



*Spuren von Gestern im Heute – Europa
grenzenlos neu entdecken*

*Traces of yesterday in the present – Rediscovering
Europe without borders*



Dear friends of our Erasmus project,

our project entitled "Traces of yesterday in the present - Rediscovering Europe without borders" will come to an end after two years with the end of the school year 2020/21 with this last joint work on a booklet.



With much anticipation, commitment and great expectations we started our getting to know each other in October 2019 in the German town of Waldkraiburg and were not disappointed. We found friends in the partner countries and worked together with commitment on the creation of the city of Waldkraiburg and getting to know the partners motivated everyone to continue working together. The second highlight of the project was the project week in Luxembourg at the beginning of March 2020. Here the spectre of the coronavirus was already in the background and required the highest effort from all participants to be able to carry out the meeting. We made it and it was a great week with very special experiences as impressions and deepened our friendships and our knowledge of the history of Luxembourg.

As the 2020 school year progressed, we all had to deal with the effects of the pandemic and discoveries in a Europe without borders were suddenly no longer possible. Contacts were only possible online, students were no longer in school, and so cooperation also became more and more difficult. Nevertheless, we did not lose sight of each other and worked together online, but the planned meetings in Komarno/Slovakia and in Montserrat/Spain could no longer be held, much to all our regret. Since the meetings are the highlights of every Erasmus project and for getting to know each other and deepening friendships the real meetings are simply irreplaceable, the pandemic robbed us of a lot of enthusiasm.

Nevertheless, we accomplished a lot together and made friends in other European countries. The experiences will remain in our hearts and all participating students will remember this cooperation in their later lives.

This was a very special Erasmus project for me personally because it was the last one in my school life, I am retiring. I have led a total of five Erasmus projects and so in the many years of joint cooperation I have really only met open, committed and motivated students, parents, teachers, school administrators and helping people throughout Europe. But it was worth it for each and every one of these participants to take on all the work that goes behind such a project for each coordinating teacher. And I hope that many more teachers will be willing to carry out Erasmus projects and I wish many students to be able to participate.

Long live cooperation and friendship in Europe!

*Regina Weidl
project coordinator, Waldkraiburg*

WALDKRAIBURG (Germany)

The history of our town - From the bunker to the adventure town

The history of our young town begins with the Second World War, because a powder factory for explosives was built for the ruthlessness industry on the present area of the town of Waldkraiburg, at that time a forest area.

After 1946, refugees and expellees from the former German territories in Eastern and Southeastern Europe (mainly from Bohemia and Moravia, the Sudetenland and Silesia - today the Czech Republic and Poland) settled on the factory site, which had been blown up by the Allies. With great diligence, they built residential houses and businesses, often using old bunkers.

In 1950, the industrial settlement became an independent municipality and was given the name "Waldkraiburg". In 1960, the municipality was elevated to the status of a city. The population grew from 2,659 in 1950 to 25,699 in 2020. In the city there are very many housing opportunities and companies such as industries, which provide more than 8000 jobs. Today Waldkraiburg is a modern and cosmopolitan town and has inhabitants from many different countries. All kinds of schools are available. Museums, concerts, theater and cinema as well as many sports activities offer a lot of leisure time activities.



The students of the Erasmu smeeeting in Waldkraiburg in fall 2019 with their teachers in front of one of the still existing bunkers.

Effects of history on our daily lives

Waldkraiburg is a cosmopolitan town that is home to people of many nationalities. Since the founding of the town of Waldkraiburg until today, many displaced persons and refugees have found accommodation and a home here. Waldkraiburg offers a safe home to people of many nationalities. At our school, too, students from all over the world learn together peacefully. Many people who live here have experienced displacement and refugee life themselves or through their families, and thus have an understanding for others.

Further immigration movements after the war:

- **1954/55** people from the Balkans (Romanians, Turks, Hungarians, etc.)
- **1974** Berliners
- **1989** Eastern European countries (former Soviet countries)
- **2015** African countries

→ **Total of 103 different nations live peacefully side by side today.**

Religions in our city (2019 figures):

- **Old Catholic** 19 (20)
- **Protestant** 3.199 (3.329)
- **Roman Catholic** 11,116 (11,384)
- **not specified** 10,045 (9,878)
- **Greek Orthodox** 71 (61)
- **Romanian Orthodox** 844 (759)
- **Russian Orthodox** 76 (66)

Waldkraiburg has one Catholic, one Protestant, one Romanian Orthodox, one New Apostolic and one Evangelical Free Church (Baptist) as well as two mosques.



Protestant church

Famous companies established by refugees

Many refugees have founded companies in Waldkraiburg, which today operate worldwide and offer many jobs. Three companies are to be presented as an example.

With the end of the Second World War, the **Carl Dickow Company** in Görlitz (former GDR) was expropriated and only a small part of the machines could be saved. With these machines the company rebuilt the pump production in Waldkraiburg and was able to expand and enlarge the company again and again by manufacturing special pumps. Today the company employs 200 people and delivers all over the world.

<https://dickow.de/index.php/de/ueber-dickow-pumpen/geschichte>



The picture shows one of the gears that succeeded in rebuilding the company.

In 1946, 13 displaced musical instrument makers founded Graslitzer Musikinstrumentenerzeuger eGmbH and started their work in the wooden room of a barrack. With the knowledge they brought with them, they decided to build brass instruments and named their company MIRAPHONE. It is. Today Miraphone is one of the largest instrument manufacturers in the world. The company has an annual turnover of 6.2 million euros with 90 employees.

<https://www.miraphone.de/unternehmen.html>



The company KRAIBURG was founded in 1947 as a family business, which was already engaged in the material rubber at that time. It manages about 2500 employees, and in 2019 it reached about €560 million in sales. The company operates internationally.

www.kraiburg-rubber-compounds.com/gummiwerk/



The connection of our city to other countries

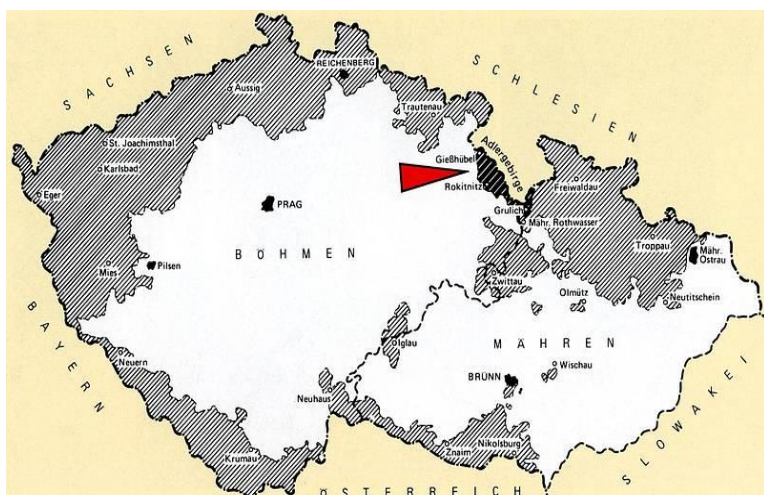
The many refugees and displaced persons from the former German territories in Southern and Eastern Europe alone have established a connection to the former settlement areas via local history societies that were founded later. One would like to preserve the memory for the descendants, to pass on the historical knowledge and to keep the contacts among the fate companions alive.

Sponsorship Adlergebirge

Thus Waldkraiburg is the sponsor town for the Sudeten Germans from the Adlergebirge, in today's Czech Republic.

Quelle:

<https://www.waldkraiburg.de/stadt-verwaltung/rathaus/die-stadt/partner-und-patenschaften/patenschaft-adlergebirge>

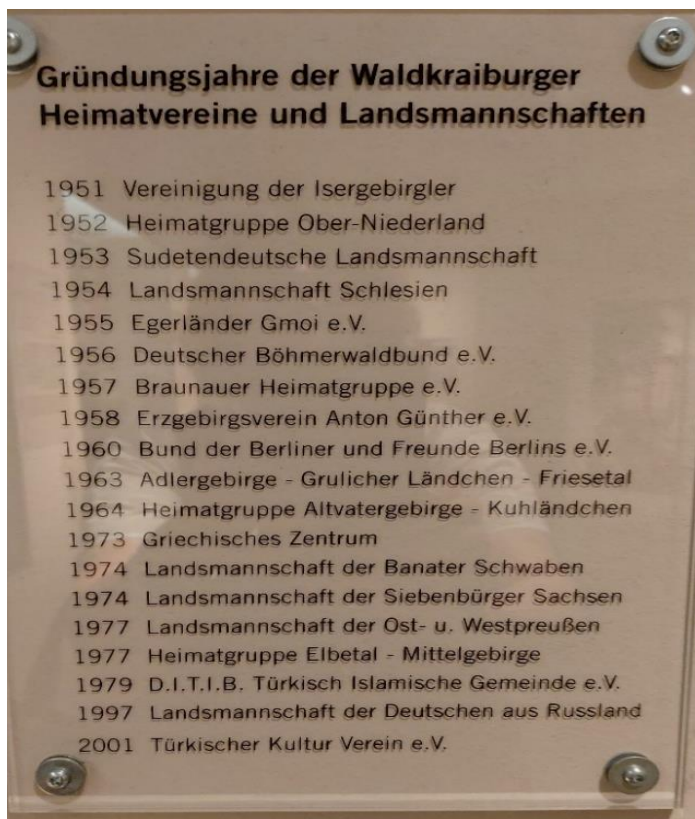


Sponsorship Haida

In 1985 the town of Waldkraiburg took over the sponsorship for the Sudeten German town of **Haida**, because former Haida residents participated in the founding and building of the town of Waldkraiburg after the war and glass was produced and refined in Waldkraiburg, as it had been in Haida in the past. The glass collection "**Haida and surroundings**" can be admired in the museum of the House of Culture.



Haida glass bowl



In more **recent times**, Waldkraiburg has seen an influx of many people from Turkey, Greece and Russian-Germans, among others, who have founded local history societies or compatriots' associations here, as this plaque in the museum of local history testifies.



Erasmus students at the Museum in Waldkraiburg

Town twinning with Sartrouville/ France

Since 1997, Waldkraiburg and the city of Sartrouville, which is located near Paris, have been twinned. People visit each other, get to know new people, and openness and hospitality are the top priorities for both partners. The German-French friendship is cultivated and the culture and way of life of the other is discovered. In Waldkraiburg there is the partnership association Waldkraiburg-Sartrouville e.V., which plans the joint activities. In Waldkraiburg there is a Sartrouville square.



At the **Gymnasium Waldkraiburg** we have long-standing school partnerships with the Lycée Cormontaigne in Metz, France and a high school in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, USA. We have a school partnership with Sartrouville/ France.

Komárno – Komárom, the divided city (Slovakia)

Divided places can be incredibly fascinating. Especially when the two parts of the city differ so much from country to country that you get the feeling of stepping from one world into a completely different one. You can experience this strange "two worlds effect" in the Slovak-Hungarian border town of Komárno-



The past and present of the city

Thanks to its location and favourable natural features Komárno has been continuously resided in from the early Bronze Age. From the end of the 4 century BC the **Celts** settled in the place of the current town, in the 1st century the **Romans** built a smaller military camp (Kelemantia) on the northern shore of the Danube, in Iža near Komárno.

During the migration, the **Avars** stayed here for a long time, and then the **Hungarian** tribes occupied the area. Since the Hungarians organised the peoples of the Carpathian Basin into a state in the 11th century, this area was integrated into the Hungarian Kingdom, approximately for one thousand years.



Situated at important water and land crossroads, a **castle** was built in the 10th century at the Danube – Váh estuary, and in the shadows of the castle, Komárno of the Middle Ages

was founded. In **1265** King Béla IV granted **city privileges** to the settlement, which contributed greatly to its development.

In the 16th century the Ottoman Empire occupied the center of the country, while the Habsburg Empire got their hands on the northern and eastern sections. After expulsing the Ottomans, **Hungary became part of the Habsburg Empire.**

By the end of the wars, from the beginning of the 18th century until the middle of 19th century, Komárno was in its golden age. Increasing its privileges, **Maria Theresia** granted it the status of free royal town in 1745.

The golden era ended with the **Hungarian Revolution of 1848/49.** An uprising broke out in 1848 against the Habsburg reign in Hungary, which eventually turned into a bloody war of independence. The town was in ruins after the wars.

The founder of the Hungarian Kingdom, **King Stephen I**, under whose rule the Christianization of the country started. Komárno was a part of the Hungarian Kingdom, approximately for one thousand years.



György Klapka was the commander of the fortress of Komárno during the **Hungarian War of Independence of 1848/49.**

He surrendered the fortress to the Austrian troops under favorable terms that he defined, upon the suppression of the revolution. Afterwards, the town developed a cult towards his person.



With the **Austrian-Hungarian Reconciliation of 1867**, the Habsburg Empire became a dualist monarchy with two centers. The town became an outstanding strategical military base for the Monarchy. During **1918**, after losing the war, **the Austro- Hungarian Monarchy fell apart**. As a former member of the Monarchy Hungary suffered great losses to its territory, and so its northern territory was annexed to **Czechoslovakia**. Since the Hungarian- Czechoslovak border was set out along the line of the Danube, Komárno was split into two parts: the smaller, southern section remained in Hungary, the bigger, northern section was ceded to Czechoslovakia.

As a result of the **First Vienna Award (1938)**, the two towns would become one again as Komárno was returned to Hungary but, by the end of World War II in 1945, the border returned to its former place on the Danube.

The communist dictatorship (1948-1989) left its obtrusive marks in the architecture of the town. Most of the houses outside the historical downtown were destroyed. During the communist dictatorship, the state sought to provide its citizens with a semblance of prosperity, but severely restricted people's freedom. Anyone who spoke out against the ideals of communism was severely punished.

Due to the disintegration of Czechoslovakia in **1993** Komárno now became a **part of the Slovak Republic**. Since 1993 Komárno has been a border town with the Republic of Hungary. **Slovakia became part of the European Union on May 1, 2004.**

Velvet Revolution refers to Czechoslovakia's political system change **from socialism to democracy** in November and December **1989**. The term was chosen because the change, which took place within a few weeks, was largely non-violent.



Václav Havel, the first democratically elected president visited Komárno

Komárom (Hungary) and Komárno (Slovakia) - the two towns used to be a border crossing between Czechoslovakia (today Slovakia) and Hungary, until both countries became part of the **Schengen Area**, resulting in all immigration and customs checks being lifted on December 12, 2007.



The two cities are currently in close cooperation and **are twinned**. In addition to organising many common events, they also share an official website in Hungarian, Slovak, English and German language.



www.komarno.sk



Europe Place, the newest attraction is the **embodiment of Komárno's pro-European attitude**. The buildings around the square exhibit the architectural characteristics of 41 countries and regions of the Old Continent, from Iceland to Turkey, thus symbolising **the unity of Europe**.



Our twin cities

- Komárom** (Hungary)
- Lieto** (Finland)
- Weissenfels** (Germany)
- Kralupy nad Vltavou** (Czech Republic)
- Blansko** (Czech Republic)
- Terezín** (Czech Republic)
- Sebes** (Romania)

KOMÁRNO – KOMÁROM – KOMORN

- a melting pot of languages and cultures

The Jews

There was a high number of Jewish families in the town, since the end of the 19th century they largely determined the economic development of Komárno.



Group photo in front of the synagogue

Hungary fought on the German side in the Second World War. Komárno was also bombed several times. Between 1942 and 1944 1922 Jewish citizens were deported from Komárno to concentration camps. Today, the Jewish community has about 150 members.



The Serbs

The Serbs, after arriving from the Balkans while fleeing from the Ottomans, settled down in several towns along the Danube, Komárno being among them as well. By 1511 the Serb Orthodox community already had their own church in town. Most of them were very successful in commerce and, in time, became honoured citizens. Nowadays there are very few Serbs living in Komárom, here is only once a month a mass in the Orthodox Church.

The Hungarians

Komárno was in the past and still is today a multilingual town. Since the town was part of the Hungarian Kingdom for almost a thousand years, 2/3 of its population is still Hungarian-speaking.

Komárno is mainly inhabited by Hungarians, currently functions as a district centre and at the same time, it is the most important cultural and educational centre of the Hungarian minority, which includes about 500.000 people in Slovakia. There is also has a Hungarian theatre and a Hungarian university.



The German population of Komárno

After the expulsion of the Turks from the Kingdom of Hungary in 1686, the Habsburgs gained dominion over the whole of Hungary. The Habsburgs expanded the old fortress of Komorn into a huge fortification system that surrounds the town even today. Many German officers and builders came to Komorn with their families. At that time only German was spoken in the army, the majority of the officers of the Komárno garrison were Austrians. The German-speaking citizens led a lively social and cultural life, attending their own cultural and sports clubs, choirs and German-language fairs.



The impact of history on the lives of the people who live here – old family pictures are telling a story

„My grandfather was 3 years old when WW II broke out. Many of his friends and acquaintances died during these times.”



„During the war the village was often „switched” between the Germans and the Soviets, depending on which army pushed back the other. These times were harsh, families broke apart, the villages were robbed, young maidens tried to appear old, so that they wouldn’t appeal to the soldiers. Sadly this didn’t work out many times and they got raped.”



„When the war ended, the horrors didn’t end there. Many people from the village (to my surprise mostly women) were deported to the Czech Republic. My grandfather’s family was deported as well, they had already packed their belongings, and were waiting for the train, but for some reason they didn’t have to go, so they stayed in the village. Even the deported women were brought home by one of the villagers, who spoke Czech.”

Flavián Annus, IV. G

„In the first grade of elementary school, in 1953, when Stalin died, the small children were forced to stand next to a coffin which symbolized the big Russian dictator’s death. There were the Russian, Czechoslovakian and the black flag hung, and the children, including my grandmother had to wear formal dresses, for they were pioneers. Sometimes they had to watch Russian war films, it was compulsory for them, such as drawing the communistic state symbols and teaching the smaller children poems about communism for ceremonies and performances.”

Anna Molnár, IV.G

„My grandfather has been wooing to my grandmother for 8 years. When he got back from the military, he had been waiting for 4 years for my grandmother, so she could finish school before getting married. Both of them were teachers, so they had to get married in secret, because at that time teachers couldn’t go to church, otherwise they could’ve lost their jobs. They got married in May in 1964.”



Flavián Annus, IV.G

„My grandmother got healed by the age of 17. She had no other choice than going to work. At first she planted trees, then from the age of 19 she worked for a Jewish family Grooz, in Komárom. She was very fond of working with the family, especially with their children.”



„In 1945 he went to the war. He left his wife, his ill daughter and mother-in-law. Four Russian officers were housed in the house of the three innocent women.”

Alexandra Zsidek, IV.G

„My grandma started school in a very young age, because at that time it was needed to start working as soon as possible. The lower-secondary school she visited in the neighbouring village. It was about 3 km away. She went there on foot every day.”



András Hajdú, IV.G

LUXEMBOURG

Our country **Luxembourg** with a total area of 2.586 km² is a small state in Central Europe. Luxembourg borders on Belgium, Germany and France.



The capital is called **Luxembourg**, just like the country. Just under 125.000 people live here. This also makes it the largest city in the country. In Luxembourgish, our capital city is called "Stad Lëtzebuerg". The Luxembourgers themselves usually only speak of "D'Stad".

Until 1890, Wilhelm III King of the Netherlands was also Grand Duke of Luxembourg, but since then Luxembourg now has its own Ducal family.

Luxembourg has been an independent grand duchy since 1867 - the last in the world.



Siegfried, count of Luxembourg exchanged his lands for a small but strategically placed Roman castle lying along the Alzette River.

This castle, built in **963** became the **cradle of Luxembourg**, whose name is itself derived from that of the castle, **Lucilinburhuc**, which means "small castle". In the years that followed, the castle was expanded into a large fortress, the noble family gained power and finally the country of Luxembourg was created.



Siegfried was born around 922 and died in 998. He was the first count of the county of Luxembourg.

He was the son of Wigeric, count palatine of Lotharingia, and Cunigunda, granddaughter of Louis II of France. He owned property in the Gutland, a region covering the southern and central parts of our Grand Duchy.

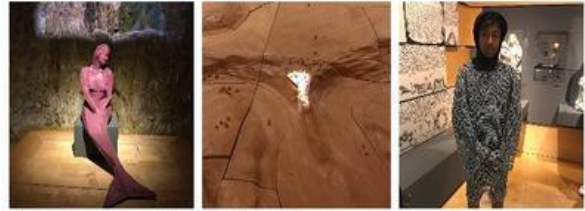


The students have created a great book for you to tell you a little bit more about the history of the over 1000 year old city of Luxembourg. Have fun reading and listening to the legend of Melusina!



In the early 20th century, Luxembourg developed into a modern European capital. After the Second World War, Luxembourg became one of the three main administrative centres of the European Union. Luxembourg City is home to the judicial and financial institutions of the European Union, the Secretariat General of the European Parliament, the Directorate-General "Eurostat", the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors, the European Investment Bank and other institutions and bodies.

Today, our capital is an international financial centre with a cosmopolitan flair.



"**Never again war!**" » After the end of the 2nd World War in 1945, many politicians look anxiously into the future. Germany could again seek revenge for the lost territories or the Soviet Union could attack Western Europe with its allies.

Winston Churchill insists in 1946 on a unification of the states of Europe.



On 9 May 1950, the French Foreign Minister **Robert Schuman** presented the plan for cooperation.

In 1951, Luxembourg, Germany, France, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands join forces to create the ECSC, the European Coal and Steel Community. Together they were to produce coal and steel and determine what was to be done with these goods. It is the first step towards the unification of Europe.

9 MAY **HAPPY**
EUROPE DAY!

Robert Schuman

The true founding father of a united Europe, Robert Schuman was born in 1886 in Luxembourg to a Luxembourgish mother and a French father.

He began his political career in the Lorraine region that would later take him to Paris as minister and even French Prime Minister.

In 1958, he was the first president of the newly created European Parliament. Robert Schuman is known for his passionate commitment to European integration and the Franco-German friendship. He died in 1963 near Metz.



Source: uni.lu ✍ personalities



This monument, erected in our city centre in honour of Robert Schuman, consists of three steel beams and ends in 6 spires, standing for the 6 founding states.

Europe Day held on 9 May every year celebrates peace and unity in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the historic '**Schuman declaration**'. At a speech in Paris in 1950, Robert Schuman, the then French foreign minister, set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war between Europe's nations unthinkable.

Schuman's maxim: „**Europe cannot be built in one fell swoop, nor can it be built as a whole. It will come into being through concrete projects, which will first create a de facto solidarity**”.

Luxembourg, cradle of a common Europe

It all started in Luxembourg. On 10 August 1952, the constituent meeting of the "High Authority" was held here. The steel and coal production within the member states was to be regulated.

A "High Authority" was created to control the industry. No nation could produce weapons without the knowledge of the other member states, because steel and coal are important for their production.

The "High Authority" is the executive body of the European Coal and Steel Community, the ECSC, which consisted of 9 members and the 6 founding states. The main objectives of the ECSC were to secure peace within Europe and the economic reconstruction of Europe after the Second World War.

Luxembourg has a stable economy. The economy is growing, unemployment is low. Salaries are high. Almost half of the people employed in Luxembourg do not live in the country, but commute here from France, Belgium or Germany.

In total, **more than 620.000 people** live in our country. Half of the population are Luxembourgers and the other half of the population come mainly from **Portugal**, France, Italy or Belgium. There are currently **as many immigrants as** there are **native citizens**.

Why do so many Portuguese live in Luxembourg?

There have been diplomatic relations between Luxembourg and Portugal since 1891. In 1893, the Grand Duke William of Luxemburg married the Portuguese Princess Maria Anna of Portugal. With William's accession to the throne in 1905, Maria Anna thus became Grand Duchess of Luxembourg.

During the German occupation of Luxembourg in the Second World War, the Luxembourgish Grand Duchess Charlotte managed to escape by means of a Portuguese visa. When she had to leave the country in 1940 with her family and part of the government to flee the Nazis, Portugal, among other countries, granted the Grand Ducal family exile.

In the 1960s, Portuguese workers began to immigrate to Luxembourg, which needed workers in its steel industry. The number of Portuguese in Luxembourg has risen steadily since then.

Eight municipalities in both countries are linked by town and municipal partnerships (as of 2018), as an expression of the close Luxemburgish-Portuguese relations and the significant proportion of Portuguese-born inhabitants in Luxembourg's population.

Nationality ^[7]		
1 January 2020		
1	 Luxembourg	329,643
2	 Portugal	95,057
3	 France	47,805
4	 Italy	22,996
5	 Belgium	19,823
6	 Germany	12,849
7	 Spain	7,202
8	 Romania	5,724
9	 United Kingdom	5,317
10	 Poland	4,844
11	 Netherlands	4,168
12	 China	3,925
13	 Greece	3,673
14	 Montenegro	3,163
15	 India	2,804
16	 Cape Verde	2,572
17	 Brazil	2,449
18	 United States	2,334
19	 Syria	2,266
20	 Ireland	2,027
-	Other	42,840



Grand-Duchess Charlotte

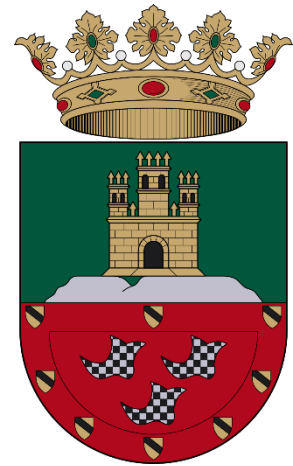
Charlotte is best known for her role played in exile during World War II, where thanks to her, the resistance movement in Luxembourg developed strongly. After the war, she remained very popular and led her freed and sovereign country towards European integration and economic development.

She abdicated in 1964 in favour of her son Jean, after 45 years of rule.

MONTSERRAT (Spain)

The history of Montserrat

The first vestiges of Civilization found in the term of Montserrat belong to the Bronze Age and consist of the remains of two settlements typical of the Valencian bronze culture in the mountain range of Castellet, located in the middle of the area named el Portell (the name by which the entrance to the mountain is also known). In addition, remains of the Roman period such as pottery and coins have been found. The presence of the Muslim culture is clearly seen in the ruins of Alcalan's castle and in a castle in the abovementioned mountain range of Castellet, as well as in the name of different sites: Soroixa, Carcalí, Suaira...



Local historians claim that the actual origin of the city comes from an old Muslim farmhouse named L'Al-Qarya de Montserrat. Like every farmhouse in the territory, it was a small urban core that lived thanks to the agricultural production (mainly cereals) as if it was a continuation of a Roman Villa.

Alcalans' castle is a fort from the Taifa period (11th Century), which used to have a double defensive wall, highest in the most accessible points.



In the Distribution Book (*Llibre de Repartiment*) it is stated that this villa was a present of Jaume I, who made Ximén de Tovia the first feudal lord in the place since the Christian reconquest.

It is, therefore, the first time that the name Monte Serratu appears written in Latin. Scholars point out that by using this toponym, the conqueror recognised the mountain where the Castellet is located at the feet of which the old Arab farmhouse was located.

From 1307 to 1763, the lordship of Montserrat belonged to the well-known lineage of Luis Perez Zapata de Calataiud, who in 1599 was awarded the title of Royal count by King Phillip III. From 1763, the lordship became a part of Vilafermosa's dukedom.

With the expulsion of the Moorish in 1609, Montserrat was depopulated. However, years later, the 70 houses in the town were occupied by 13 families from Aragon and Catalonia. A town charter was issued to the new inhabitants on 10th July 1611.

In the early 18th century, the famous historian Cavanilles established that Montserrat was home to 280 people in 70 neighborhoods. During this century, the town experienced a huge demographic and economic growth due to: the wine industry expansion, the prosperity of the farmlands, the use of new technologies, and the regulation of water for irrigation led to a rise in farm prices.

Montserrat and Europe

At the beginning of the legislature 2011-2014, from the recently born department of European projects, a pro-European posture was promoted. We cannot work on the improvement and development of the European Union competencies if we set the foundations of this construction leaving the sense of belonging and citizenship in a marginal position. This sense of belonging is built through emotions, mutual knowledge, and the acceptance of diversity. It will only be achieved through the interaction among European citizenship.

Twining with Dourdan

In January 2012, we triggered the search process for a twin town through the platform <http://www.twining.org>.



The most representative authorities of the civil society (Societat Instructiva Unió Musical, la Falla de Montserrat, Associació d'Empresaris Vall dels Alcalans, la direcció del IES Alcalans, la de CP Evarist Calatayud) were welcomed to participate in the meeting. An introduction to explain the mechanisms of twinning was followed by a list of 21 European towns with their web pages so that the abovementioned authorities could rank on a scale from 0 to 5 the most similar localities

In a second meeting, an agreement was reached, and Dourdan, which was the first candidate, accepted our proposal. After two visits, the dates for the official signature were settled, and, from that moment on, we have organized an annual meeting alternating the host city.



Twining with Vern-sur-Seiche

In February 2015, using the same platform, the twinning committee from Ver-Sur-Seiche (French Brittany) put in touch with the twinning committee from Montserrat (l'Associació Germans de Montserrat) and suggested the union of both towns.

Since the twinning with Dourdan was very recent, the proposal was initially dismissed. However, we left the door open to future exchanges and projects in common under a friendly relationship.

In May of that same year, a small delegation from Montserrat travelled to get to know the Breton town and to study common interests that could be developed in a near future. In 2019, a small group of students accompanied by two teachers from our school visited Ver-sur-Seiche in a young Exchange positively assessed by all the participants.



Impact of history in our daily life

Why do we study history? The students from the first year of baccalaureate at IES Alcalans answered this question with a project that aims to an insightful reflection on the generational changes through the recreation of old pictures from their ancestors.

Some students highlighted the technological evolution that domestic appliances have undergone in the last decades. One of them took a photograph of herself making coffee using an automatic machine and compare it to the kettle that her grandmother used when she wanted to drink this energetic beverage. Other students remarked on the differences between the cars produced during the 1950s and the hybrid cars that are driven nowadays on our highways.



The debate of the changes in the means of transport triggered a reflection on how the tourism sector has changed over the last years. A considerable number of pupils compared how their grandparents used to spend the summer holidays with how they nowadays spend their break from school.

In Spain, the term tourism implies subsequently the concept of culture, since thanks to the latter, the first experienced a huge boom in the 1960s. Indeed, culture and cultural changes were also a trending topic.



Some students reviewed how the musical aggregation used to be when their grandparents were musicians got surprised when they found out that they are very similar these days.

After the project, the students reached a consensus: we study history to understand the present. They also worked on several key competencies such as the Digital Competence (DC), the Linguistic Competence (LC), the Learning to Learn Competence (L2L), the Social and Civic Competence (SCC) among others.



ESMALTINA CHASAN CERVERÓ: A single life story to understand our common history

Esmaltina was born in Montserrat, Valencia (Spain) in 1933 where she lived until she was 6 years old when she had to go into exile as a result of the Spanish Civil War. Currently, at the age of 88, she spends her days between Perpignan and Paris, two French cities located 687 kilometers away, where her daughters and grandchildren live.

Esmaltina grew up in a republican family in Montserrat with her parents Elena and José. Her grandparents, Ramon, and Pura, also lived with them. She played in the streets of the village with complete freedom with her cousins. After she and her parents arrived in France, his brother Laurent was born. In October 2010, she decided to write her only book titled *La Pequeña Española*, to tell her grandchildren everything she experienced during that time of war in her long-awaited country.

Presentació del llibre de recuperació de la memòria històrica de Montserrat per Esmaltina Chasan Cerveró



When the children came home from school, all they wanted was for their grandmother to tell them those anecdotes from the past that they found more interesting than what they were studying in school. In this book, Esmaltina tells the story during the years before the war and after the exile; from the flight to France, the adaptation to the host country, the responsibility to reach a maturity, which normally didn't apply to the boys and girls of her age, the new war against the German Nazis and the pity of seeing as her father failed to return to his homeland.

In the interview with the students of the 1st year of Baccalaureate at IES Alcalans, Esmaltina told them in tears and without resentment everything that happened in Spain, her arrival in France and how she lived there, giving a lesson to young people to know the historical facts and especially not to cling to resentment and know how to forgive. These life lessons were passed to her by her parents and it's a life experience that Esmaltina gives to the new generations. Like for example when she



Esmaltina Chasan Cerveró at the age of 88

explained: "My father told me that if I returned to Montserrat, I should forget everything that happened and that I shouldn't hate or reject anyone for their political ideas or for what they did in the past". Hence, in the interview, Esmaltina shows the love for his people and the interest in remaining linked to him through his language, telling the students that they corrected it when necessary in her great attempt to speak Valencian.

ERASMUS+ PROJECT MEETINGS



GERMANY, OCTOBER 2019



LUXEMBOURG, MARCH
2020

ERASMUS+ MOMENTS



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