



An ERASMUS+ mobility in Sicily

EREA Théodore Monod's students on vocational experience in Sicily

Two students with special needs in Last Year “NVQ Landscape Gardener” from the EREA Théodore Monod in Saintes completed a one-week vocational internship period last March in Sicily.



The two students did their work placement in different sites of Danilo Dolci High School (*“Istituto di Istruzione Superiore Statale Danilo Dolci”*) in Partinico, a city near Palermo. They were accompanied daily by a special needs assistant.

The objectives of this mobility were numerous: validating the skills of the professional frame of reference, developing new professional skills, learning to integrate and adapt to new and unusual situations, promoting the mobility and autonomy of students with special needs but also practicing English as a resource language.

The two learners were able to put their knowledge into practice. For example, they trimmed shrubs and hedges but also edges with a brushcutter. They made plantations. They also gained new skills. Indeed they attended a course explaining how to prune and thin olive trees and then they proceeded to the pruning of the olive trees with the help of a teacher. They also experienced tractor driving on a simulator. Thus they validated the «Europass Mobility», a European document that lists the different activities and skills acquired during their internship.



In their free time the learners visited Partinico, Borgo Parrini, Palermo and its monuments classified as World Heritage by Unesco and “Opera dei Pupi” (Sicilian puppets). They also observed the celebrations of Saint Joseph and discovered the Mediterranean vegetation. They tasted and had Italian food of course.



This stay was also an opportunity to meet other young people from the Sicilian high school, to forge ties and also to learn Italian.



It was an enriching professional, cultural and human experience for the two young people!

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