



Erasmus+

NEWSLETTER

October 2017

Think, Act, Go... Green - The project

Visiting CIBIO – Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources

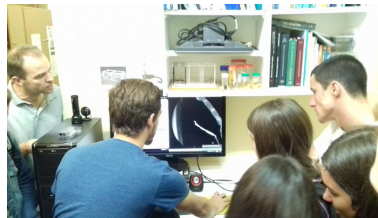
We visited CIBIO - a Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources where research on the three main components of biodiversity (genes, species and ecosystems) is conducted. We were able to talk to some researchers who showed us what they do in CIBIO.

Nádia de Moraes-Barros, who focuses her studies on phylogeography and conservation genetics of the Neotropical three-toed sloths, explained what CIBIO is and what is done there.

We also visited the labs and found out that not all scorpions are deadly as Arie van der Meijden - who uses an integrative approach in evolutionary biology to shed light on the evolution of animal adaptations - and Pedro Coelho - who uses comparative biomechanics and functional morphology to investigate animal performance and its fitness.

Raquel Vasconcelos, who studies the endemic reptiles of the Cape Verde Islands, showed us the systematics of these reptiles and we learnt that combining predicted species richness with genetic diversity optimises reserve design in that archipelago.

Great visit! Great way to learn more about Science!



School trip to Esposende Litoral Park

On October 16, the students and their professors made a field trip to the Natural Park of the North Coast and Castro de São Lourenço. The purpose of the visit was related to the coastal dynamics and the castreja occupation in the peninsular northwest. Thus, the first visit was to Belinho Beach, at the northern boundary of the county of Esposende. Here we observe the great coastal erosion, since the sand was practically harvested by the sea, having been replaced by thousands of pebbles (godos). This is a beach with unique characteristics in Portugal.

The second site visited was the Castro de São Lourenço located on the hill with the same name. It is located at a height of 200 meters above sea level, in one of the granite spurs of the upstairs fossil that extends from Monte Faro to São Paio de Antas. The Castro is a fortified settlement, in which were found vestiges that retreat to the century IV a.C. Besides the historical-archeological aspect, Mount S. Lourenço is a place of rare beauty, viewpoint overlooking the Atlantic and allowing the view of the coastline.

We finished with the towers of Ofir. In this place, it was possible to see how man was occupying the coast, contributing decisively to the increase of coastal erosion. In this beach, everyone could observe one of the critical sections of the Portuguese coast.

Other Activities

As part of a healthy lifestyle, the students also engaged in sport activities, in-between experiments, planning and work presentations.

At the end of the day, there was always time for some more chatting with all the Erasmus partners.

Countries involved (partners)

Portugal (Póvoa de Varzim)
<https://www.facebook.com/ColegioAmorimPV/?fref=ts>



Colégio de Amorim
póvoa de varzim
O futuro fazemos agora.

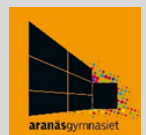
Belgium (Gembloux)
<http://www.ith-gembloux.be/>



Sweden (Kungsbacka)
<http://www.aranasgymnasiet.kungsbacka.se/Vara-utbildningar/>



Turkey (Bayrampaşa/Istanbul)
<http://rifatcanayakinaihl.meb.k12.tr/tema/>



Visiting “Against the destruction of costal habitats” (reefs of *Sabellaria alveolata*)



Feeling ready and motivated, Erasmus+ students, together with their teachers, explored a beach in Vila do Conde in a cloudy but picture-perfect Wednesday morning.

As the coastal area of Vila do Conde is rich in traditions and marine biodiversity, it seemed fair enough to promote some marine scientific literacy. Being so, while listening to our guide about how the coast is divided into distinct zones, we collected algae and learnt about its importance. We got to learn that algae use older reefs of *Sabellaria* as substratum, being the established species colonized by epiphytes species, providing shelter for mobile organisms. Some of these places

function as nursery areas for many animals and we were lucky enough to see some of them.

We finished our outdoor lesson not only marvelled by the Portuguese reefs and its biodiversity but also more aware of its need of protection. So, remember: avoid stepping on already degraded reefs areas; do not kick or jump on the top of the reefs; and in the case of worms extraction activities for angling bait, please do it just on surface, never destroying the totality of the reef to further fast recovery!

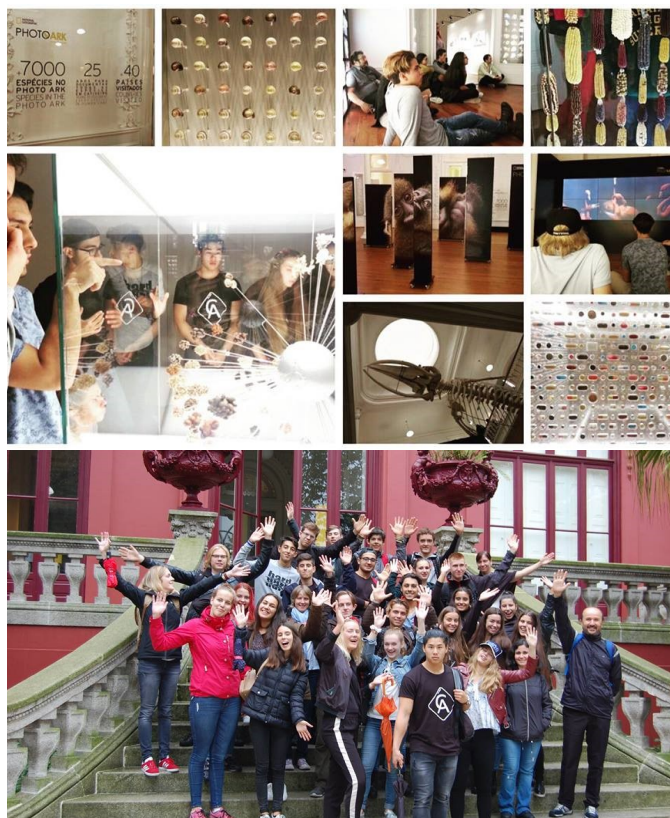
Guide visit to Hall of Biodiversity / Exhibition “Photo Ark”

On the twentieth of October students and teachers participating in ERASMUS + project “Think, act, go ...green!”, visited Oporto, a city renowned for its wine but also for the spectacular scenery of the Douro river, the medieval streets and buildings from the Middle Age, Baroque period and the nineteenth century.

It was a cloudy and rainy day but we were able to see Casa do Infante, the building where D. Henrique, the man responsible for the beginning of the portuguese expansion, was born and lived. Then we went to Ribeira, by the riverside and saw D. Luís bridge, a nineteenth century structure, the Oporto wine cellars and traditional buildings. Our walk ended by the Church and Clérigos Tower and then we went to have a well deserved lunch.

Our meeting point was S. Bento Station, Porto's main railway station and a building with beautiful ceramic tiles that highlight moments of Portuguese history.

The tour at Oporto continued during the afternoon, with much more pleasant weather, at Hall of Biodiversity – Ciência Viva Center, located in Casa Andresen, house of a famous Portuguese writer, Sophia de Mello Breyner Anderson. There, we've had the chance to understand the importance of the biodiversity that surrounds us, experiencing knowledge about evolution, diversity and the confluence between the natural and the cultural worlds, through a diversified set of museographic resources, ranging from mechanical models to sophisticated multimedia and audiovisual platforms, which invites visitors to take part in a journey through science, literature and the arts. This new Ciência Viva Center shows how the arts connect with biology and natural history, fostering a wide range of sensorial experiences, carefully and intentionally crafted with the purpose of celebrating the diversity of life. In addition, the group experienced the National Geographic's exhibition Photo Ark, a work developed by Joel Sartore, that aims to document species before they disappear. At the end of the visit, and before returning to Vila do Conde, there was still time to take a stroll in Oporto's Botanical Garden while having a tasteful snack.



Next meeting:

WHERE? Turkey

WHEN? 11-17 March 2018

MAIN THEME?

Industry and transport

WHO? Six students and two teachers