



THE EUROPEAN STUDENTS NOTEBOOK

UNVEILING THE MOST INSPIRING EXPERIENCES
FROM THE EUPRESS SUMMER SCHOOL

VENTOTENE 2024

THE EUPRESS PROJECT

The **EUPress project** was born from a network composed of the University of Roma Tre and a network of secondary schools from **Italy, Spain, Poland and Romania** and is divided into three years of work aimed at promoting critical and expositive skills on the main European issues concerning the **impact of the Next Gen EU on the young generations**.

The project follows a precise methodological path based on a basic knowledge of the history, institutions and functioning of the European Union which will then evolve into a critical construction of journalistic-style contents, opinions, surveys and infographics on the main topics of the Next Gen EU debate.



READ MORE

THE EUPRESS SUMMER SCHOOL

The **Island of Ventotene**, cradle of the European dream, welcomed **50 students** from Italy, Spain, Poland and Romania for the EUPress Summer School from 6 to 11 September 2024. For five days, the young participants were immersed in an intense program of debates, role-playing games and workshops aimed at promoting the values of freedom of the press and freedom of expression. The Summer School, organized by the University of Roma Tre and the CesUE staff, aimed not only to convey the **fundamental principles of journalism**, but also to provide students with the **practical tools** to approach this profession. The program was rich and varied. The basic premise was to encourage the formation of **heterogeneous working groups**. M&C communication experts guided the students in the design of an interactive digital notebook, offering ideas and advice on writing and layout methods. A journalism workshop provided participants with the basis for creating their own newspaper or blog, with articles, interviews and reports dedicated to **freedom of the press and Europe**. A specific intervention was dedicated to the acquisition of practical skills: writing techniques, basic notions of editorial graphics and group exercises on changing perspective. Some activities focused on simulations and role-playing games. Students learned to distinguish between true and false news, discussed controversial issues related to freedom of the press and simulated a press conference in which each group represented a different European country. There were also **cultural moments**, such as the excursion to the "Cisterne dei Detenuti" and the "Garden of Life", where **Altiero Spinelli**, one of the **founding fathers of Europe**, rests.

The EUPress Summer School represented a **unique educational experience**, in which the young participants had the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of journalism and European values, in a stimulating and historically rich context.



WHAT WE LEARNED, WHAT WE'LL NEVER FORGET



“ This summer, I had the privilege of being selected to participate in the Eu-Press program in Italy, Ventotene, and despite having read everything that was going to take place there, I did not expect everything that I was going to experience there.[...]

We had scheduled activities twice a day in which we were divided into mixed groups of both gender and country. These activities required group commitment and good organization to carry them out. We played group games, debates against other groups, articles, and changing the perspective of a story to another character (for example, Cinderella from the perspective of her sisters). (These are just some of the activities).

All of these jobs not only help us learn about the press and have personal growth, but also promote the values of the European Union such as camaraderie, empathy, respect, equality and freedom of opinion.”

PAOLA SÁNCHEZ DÍAZ

REAL CONSERVATORIO PROFESIONAL
DE MÚSICA JULIAN ARCAS, ALMERIA



READ MORE



“ Participating in the summer school at Ventotene was a wonderful experience that allowed me to explore and improve my understanding of journalism. [...] Throughout the program, I engaged in workshops and interactive sessions. I learned about writing techniques, interviewing, research, as well as journalistic ethics. We also learned how to detect fake news on the Internet by using several helpful strategies. Each activity was designed to challenge our critical thinking and creativity.

This experience helped me better understand the responsibility journalists have in informing the public. I realized that journalism is not just about reporting facts; it's also about bringing to light stories that deserve to be heard. Additionally, interacting with people from different countries provided me with new perspectives on social and political issues.”

IONIȚĂ ADELIAN
COLEGIUL TEHNIC EMANUIEL
UNGUREANU, TIMIȘOARA



READ MORE



RESPONSIBLE COMMUNICATORS

“ Participating to the summer school in Ventotene island was an enriching experience that deepened my understanding of journalism. [...] Each workshop was designed to challenge our critical thinking and creativity, prompting us to think not just as journalists, but as responsible communicators who shape public understanding. [...] In conclusion, the summer school at Ventotene Island was not only an academic experience but also a space for personal and professional growth. It allowed me to refine my journalistic skills, gain a deeper understanding of media responsibility, and foster meaningful relationships with individuals from various cultural contexts. I left the program with a greater appreciation for the power of journalism to inform, educate, and engage the public, and I am confident that the lessons learned will guide me in my future career.”

GIACOMO REALE
LICEO CLASSICO E MUSICALE
FRANCESCO PETRARCA, AREZZO



READ MORE



THE AFTER LESSONS

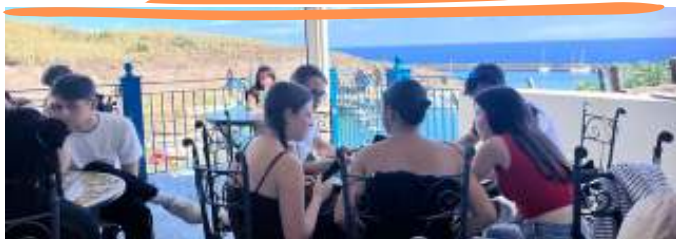
“ Ventotene not only expanded our knowledge but also connected us to other people. Despite being together during lessons, we also spent our free time with students from different countries. [...] In this time, we played board games and talked to each other about everything. Most of the time we played Uno. It's the perfect way to relax, have fun and bond. Games like Uno provide a mix of strategy and luck, offer a distraction from the routine of study. The time spent playing is also a great opportunity to improve communication skills and teamwork. [...] We think that this time is as important as the lesson time. It's those free activities which let us connect more and develop a bond. Even after some time we still are in touch with each other.”

LENA & KAROLINA

CLVI LICEUM
OGÓLNOKSZTALCACE
INTEGRACYJNE OF WARSAW



READ MORE



THANKS, VENTOTENE!



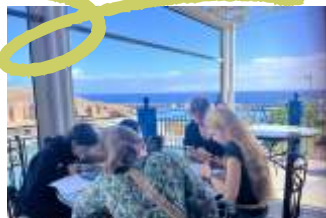
“As the days passed, working groups were formed with members from each country: Romania, Poland, Spain, and two cities from Italy (Rome and Arezzo). I thought the activities we did were very originals, especially a debate in which I put a lot of effort. I was nervous because it was the first time I had to speak that much in other language, but my teammates supported me and gave me confidence. I felt like a real journalist during those days, and it was really interesting to share experiences with teens from different parts of Europe. I have learnt a great deal more in this trip: I have shared quality time with friends; I have learnt about other cultures; I have been in peace with myself; I have laughed non-stop, I have spoken a lot of English, and I have discovered that journalism is exciting. Thanks, Ventotene, for have given me so much.”

MIRIAM MARTÍNEZ REVUELTAS

REAL CONSERVATORIO PROFESIONAL
DE MÚSICA JULIÁN ARCAS, ALMERIA



READ MORE



NEW
BLOG POST

A JOURNEY TO VENTOTENE: TOWARDS A MORE UNITED EUROPE

READ THE BLOG WRITTEN BY THE STUDENTS
OF THE "LICEO STATALE NICCOLO
MACCHIAVELLI" OF ROME, ITALY



READ MORE

TRULY MEMORABLE!

“The summer school in Ventotene was a transformative experience that allowed me to delve deeper into the field of journalism while connecting with peers from Poland, Italy, and Spain. It was a unique blend of education and cultural exchange, making the time spent there truly memorable. The program offered a range of workshops and interactive sessions that focused on essential skills such as writing, interviewing, research, and journalistic ethics. One of the highlights was learning techniques to identify fake news on the internet, a crucial skill in today's media landscape. These activities pushed us to think critically and approach journalism with creativity and integrity.[...]

Ventotene Island offered me a unique blend of cultural and historical exploration alongside opportunities to develop essential skills like collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking. From discovering its rich historical sites to engaging in stimulating activities and group debates, each moment was both enriching and unforgettable, leaving a deep impression on me.”

ALESSIA BOCANCEA
COLEGIUL TEHNIC EMANUIL
UNGUREANU, TIMIȘOARA



READ MORE

THE IDEA OF EUROPE

“The setting of Ventotene, an island with a rich history related to the creation of the idea of a united Europe, was the perfect place to inspire us and reflect on Europe's past and future. Besides learning, we had time to get to know each other better, make friends, and enjoy the island's unique atmosphere.

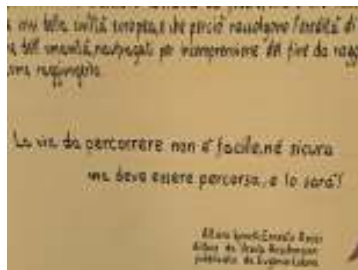
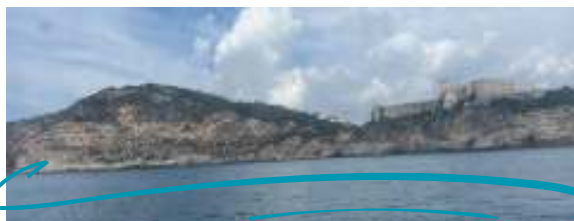
In summary, this Erasmus week was much more than a study trip. It was an experience that helped us grow, appreciate the importance of cooperation and respect, and feel like active participants in building a more united and supportive Europe.”

HENAR MARTÍNEZ GIMÉNEZ

REAL CONSERVATORIO PROFESIONAL
DE MÚSICA JULIÁN ARCAS, ALMERIA



READ MORE



MORE SIMILAR THAN I THOUGHT

“One of the things I have learned is what life is like in other countries and their people and that we are more similar than I thought.

Regarding the work and group activities carried out in this Erasmus, they have given me the opportunity to talk about very important European issues such as their values, also having the opportunity to debate about them.

In addition, I have been able to understand English and understand my group mates to agree on what we were going to do in the activities.”

MARÍA MARÍN MANZANO

REAL CONSERVATORIO PROFESIONAL
DE MÚSICA JULIÁN ARCAS, ALMERIA



READ MORE



MEMORABLE LEARNING

“The whole week that we were on the island we spent most of our time getting to know others, learning how to verify information, and how to use said information to convey a point of view with the help of examples to help defend our claims.

The main focus of the coordinators was to allow students from different schools and backgrounds to get to know each other and provide a suitable environment for us to solve given issues or in general learn something useful from each other. One way the teachers achieved this was by giving us a few articles and us students who were already divided in groups were asked to confirm if the articles were factual or were completely made up. Everyone in a group was so involved in this activity because it was a clever and practical way to implement the tools that we had just learned about.”



LAWARANCE

CLIV LICEUM OGÓLNOKSZTAŁCĄCE
INTEGRACYJNE OF WARSAW



READ MORE



TRAVELLING TO VENTOTENE

“Our first visit was to the Cisterna dei Detenuti, a site of significant historical importance. This underground cistern, once used by political prisoners during the Roman period, is impressive due to its size and ingenious simplicity. It offered a glimpse into the island's distant past, showcasing how people of that era managed their limited water resources. The cold, damp atmosphere inside conveyed a sense of isolation and hardship, vividly evoking the sad fate of those imprisoned there. [...]

Our second visit was to Il Giardino della Vita, the memorial dedicated to Altiero Spinelli, a prominent advocate of European unity. The memorial is simple yet profound, reflecting his contribution to the foundation of the European Union. The tranquil atmosphere of the garden made it an ideal place to reflect on Spinelli's achievements and his role in fostering cooperation among nations. This visit was both thought-provoking and relaxing.”

OCTAVIAN TIRCHI

COLEGIUL TEHNIC EMANUIEL
UNGUREANU, TIMIȘOARA



READ MORE



I ALSO IMPROVED MY ENGLISH!

“[...] the true magic of the experience happened during the moments of connivance – living and spending time together beyond the scheduled activities. [...] Talking with people from different countries opened my eyes to new perspectives and highlight both the cultural differences and the values we all share. This cultural exchange not only enriched my understanding of the world but also helped me improve my English skills significantly. Every conversation was an opportunity to learn and communicate better, which gave me more confidence in expressing myself.”

ENEIDA ROMERA RODRÍGUEZ

REAL CONSERVATORIO PROFESIONAL
DE MÚSICA JULIÁN ARCAS, ALMERÍA



READ MORE





A SENSE OF BELONGING

“ Being surrounded by such a beautiful, peaceful setting allowed us to bond with peers from different countries, each of us bringing our own perspective and experiences. This exchange not only deepened our understanding of European unity but also showed us the strength in diversity. Ventotene taught us that Europe is not just a geographical space; it is a shared commitment to values that transcend borders, offering a sense of belonging to all its citizens.

In the end, our time in Ventotene was more than just a learning experience; it was a reminder of the power of collaboration, understanding, and respect in building a better future for Europe.”

ISABEL CELORRIO FORTE
REAL CONSERVATORIO PROFESIONAL
DE MÚSICA JULIÁN ARCAS, ALMERIA



READ MORE



PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

“ Beyond academic learning, the Erasmus experience in Ventotene allowed us to feel part of the European project. The island, which holds the history of the Ventotene Manifesto, a fundamental document in the idea of a united Europe, reminded us of the importance of continuing to work for a community based on peace, democracy, and human rights.

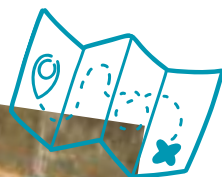
In conclusion, this training not only helped me improve my debating and critical thinking skills but also strengthened my sense of belonging to Europe. It was an experience that made me reflect on the role each of us can play in building a fairer and more cooperative society. Without a doubt, the Erasmus experience in Ventotene is one I will always remember and has motivated me to continue participating in initiatives that promote the European spirit.”

THE PHOTOS IN THIS
NOTEBOOK ARE
BY THE STUDENTS
OF LICEO CLASSICO E
MUSICALE FRANCESCO
PETRARCA, AREZZO

READ MORE



ALEJANDRA SÁNCHEZ HERNÁNDEZ
REAL CONSERVATORIO PROFESIONAL
DE MÚSICA JULIÁN ARCAS, ALMERIA



MY ERASMUS EXPERIENCE

“Regarding journalism, I learned a lot, such as the reality of censorship and the dangers some journalists face. We discussed their importance in society and in a democratic world. We also had a bit of daily homework—a debate, an article—tasks that were fun and memorable when done in a group.

Each day, I became friend with more people, and in the evenings, we played volleyball — a game I learned thanks to my Polish friends. I had never played volleyball in my life, but they taught me in an hour, and it turns out I'm actually pretty good at it!

On the island, I had the chance to see the remains of Emperor Octavian Augustus's vacation house, the first Roman emperor. I also saw watchtowers that I had only previously seen online, and I enjoyed the company of wonderful people.”

PAVEL CIUDAN

COLEGIUL TEHNIC EMANUIL
UNGUREANU, TIMIȘOARA

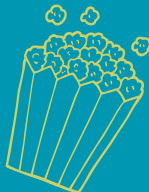


READ MORE

WHAT A GREAT EXPERIENCE WE HAD IN VENTOTENE!

LET'S WATCH THE VIDEOS MADE BY THE STUDENTS OF:

- THE " LICEO CLASSICO E MUSICALE FRANCESCO PETRARCA OF AREZZO, ITALY
- THE " CLVI LICEUM OGÓLNOKSZTALCACE INTEGRACYJNE OF WARSAW, POLAND
- THE " LICEO STATALE NICCOLO MACCHIAVELLI OF ROME, ITALY



DESPITE LANGUAGE BARRIERS

“We had to communicate effectively despite language barriers, blending our unique perspectives into a cohesive project. I learned how to collaborate with others from different cultural backgrounds, which not only improved my teamwork skills but also deepened my understanding of my peers.

Our first step was brainstorming ideas for our web. Each group member contributed their ideas based on their cultural backgrounds and experiences. It was fascinating to see how our diverse perspectives shaped our project. After finalizing our concept, we dove into designing our logo. We gathered around a table filled with sketches and colors as we brainstormed visuals that represented our vision.

It was amazing to witness the creativity flowing as we combined elements from each culture into one cohesive design.

Once we had our logo ready, we moved on to building the website. This involved assigning tasks to each member based on their strengths—some focused on content creation while others worked on design and layout. The collaborative effort resulted in a beautifully crafted website that reflected our hard work and creativity.”

CARLA PUNZANO ÚBEDA

REAL CONSERVATORIO PROFESIONAL
DE MÚSICA JULIAN ARCAS, ALMERIA



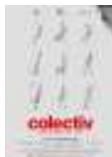
READ MORE



HERE YOU CAN FIND A SELECTION OF FILMS, BOOKS AND PODCASTS ON THE TOPIC OF JOURNALISM



FILMS



PLAY



BOOKS



READ



PODCASTS

- CITIZENCENTRAL
- THE EUROPEANS
- EU SCREAM
- EUROPOL
- POLITICO
- EUROPE CALLING

ON AIR



The EUPress project was born from a network composed of the University of Roma Tre (Italy) in partnership with the secondary schools: Real Conservatorio Profesional de Música Julián Arcas of Almería (Spain), Colegiul Tehnic Emanuil Ungureanu of Timișoara (Romania), CLVI Liceum Ogólnokształcące Integracyjne of Warsaw (Poland), Liceo Classico e Musicale Francesco Petrarca of Arezzo (Italy), Liceo Statale Niccolò Machiavelli of Rome (Italy).

Some activities of the EUPress project have been realised in collaboration with
 CesUE Centro studi, formazione, comunicazione e progettazione sull'Unione Europea e la global governance,
 and M&C marketing & communication (subcontractors)



Co-funded by
the European Union

EUPress. Knowing and
Communicating Europe



Project: IO1085232 - EUPress - ERASMUS+JMO-2022-NETWORKS-SCHOOLS