, the welcome ceremony began. At the start each delegation (Czech Republic, Estonia, Romania, Turkey) had a small space for a presentation of their school.



waiting for the bus

Nobody from the Turkey delegation could have been there personally, so they handled it in a form of videoconference. In theory it sounded good but the sound quality of the videocall wasn't the best so I couldn't tell what they were saying, and the screen wasn't pointed towards us so I couldn't see them either. After Turkey, it was our turn to present our delegation. Even though we knew it beforehand, none of us was really prepared to do it, but luckily there was one person among us that was brave enough to deliver the speech, Nina. She came up there and without any big struggle made a great presentation about our delegation. That's how she became the only student that spoke there, since the other delegations had their teachers do it.

When the presentations ended there was quite a long speech by the headmaster of the school, the mayor, and other local authorities.

Part of the welcome ceremony was also a musical performance, which was quite pleasant.

The welcome ceremony followed by us being split into groups (the groups were mixed with other delegations). All the groups were assigned a colour which indicated the country that was the theme for the hot air balloon they would be working on next week. After roughly 4 hours of working on our projects, we headed back to the hotel.



Then we had some free time, but at 20:00 pm we went for a dinner with the rest of the delegations. The dinner was bigger, then we expected so some of us left even before it ended and went to the beach. There, the more courageous swam in the sea while the cowards watched us from the land.

The day ended with us returning to the hotel, cleaning ourselves from sand and finally going to sleep.

**5<sup>th</sup> October**

As usual we started the day by an amazing breakfast at our hotel. It was very sunny, so we had breakfast on the roof with a pretty view of the sea. Right there, ignore the ugly buildings. There's the sea, pretty cool I believe :).



We were supposed to leave at 8.15 am, but of course we didn't. So, we actually left at like 9 am... that was the time we were supposed to be in Lecce already. We arrived at Lecce at 10 am. Only an hour late, which is not that bad.



As you can see our group took a photo in front of the Porta San Biagio (I hope) which is one of the three? or two gates to the historical Lecce👍. Lecce really is a beautiful city with a lot, and I mean a lot of churches. By a lot, I mean around 100. No, it's not supposed to be around ten, it's around hundred. We of course visited some of them and let me tell you they were really stunning. We were in Lecce, whole morning and after visiting churches we had an hour free, so we were just admiring this beautiful city (we also tried Mikado cookies and they are amazing😍).

At lunch we had this really good sandwich, we could just say what we wanted, and they just put it there. It was so good!







As we got back, we continued on our balloons we were working at with other students. We were really excited to see them again, especially the ones each one of us was working with :).

After that we went to have dinner. We had seafood which not everyone eats so some of us had just salad.



6th October

Our day started as usual. We woke up, got dressed and went to get some food at our hotel. Then we met up with other delegations and Italian teachers, another day full of adventures could start.

This day we went to see the beautiful city named Otranto. It was a bit colder than we were used to but nothing we couldn't survive. We went to see one beautiful church and then it started raining... heavily... We got stuck there for at least an hour. But we managed to make ourselves busy by playing cards in the basement of the church after we finished admiring the beauty of the whole building.



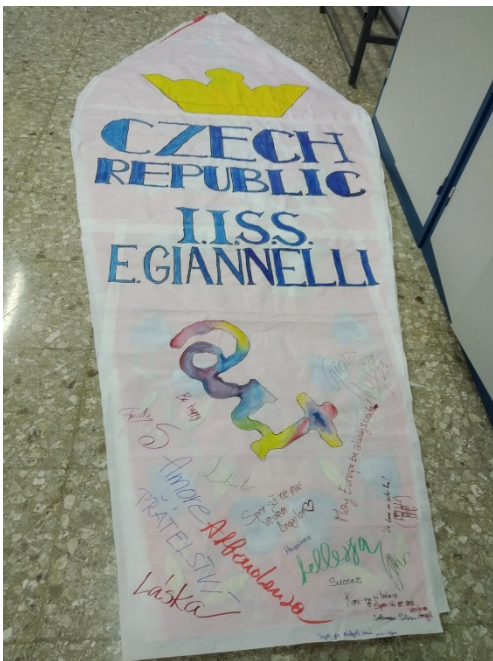
Then around 12am the rain wasn't that bad so we decided to get something to eat, but right after we went out of the church, weather got worse again. We couldn't even reach our final destination and we got completely drenched.



Right after we finally got our food, the weather got better, and we got a chance to dry off a bit. Some of us even made their dreams come true.



Then we went back to our hotel and got changed...we really needed it. And right after that we went to school to work on our joint project, the balloons. Also, we got to know Italian students better.



And after hard day, enormous dinner was the final part of our program that day. We finally got to try authentic Italian pasta and it was delicious. Then we got back to our hotel and fell asleep right after we got to bed.



**7<sup>th</sup> October**

In the morning we took a bus to the cinema where we watched a movie from schoolchildren.



Then we went to see the lookout tower by the sea. Where the atmosphere was beautiful and then we arrived hungry for lunch with 3 courses.







Under the restaurant at the castle was a large ancient wine bar with an explanation.







And then we finally arrived at the school where we released our balloons accompanied by national anthems, which we worked on all week.











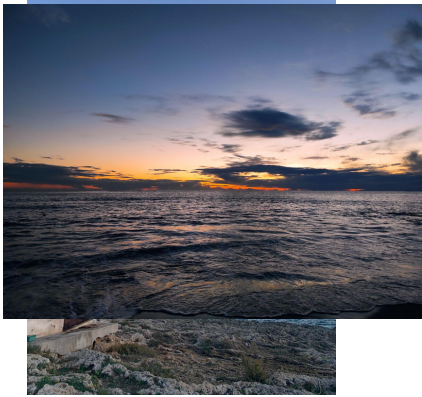
## 8<sup>th</sup> October

This day started just as any other with delicious (but after six days a bit monotonous) breakfast. Unlike the days before, we weren't leaving Gallipoli but instead, Dora planned a sightseeing with us. However, the rain got the best of us for the second day in a row. We walked by the Greek fountain and the iconic Aragonese castle, which looked stunning even during a rainy day. We visited the Cathedral of Sant' Agata and the Church of Purity, both of these being magnificent places. After the tour, as sad as it was, we bid our last goodbye with Dora and had free time from that moment



on. After some time, we found some restaurant and had lunch there. It wasn't great but wasn't terrible either, that's how I would probably describe it.

We planned an evening hang out with our Italian friends, but we had some time left so we decided to go shopping. We bought enough (pretty unhealthy) stuff so we could munch on something for the next 2 days at least. Our friends arrived in the evening. We went for a walk by the coast, with the sun setting in the background. As the time passed, our group got pretty hungry, so we searched for a place to eat at. We ended up in a pizzeria or something like that? Our other friend, Monica, joined us here and each of us ordered a pizza for ourselves. Anička, our well-known hater of seafood, accidentally ordered a pizza with some fish or something, so she's probably the only one who didn't enjoy our dinner that much, it was fun though. Also, pizza with fries on is a surprisingly TASTY combo, everyone needs to try it! :) We all then slowly headed to our hotel, enjoying night life in Gallipoli. We settled down on terrace where we usually had breakfast, but during the night, it was completely empty and such a calm, atmospheric place to spend time at. We



had a great time there, chatting together, laughing and eating different kinds of snacks we bought earlier that day. We got a bit melancholic when we had to part our ways, knowing we maybe won't see each other ever again. But at least we have memories, right? We then eventually got to our hotel rooms and fell asleep, with our last day in Italy right behind the corner.



## 9th October

Our last day in Italy started with a tasty breakfast as usual, it was kinda strange to meet there just Romanian students and not our Estonian friends, who left the day before. After filling our stomachs, we finally had to pack our luggage and left the rooms. (It was possible to leave our things at reception until the bus arrives.)

During our last hours in Gallipoli, we went to shop for some more souvenirs and tried to memorize as much from there as we can.

\*We made memories but not pictures so imagine something here\*

After we picked up luggage, our minibus finally arrived, so we sat into it and then we were magically teleported to the airport. (Not really but almost everyone fell asleep, so we don't know what was happening) There we said goodbye to Romanians and waited for a few hours.





Even though we didn't want to go home, we flew back to the Czech Republic with a vision of our home and a fear of the election results.



In Prague we could finally celebrate election results (in particular Vláďa) and tired but satisfied get to train to Choceň. And I can't omit that we finally caught Vláďa smiling!



We arrived at Choceň without any problems and there it ended. We got many amazing memories, new friends, tons of our bad photos and of course some knowledge. It was wonderful experience and we will remember a lot from Italy and the whole AR.AC.N.E. project.

We want to thank all the teachers and students we had the chance to get to know and who participated in this project. Special thanks go to Dora for her excellent care and patience.

Thank you so much!🙏