





## Agrupamento de Escolas de Sardoal



## I Student's opinion about Comenius in written form

**Carolina Pires, 17 years old** – With Comenius I got to know new cultures, made great friendships and I've learnt a lot about the different partner countries with my friends. What I liked the most? – The family I stayed with who showed me a culture different from mine. It was an amazing experience that I still keep in my heart.



Maria Alice, 14 years old – For me Comenius project was one of the best things that has ever happened to me, for real!! With this project I got to know wonderful people, I had the chance to travel far from Portugal, gain life experience and make unforgettable friendships. Comenius is without any doubt an enriching project that must be continued.



**Isabel Esperto, 17 years old** – I've learnt a lot with Comenius project. I've learnt how to deal with new people, with new cultures and with all the differences there are around us. I've also learnt new languages and made great friendships. But for me, the best moment of all this project was, without any doubt, my trip to Turkey. It was a surprising trip, because I got to know a completely different culture and made me learn about the world, about the history that those ancient

peoples left us. I am really proud of being part of this project.



**Matilde Lourenço, 13 years old** – No words can explain this experience. What I liked the most was being with the people who are part of the project and the possibility to get to know them, as they have traditions and customs which are totally different from mine. I've learnt a lot: to say simple Turkish words, to value my country, which is a peaceful place to live. It was absolutely amazing, far above my expectations... Thank you!







**Sofia Fontinha, 13 years old** – For me, Comenius project was a great experience, as I got to know new people, make great friendships, visit a foreign country in the company of my friends. The trip was fantastic, full of new experiences, different cultures and great new friends. The hardest part was to leave all those friends when we returned to Portugal and miss them all so much. Comenius is one of the best projects I've been involved in! Comenius forever!



Ana Lopes, 17 years old - Comenius project taught me a lot of things, but probably the most important one was to accept and see that even with differences such as the personalities, nationalities, religion or even the hair colour, we end up having a lot in common. Comenius also helped me being more confident with my capacities and it made me grow, see the world in a new way. I'm writing this with a special care, since one of the Romenian boys, Dani, stayed with me, and he showed me a little of his culture. He was the biggest example of how similar

teenagers who are a part of this project are. Comenius gave me the chance to have contact with other cultures and that's incredible!

## II Short information about visit in your country. Half A4 page. Font 12. + 5-8photos(with captions)

The meeting in Sardoal was the second meeting of this Comenius project and it took place between 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> march 2014.

Even though it was the first time our school – Agrupamento de Escolas de Sardoal – was involved in such a meeting, it was an extremely positive experience from which we keep wonderful memories.

In the meeting more than 100 people were involved, including 22 teachers and 40 students. As Sardoal is a small village in a rural part of the country, the impact of this meeting was enormous, not only in the school community, but also in the community as a whole. Both teachers and students went through a great personal and professional experience. Besides them, a lot of partners – Town Hall, Local Associations, Parents, Friends - took part in the meeting in a dedicated way and only with their commitment was it possible to make the meeting a memorable, historic and unique one.

In a questionnaire held at the end of the meeting, most participants were very happy with the host school as well as with the families, the diversity of the activities, the quality of the workshops and study visits and also with the interaction with outside partners.











## III Short summary about connection of John Paul II with your societies.

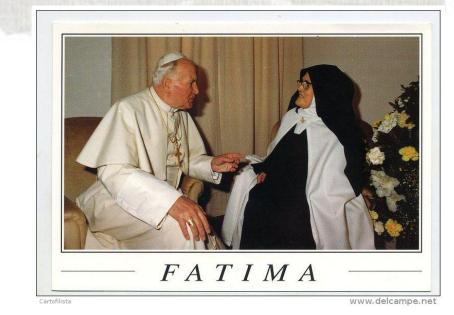
The main theme of the project was the development of religious tolerance in a European continent which faces greater and greater problems with immigration and integration.

The mood among the different partners was always great, independently from the religion each one them confessed, so we may say that the objective was fulfilled and it was a modern, innovative and pedagogical project.

The image of John Paul II was present in all meetings, not only because he was a great personality who contributed greatly to bridging the gaps between the different religions, but also because he had a strong connection to Fátima (Our Lady of Fátima), which he visited three times. Besides that, John Paul II has always believed he survived the attempt against his life on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1981, in Vatican, due to his devotion to Our Lady of Fátima. In 2000, Pope John Paul II had a major role in the beatification of the little shepherds Francisco and Jacinta. Since then, the city of Fátima has developed a lot and its Sanctuary is one of the most visited places in our country.



Fátima, Overview (May 13, 2015)



John Paul II and Sister Lucia (13 may, 1991)