

(V)ERKANNTE VIELFALT

Minderheiten in Europa

(V)ERKANNT VIELFALT MINDERHEITEN IN EUROPA

Treffen in Bozen

Es war ein Fest der Sprachen – das Erasmusplustreffen in Bozen. Nicht nur, dass die Schüler*innen aus Amsterdam, Kronstadt (Braşov), München und Thessaloniki gemeinsam mit den Schülern des Klassischen Gymnasiums „Walther von der Vogelweide“ eine dreisprachige Realität mit Deutsch, Italienisch und Ladinisch erleben durften, sondern auch in der Gruppe selbst wurden immer wieder die verschiedensten Sprachen gesprochen – natürlich war Englisch die lingua Franca, aber in den kleinen Begegnungen wurden immer wieder auch andere gemeinsame Sprachen genutzt – und manchmal sogar Latein aktiv gesprochen. Aus der Sicht der Lehrkraft wurden die Ziele des Projekts mehr als nur punktgenau getroffen.

Das große Projektthema Minderheiten konzentrierte sich in Südtirol natürlich auf ethnische Minderheiten.

Die Organisation des Treffens war leicht und schwierig zugleich.

Leicht, weil es für Autonomie und Minderheiten in Südtirol sehr, sehr viele Ansprechpartner gibt, die ihre Mitarbeit gerne zusicherten.

Schwierig, weil nur wenige Tage zur Verfügung standen, um ein Land kennen zu lernen, das mit seinen vielfältigen Realitäten zum einen vielleicht auch ein großes Beispiel eines gelungenen Miteinander in Europa darstellen kann, zum anderen in dieser Vielfalt und mit den doch auch sehr unterschiedlichen Vorstellungen von dem, was Autonomie heute bieten kann und bieten sollte, nicht ganz leicht und schnell erfassbar ist.

Wie viel Geschichtswissen sollte den Teilnehmer*innen am Projekt zugemutet werden?

Wie kann das Ganze methodisch am besten aufbereitet werden?

Welche Partner binde ich am besten ein?

Welche Schwerpunkte sollen ausgewählt werden?

Welche Seiten unseres Landes sollen/wollen wir zeigen?

Was stellt Südtirol heute am besten dar?

Wie gelingt es, die vielen verschiedenen Realitäten in Südtirol, die Autonomiefrage, die Minderheitensituation, historische Entwicklungen und aktuelle Situation, das Verhältnis zwischen Gemeinden, Provinz, Region und Staat erlebbar werden zu lassen?

Wir haben es versucht: mit einer Willkommensrunde am Gymnasium „Walther von der Vogelweide“, einer ersten Orientierung in der Stadt über Interviews, welche die Schüler*innen in kleinen Gruppen mit Passanten führen mussten, einer weiteren Einstimmung mit Beethovens Neunter (und der Ode an die Freude), die vom Gymnasium „Walther von der Vogelweide“ gemeinsam mit den Chören des Gymnasiums Giovanni Pascoli und dem Orchester des Bozner Konservatoriums im Konzerthaus Haydn aufgeführt wurde. Am Samstag ging es weiter am Center for Autonomy Experience der Europäischen Akademie, wo uns Junior Researcher Jakob Volgger und Senior Researcher Georg Grote in die Geschichte der Südtirolautonomie und aktuelle Fragen der Südtirolautonomie einführten. Ein Spaziergang am Nachmittag mit Georg Grote zeigte Besonderheiten der Südtirolgeschichte im Bozner Stadtbild auf. Die



Rechts: Vor der
Kunstschule
Cademia,
St. Ulrich
(Gröden)

abschließenden Fragen und Überlegungen der Schüler*innen am Gerichtsplatz bewiesen, wie interessiert die Gruppe war, aber auch, wie gut reflektiert sie das Ganze angingen.

Die Begegnungen mit Südtiroler Politikern, mit Martha Stocker (SVP), mit Brigitte Foppa (Grüne) und mit Luca Di Biasio (Sinistra – die Linke), in der Aula Magna des Gymnasiums „Walther von der Vogelweide“ am Sonntagvormittag wurden von allen Teilnehmern als ganz besonders spannend bewertet. In Kleingruppen wurde wechselweise mit den einzelnen politischen Vertretern diskutiert und es wurden ganz unterschiedliche Fragen aufgeworfen. Der Nachmittag war einer ganz besonderen Stadtführung im Europaviertel gewidmet – auch ganz bewusst geplant, um Bozen nicht immer nur aus der Sicht zweier Stadtviertel allein zu erleben. Die Museumsgruppe „Bolzanism“ organisiert etwas andere Stadtführungen, mit szenischen Elementen, um die Geschichte des Europa- und des Don-Bosco-Viertels ganz konkret erfahrbar werden zu lassen.

Am Montag fuhr die Gruppe dann nach St. Ulrich, um die Minderheit in der Minderheit, die ladinische Sprachgruppe, etwas näher kennen zu lernen. In schulübergreifender

Zusammenarbeit mit dem Kunstgymnasium Cademia und der WFO in St. Ulrich erklärten die ladinischen Schüler der Erasmusplusgruppe ihre Realität und nahmen sich sehr viel Zeit für uns und für viele persönliche Gespräche, auch bei einer kleinen Bergtour am frühen Nachmittag. Nicht nur für die ausländischen Schüler*innen, auch für die Bozner Schüler*innen waren die Tage extrem spannend, wie sie meinten, weil auch ihnen manche Aspekte unserer Autonomie und unserer Realitäten nicht so bewusst waren.

Das Treffen klang nach vielen gemeinsam verbrachten Stunden (auch in der vom Programm vorgesehenen Freizeit) mit einem Schreibworkshop zum Thema aus: Die Schüler*innen sollten einen Schwerpunkt des Treffens, der sie besonders berührt hat, in einen Text bringen.

Die dabei entstandenen Reflexionen (in englischer und deutscher Sprache, mit einzelnen Texten auch in Italienisch und Ladinisch) sind nun in dieser kleinen Broschüre zusammengefasst worden.

**Martina Adami,
Projektkoordinatorin Bozen**



(UN)RECOGNIZED DIVERSITY MINORITIES IN EUROPE

Meeting in Bolzano

The Erasmus meeting in Bolzano was a great celebration of languages. Not only did the students coming from Amsterdam, Braşov, Munich and Thessaloniki experience a 3-linguistic (German, Italian, Ladin) reality with the host students of the “Walther von der Vogelweide” High School for Classical Studies, but within the whole group everybody used/spoke and communicated in the most diverse languages. Obviously, English became our lingua franca very soon, but sometimes the students switched to other languages (Latin included!). In the teachers’ eyes, the goal of the project was reached with utmost precision.

The big umbrella topic “Minorities” obviously dealt with ethnic minorities in South Tyrol. The whole management of the project was at the same time easy and complicated.

It was easy, because South Tyrol hosts a lot of project partners who are always willing to be involved in those projects. And it was complicated, or better challenging, because students only had a few days to get to know an intensely varied territory where the coexistence of people coming from different cultures has become reality (a unique example in whole Europe). Politically, it was challenging to explain our students what our autonomy holds for us and which advantages it can offer us.

How much history were we supposed to teach the participants?

Which methods/means were we supposed to put in use?

Links: [Erstes Kennenlernen der Teilnehmer, EURAC-Besuch und Autonomieausstellung vor dem Landhausgebäude in Bozen](#)

Which partners were we supposed to engage/involve?

What the main topics? Which sides/aspects of our territory were we supposed to show/describe?

What does South Tyrol represent today?

How do many elements of the Southtyrolean autonomy work/

influence one another? See autonomy, the minorities’ effective situation, the historical development and the situation today, the relations between municipalities, local government, region, state...

We have given it a try – at least we wanted to start with a welcoming round at our “Walther von der Vogelweide” High School. During that session, students could walk around in the city interviewing the people in the streets asking about the meaning of autonomy and what it represents to them. At night the students could attend a concert during which the Choirs of our school and of the Giovanni Pascoli High School together with the Music Conservatory Orchestra played Beethoven’s music (obviously featuring the “Ode to Joy”) at the Haydn Concert Hall.

On Saturday the whole group attended a meeting at the Center for Autonomy Experience of the European Academy (EURAC). Junior Researcher Jakob Volgger and Senior Researcher Georg Grote introduced the participants to the history of the Southtyrolean autonomy and to the open questions of the autonomy nowadays. In the afternoon, through a walk through our city the experts showed examples of autonomy in Bolzano. The questions and reflections the students had at the end of the tour on our Court Square pointed out how much they were interested in the topic.

On Sunday, the meeting with prominent politicians as Martha Stocker (SVP), Brigitte Foppa (the Green Party) and Luca Di Biasio (Sinistra – die Linke, the Left Party) in our Aula Magna was very thrilling and exciting.

Obviously, English became our lingua franca very soon, but sometimes the students switched to other languages (Latin included!)

In small groups the participants could discuss and ask questions to the single politicians.

During the afternoon, the whole groups was guided through the streets of the Europa city quarter in Bolzano. Purposely we wanted the participants to have a taste of “real life” in a less-touristic part of the city. Using a drama-based technique, our local museum group has planned special guided tours to experience the history of the Europa and Don Bosco city quarters.

On Monday, then, the group went to Ortisei in the Gardena Valley to meet the minority within the minorities, the Ladin ethnicity. The students of two schools, the Cademia High School for Art and the High School for Economy in Ortisei, took their time to explain their reality and life in a Ladin environment, even guiding the whole group on a short hike on the mountains.

The days we spent together were very meaningful, not only for the foreign students attending the meeting, but also (and especially) for our local students who really said they came into contact with aspects of our identity/autonomy they had not known about. All days were so much exciting.

After the many hours passed together (even during our leisure time) the meeting came to an end on Tuesday with a Writing Workshop. During this activity all participants had to express/reflect on paper one of the aspects that mostly got them interested.

Their reflections have become the main content of this brochure (most of all in English and German, with single texts in Italian and Ladin).

**Martina Adami,
Project Manager**

REALITÄTEN IN SÜDTIROL: FRAGENKATALOG (FÜR PASSANTENINTERVIEW)

ERASMUS+ MEETING IN BOLZANO - DAY 1, MAY 27TH, 2022 QUESTIONNAIRE ON SOUTH TYROL'S LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

LANGUAGES

1. What is your main language? _____
2. How often do you "use" your second language?
 - every day
 - 3-4 times a week
 - once a week
 - 5-6 times a month
 - occasionally
3. Where/When do you communicate in your second language? (more options are possible)
 - at work
 - at school
 - in daily situations
 - during free-time activities
 - occasionally
 - other occasions (specify) _____
4. How many languages are present in South Tyrol in your eyes? _____
5. Would you be able to name some of them? _____

AUTONOMY

1. How do you define South Tyrol's autonomy?

2. Do you think that our territory still deserves its autonomy? Or is it an old heritage of the past?

3. Who profits from our autonomy?
 - schools and young people in general
 - politicians
 - our society/all of us
 - our economy
 - nobody in reality
 - others (specify) _____
4. Are there visible elements you would mention to explain our autonomy?

SOCIETY

1. Is our society an inclusive society (meaning it does accept all people including their needs and interests as their values, etc.)?
 - yes
 - no
 - I don't know
2. Recently, local newspapers have reported the story of a man, apparently well-introduced in our society, who has decided to quit Bolzano and move to France. "Too much racism", he said...do you think that racism still plays an important role in South Tyrol's society?
 - yes
 - no
 - I don't know
3. Is racism connected to language? Or are languages independent from culture in general?

4. If you were supposed to count them, how many ethnic minorities are present in your life?

5. Where/When do you meet people with a different background than yours? (more options are possible)
 - within my family
 - at work
 - at school
 - in daily situations
 - during free-time activities
 - occasionally
 - other occasions (specify) _____

Last question...How old are you? _____

THE FIRST THING THAT IMPRESSED ME

the most not only about this city but about this region of South Tyrol was the diversity of ethnicities and how beautifully people who speak German, Italian and Ladin live together. As much as I have learned about this place the people here have gotten used to more than one language being spoken daily, that is also the reason most people are bilingual or even multilingual.

After a long way by plane and train I got to Bolzano, where I was surprised to see how astonishing the views were. We were at all times surrounded by mountains and greenery which were complimented so nicely by the diverse weather, that changed so quickly, from a hot sunny day to a gloomy rainy one in just a few hours.

The autonomy of Tirol played an important part since the first day of our trip, as we were asked to interview random people in order



to get an insider look of how people who live here actually perceive it. The difference of age definitely showed us some other perspectives in what people think about the autonomy and about the minorities present here. That being said, even the younger ones that we interviewed had an educated and fact-based answer. On a different day we went to the EURAC center where we learned a little more in-depth about the cultures that live together here. A question we got multiple that times that I can now say I know the answer to is what actually a minority is. We hear the word so often and we all know

In the end I can wholeheartedly say that during these few days I have received a lot of information about South Tyrol and the minorities that live here together

what it means but the difficulty begins when you are asked to define it.

On the third day we were able to ask politicians the questions we'd got thus far. I really think it tied all the information together, as we now had talked to normal people, experts in minorities and autonomy, politicians and not only, as we had also met students at a Ladin Art School in Val Gardena. The people that go to school there learn all the three languages and differently from the other schools where the school curriculum can only be in German or Italian, they have a mixed one, that allows and encourages them to learn both languages contemporarily.

In the end I can wholeheartedly say that during these few days I have received a lot of information about South Tyrol and the minorities that live here together.

Andreea, 18, Braşov

EMOTIONS OF THESE DAYS

In the last few days I have met so many people, from different countries, with different traditions or languages and learned a lot about them and the country they come from. This experience has showed me, how people from so many and different countries can communicate and have fun with each other even if they speak a different language and they don't know one

another. I can't believe, that I have made so many friends in a such a short time. And I am sure that we will meet all again very soon. In the past few days we have done and learned so much. From the history of Bolzano to the different languages that are spoken here in South Tyrol, like Italian, German and Ladin.

Beatrice, 16, Bolzano

WER AUTONOMIE LEBEN KANN,

übernimmt Verantwortung. Dies gilt für alle Bereiche des persönlichen Lebens wie für das einer Gemeinschaft. Unsere Südtirol-Autonomie ist eine für eine Gemeinschaft auf mehreren Ebenen. Sie hat den Zweck, die ethnischen Minderheiten/Volksgruppen in einem anders-nationalen Staat zu schützen und die Gemeinschaft aller hier lebenden Volks-/Sprachgruppen, aller hier lebenden Menschen im Miteinander bestens zu garantieren. Die Gruppenanliegen in Einklang zu bringen mit den individuellen Interessen und der zunehmenden Diversifizierung der Gesellschaft ist eine der großen Herausforderungen, die ihr jungen Menschen in ganz besonderer Art übernehmen werdet. Wir konnten nur bis hierher bewahren, was bewahrenswert war, und gestalten, was gestaltbar war und notwendig erschien.

Martha Stocker (SVP)

A COMMENTARY CONFRONTING THE TREATMENT OF MINORITIES

This commentary is a simple thought process of a high school student. So, the statements recorded here may be simply wrong or not accurate. It's based on my opinion and by that logic not plausible to everyone reading this. Have fun.

The United States of America is a country in its infancy. It was created more than 300 years ago and bases its constitution on the words of the Founding Fathers.

Alto Adige is a recent autonomous region in Italy, being in the past part of Austria. It was conceded to Italy in the treaty of Saint-Germain by the nations which had won World War I. After the detachment the history of Alto Adige was spiked by many obstacles, the Italianization by Mussolini, the Night of Fire, the discrimination, thus just naming a few.

How is Alto Adige connected to the USA in terms of minorities?

Without research, I wanted to write down the first thing, that comes to my mind. In this case it may be not pleasant, but my thought process concluded with Hispanic minority. It was certainly difficult in the past, but my text focuses on the current situation. The difference of the minorities are primarily the language and culture, as it is with every minority. There

are some similarities, many differences, the Hispanic portion of the USA has existed for a long time, making it easy/possible/plausible to integrate in their culture. The South Tyrolean confrontation happened very recently, compared to the Hispanic one. The prime reason for choosing the Hispanic minority was the language, as the difference between them isn't big. The Hispanic minority is the most numerous in the USA, furthering the integration between the two languages, English and Spanish. Like in the USA the border between German and Italian begins to vanish, as time goes on. The culture encounters a common phenomenon, mixing the stereotypical peasant with the "modern" Italian. So, we almost see the same event happening in very different places and under different circumstances. I am by no means against such a thing, because it's simply natural for a culture to transform and evolve, as it has happened to South Tyrol and the Hispanic minority. These things happen on daily basis, meaning cultural mixing, but it has never happened like this before in my opinion. The minorities are very different, but also similar. It would need a whole thesis to describe this complex subject, but in the end these minorities have pretty much successfully adapted and that is all that matters.

Josef, 17, Bolzano



EIN MODERNES HEIMATGEDICHT

Vor Alters mal ein Landesteil,
Doch mittlerweile nun entzweit,
Von Etsch hinauf zum Alpenrand
War es Tirol als ganzes Land.

Seit Ende des Ersten Weltkriegs
Der südlich' Teil italisch ist.
Kultur und Sprach' des Alpenlands
Erdrückte nun die ‚walsche‘ Hand.

Ein Umsturz, der kam nicht zustande
Und einige entflohn dem Lande.
Viel später erst ward festgelegt:
Das Ihre man ih'n zugesteht.

Doch nach Statut der Selbstherrschaft
Ist immer es noch nicht vollbracht,
Dass Italiener von Tirolern
Nun gänzlich wären ungehasst.

Ein Schmerz, der ih'n noch innewohnt
Aufgrund der Heimat Annexion,
Wird nicht historisch abstrahiert,
Nein, auf die heut'gen projiziert.

Doch mit der Zeit, so ganz gewiss,
Traun hab'n die Gruppen sich durchmischt.
Zurück zum Norden kann man nun
Die Südtiroler auch nicht tun.

Traun sie nicht gänzlich Italiener,
Und auch nicht gänzlich Tirols Bürger.
Deswegen die Autonomie
Ist essenziell wie sonstwo nie.

So überwiegend unabhängig
Können sie fast vollumfänglich
An aller Gruppen Interessen

Links: EURAC-Besuch
und Stadtrundgang
"bolzanism"

Die ihre Politik vermessen.

Und Hass, der ist nun
nicht mehr dienlich,
Da eine Reversion unmöglich.
Das Miteinander, das
Auskommen
Ist zu erstreben, stets
besonnen.

Die Südtiroler in Italien
Nun wohl die stärkste Minderheit,
und bei den Jenen Hass und Spannung,
die legen sich wohl mit der Zeit.

Balthasar, 15, München

L'AUTONOMIA È UNA GRANDE CONQUISTA

che ha permesso alla nostra Provincia di sviluppare un modello di pace e di successo divenuto punto di riferimento anche in altri contesti geopolitici simili.

Per il futuro è importante che venga costantemente tutelata e ampliata sotto il profilo della partecipazione democratica e dell'inclusione perché appartiene a tutte le cittadine e a tutti i cittadini dei gruppi linguistici presenti nella nostra Provincia, comprese e compresi coloro che sono arrivate e arrivati da altre regioni o altri paesi.

Per le giovani e i giovani bisogna auspicare un maggior ruolo da protagonisti nella vita politica locale coinvolgendoli il più possibile nel sistema decisionale.

Accanto a questa priorità vi è quella dello scambio e del confronto - incontro costante dei giovani appartenenti ai diversi gruppi linguistici, protagonisti dell'Autonomia del domani, che dovranno elaborare una visione della Provincia non più ristretta nell'angusta visione delle divisioni etniche ma aperta all'incontro dell'altro in una dimensione dal respiro profondamente europeo. Questo non vuol dire tranciare di netto le proprie tradizioni ma, anzi, coltivarle e valorizzarle, in un'ottica di scambio e di condivisione.

In questo quadro un ruolo fondamentale spetta all'istruzione, cardine e fundamenta di ogni

*Wir konnten nur bis hierher
bewahren, was bewahrenswert
war, und gestalten, was
gestaltbar war und notwendig
erschien.*

società, che speriamo possa intraprendere un cammino che la porti verso la creazione di scuole, o almeno di indirizzi, bilingue che affianchino, e non elimino, le scuole ladine, tedesche e italiane già presenti, in modo da ampliare la scelta dei ragazzi e delle ragazze consapevoli (più di certa politica) dell'importanza delle competenze linguistiche necessarie per vivere al meglio la nostra realtà. A coloro che saranno le future protagoniste e i futuri protagonisti della nostra Provincia (sia che siano già qui sia che arriveranno da altre parti del mondo) auguro di contribuire a costruire una grande Autonomia di pace, democrazia e inclusione.

Luca Di Biasio, insegnante e rappresentante della "Sinistra - die Linke"

DER ASPEKT DER SÜDTIROLAUTONOMIE, der mir am wichtigsten erscheint, ist die eigene und autonome Gesetzgebung des Landes, verbunden mit dessen Freiheit und Unabhängigkeit.

Wichtig finde ich auch den Umgang mit Sprachminderheiten, die besonders gefördert werden und ihre Sprache ohne Angst sprechen dürfen.

Giulia, 17, Bozen

MEINER ANSICHT NACH

ist der wichtigste Aspekt der Südtirolautonomie der Schutz der deutschen und ladinischen Sprache. Denn daraus leiten sich viele weitere wichtige Punkte des gesellschaftlichen Lebens, wie etwa Tradition und Identifikation, ab. Aus diesem Schutz resultieren viele Möglichkeiten, wie die Beteiligung an der Politik und somit auch die Mitgestaltung der Zukunft. Sprache ist ein Grundstein der Freiheit. Durch

Unterdrückung oder Änderung seiner Sprache und somit auch seiner eigenen Identität kann ein Mensch sich nicht frei entfalten, nicht frei sein und frei leben. Und ist nicht die Freiheit das höchste Gut der Demokratie?

Simone, 17, Bozen

DAS GRÖSSTE PRIVILEG

der Südtirolautonomie ist für mich die Freiheit, viele eigene Gesetze erlassen zu können. Dadurch konnte Südtirol zu einer offenen, toleranten und wohlhabenden Provinz werden. Sehr besonders finde ich auch den Umgang mit Südtirols Sprachminderheiten, welche alle frei und uneingeschränkt ihre Sprache ausleben können.

David, 17, Bozen

DER WICHTIGSTE ASPEKT

der Südtirolautonomie ist meiner Meinung nach die (partielle) gesetzgeberische Freiheit, die es ermöglicht, Gesetze unabhängig vom Rest Italiens erlassen zu können, welche auf die Interessen der in Südtirol lebenden Bevölkerung abgestimmt sind.

Als Teil der deutschsprachigen Minderheit Italiens ist es manchmal schwer, sich einer Nation zugehörig zu fühlen oder von anderen

als Italiener identifiziert zu werden. Denn weiter südlich in Italien werden wir durch unseren Akzent, unser kehliges „r“ für Deutsche gehalten, während wir in Deutschland mit Österreichern verwechselt werden und in Österreich sind wir einfach nur „anders“, wir klingen nicht wie sie.

Tyra, 17, Bozen

IN SÜDTIROL AUFWACHSEN BEDEUTET

auf Minderheiten zu stoßen. Dieses gewollte Zusammenkommen bedeutet einen Austausch der Kulturen. Die zweite Sprache wird früh erlernt und kulinarische Traditionen werden mit Neugier übernommen.

Federica, 17, Bozen

Die Unterschiede zwischen den Sprachminderheiten sind in den Tälern sehr viel präsenter, während es in den Städten ein gemeinsames Miteinander gibt und ein Austausch stattfindet. Das führt auch dazu, dass es zu einer Vermischung der verschiedenen Sprachgruppen kommt, was dann dazu führt, dass man sich nicht nur mit einer Sprache identifiziert.

Anna, 17, Bozen

FÜR MICH

ist der wichtigste Aspekt der Südtirolautonomie die Unabhängigkeit, Gesetze erlassen zu können, die für das Wohl und die Sicherheit unserer Gesellschaft zentral sind und an diese angepasst werden können.

Amelie, 17, Bozen

FÜR MICH BEDEUTET DIE SÜDTIROLAUTONOMIE

v. a. eine Erleichterung des Alltags: die Schule in deutscher Sprache besuchen zu dürfen, in öffentlichen Ämtern oder im Krankenhaus die eigene Muttersprache sprechen zu können; auch das Wissen, dass Angehörige der eigenen kulturellen/ Sprachgruppe in vielen Bereichen der Gesetzgebung das letzte Wort haben, was den Prozess greifbarer macht als wenn irgendwelche Abgeordnete in Rom darüber bestimmten – das alles gibt mir ein Gefühl der Sicherheit und bewahrt wohl auch die Identität der Südtiroler.

Manuel, 18, Bozen

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

First of all, I would like to thank you for the beautiful experience that you offered us.

Actually, during this project we expanded

our knowledge on the ethnic minorities living in Alto Adige. The project focused on the protection of the ethnic minorities, the autonomy of the Region, called Trentino-Alto Adige (Südtirol/South Tyrol). The pillars of this autonomy are the Region of Trentino Alto Adige and the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano, which interact in a three-pole system. The Region of Trentino-South Tyrol hosts three linguistic groups: the Italians, Germans and Ladins who have been living together for years now.

What surprised me is that although the prevailing language is Italian, I heard the German language spoken much more than Italian, especially at your school. I expected to hear more Italian than German...

I also believe that the Ladin community receives uneven protection, because I have always heard about a bilingual region and not trilingual. The names of the cities are displayed in German and in Italian, but not in Ladin.

Bolzano is a very beautiful and interesting city, where you can feel the confluence of the Italian and Austro-German cultures.

I thank you very much for your civility and hospitality. Your school is so nice. The teachers and the principal are very kind and, of course well-educated people.

This project has been an enlightening journey and it was wonderful meeting you all.

Regards

Smaragda, 2nd Model School of Thessaloniki.

THE PAINTING

After a long hike, the two arrived at the church on the mountain. She let her backpack slide down her shoulder and onto the ground.

“It really is beautiful.”

“I know, right?”

“Have you brought it?”

“Of course, I have. That’s the sole reason I wanted to come here again.”

They set their bag on the ground and started to carefully unpack. First, a small easel was handed to their companion to set up, then a wooden box and a diligently wrapped canvas were unpacked.

The painter sat down, prepared their materials and took the last piece of cloth off of their unfinished work.

“It looks just like the view here!”

“No. Not yet.”

With those words, the artist dipped their brush in the paint and set to work, determined to capture the magic that would never let itself be shown in a simple smartphone picture.

Jona, 17, Amsterdam

DEAR MARTINA,

Thank you again for the hospitality and for the organization of the program regarding the three language groups in South Tyrol.

The most interesting part for me was the presentation of South Tyrol’s history and the co-existence of the three language groups. Afterwards, the discussion with the representatives of the three political parties was very enlightening and helped me understand the different aspects of the autonomous management in combination with everyday life and the problems that may arise.

Hope to see you soon in Thessaloniki.

Best regards,

Kiki Mamakou, 2nd Model Experimental School of Thessaloniki.

VESTER NA AUTONOMIA DAL PONT DE UDUDA LADIN

L’ autonomia nes caraterisea, y chësc da plu ponc de ududa. I aspec positives de vester na autonomia ti ie teres a chi che ie chersciù su tla realtà ladina.

N vantaje fundamentel ie sambën chël de avëi n sistem autonom y dut chël che chësc cumporta che nes garantësc la puscibltà de pudëi l’ adaté a nosta cultura, nosc bujëns soziei y educazionei, de cunseguënza nce l aspet linguistich.

N ejëmpl tler dla mpurtanza de avëi na tel

lidëza autonoma pudons udëi tl ciamp dl mantenimënt dla rujneda ladina, che mira ala ulentà de automonatisé I pruzes de scunanza dla mendranzes. Oradechël se basa nosta istituzion scolastica su n prinzip de plurilinguism, n sistem paritetich che tën cont dla carateristiche cultureles y linguistiches ladines zënza cunscidré la mendranzes de manco mpurtanza. L’autonomia à stabili de chësc viers na furmazion che passnea cun chisc prinzipls, garanti an a chësta maniera la forma scritta coche pert dl mantenimënt.

Nia mé la furmazion, nce la situazions sozieles nes garantësc de adurv la rujneda de nosta mendranza cun si forma a usc, davia che l’autonomia sustën l trilinguism ti ufizie publics ladins. Sambën iel coche mendranza da teni cont nia mé dl mantenimënt de nosta carateristiche cultureles y linguistiches, ma nce dl atualizazion de chëstes, cunsëntida da l’autonomia, nes permentan de svilupé na identità perfetamënter lieda cun d’ altra cultures y rujnedes.

Ti dé l drë valor ala truepa pusciblteies che nes dà l fenomen dla valivanza linguistica y l vantaje conitif che chësc cumporta ie fundamentel per viver nosta autonomia aprijan si miëura fatëzes.

Sigrisi Fede, St. Ulrich

JEDES MAL,

wenn ich eine Anfängerklasse in Latein übernehme, sprechen wir darüber, dass und wie sehr Latein die sog. Romanischen Sprachen beeinflusst hat. Neben Italienisch, Französisch, Spanisch und Rumänisch steht im Buch ganz klein „Ladinisch“ oder „Rätoromanisch“. Das kam, wenn, in meinem Unterricht bisher leider nur als „Ja, das gibts auch ...“ vor. Nun hat Ladinisch für mich ein Gesicht bekommen – ich finde auf den ersten Blick eigentlich gar nicht so viele Anklänge ans Lateinische, aber dann doch wieder ganz überraschend, wie z. B. in dem aufmunternden Satz, den ich vielleicht meinen künftigen Lateinanfängern mitgeben kann: „Tën dur, la vap a bën!“ (Halte durch, es wird schon gehen!).

Maria Krichbaumer, Wittelsbacher Gymnasium, München



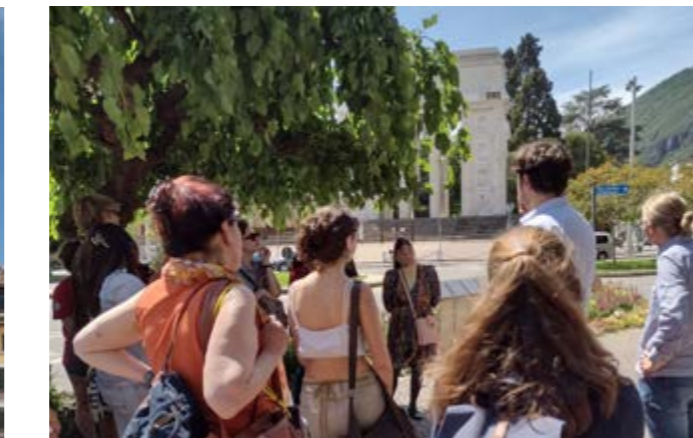
[Links: Stadtrundgang in Bozen: Gerichtsplatz](#)

EINE KLUFF VON 100 JAHREN IN DER GESCHICHTE BOZENS

Wie groß, wie einschüchternd, wie alles überragend es doch ist, das Siegesdenkmal. Du, als interessierte/-r Schüler/-in liest mit diesen Gedanken einen Text deines Reiseführers über das bekannte Denkmal und seine Verbindung zum Faschismus.

Um ein Foto zu machen, trittst du ein paar Schritte zurück, nimmst dein Smartphone aus der Tasche und konzentrierst dich kurz darauf, das Denkmal komplett aufs Bild zu bekommen. Währenddessen fragst du dich, wie sehr sich Bozen wohl seit der Zeit des Faschismus verändert habe und was die Bevölkerung Bozens der 1920er wohl über die heutigen Umstände gedacht hätte. Kurz bevor du auf den Auslöser der Handykamera drückst, fühlst du plötzlich einen starken Wind aufziehen und einen starken Schlag auf den Kopf, sodass dir schwarz vor Augen wird.

Als du dich von dem Schock erholt hast und deine Augen wieder öffnest, siehst du eine Frau vor dir stehen, die verwundert auf dein Smartphone blickt. Auch der Teil der Stadt um das Siegestor hat sich verändert. Nach einem kurzen Gespräch stellt sich heraus, dass diese Frau, sie hat sich Ihnen als Lucia vorgestellt, hier in Bozen lebt. Eigentlich scheint jetzt, nach dem angsteinflößenden Ereignis vorher, wieder alles normal, bis sich herausstellt, dass Lucia nicht 2022, sondern 1922 in Bozen lebt. Noch kannst du nicht ganz begreifen, gerade 100 Jahre in die Vergangenheit gereist zu sein. Obwohl das zuerst sehr beunruhigend erscheinen mag, willst du die Chance ergreifen und jemanden aus der Zeit des Faschismus in Bozen über das Leben unter diesen besonderen Umständen befragen. Bei einer kleinen Stadttour entwickelt sich zwischen dir und Lucia ein Gespräch, das einem Interview ähnelt.



LUCIA: Erzähle mir von dir selbst. Warum bist du hier? Was interessiert dich besonders an Bozen? Was hat dich bis jetzt an Bozen beeindruckt?

ICH: Ich bin 15 Jahre alt, komme aus München, gehe dort auf das Wittelsbacher-Gymnasium und bin mit ein paar anderen SchülerInnen meiner Schule wegen eines Austauschprogrammes nach Bozen gekommen. Ich bin besonders von der Einstellung der Bevölkerung Bozens überrascht. Wie man mit Autonomie, Minderheiten und der faschistischen Vergangenheit umgeht, hat mich stark beeindruckt. Viele sprechen Deutsch und Italienisch, es wird viel über Autonomie und die Verbesserung der Lebenssituation von Minderheiten gesprochen. Selten ist mir so ein offener Umgang mit ehemals unterdrückten Minderheiten begegnet.

LUCIA: Also unter dem faschistischen Führer Mussolini wird die deutsche Minderheit stark unterdrückt. Anscheinend hat sich sehr viel verändert.

ICH: Verändert hat sich sehr viel. Statt der Ent- und anschließenden Renationalisierung der deutschen Bevölkerung in Bozen sprechen jetzt viele Leute Deutsch und werden nicht mehr wie früher von der Gesellschaft komplett ausgeschlossen. Aber ich habe schon viel über die Unterdrückung der Deutschen in Bozen während des Faschismus gehört. Statuen, die einst die Zugehörigkeit zu Österreich symbolisierten, wurden entfernt und erst sehr viel später, nach dem Untergang des Faschismus wieder aufgestellt. Wie man den Willen haben kann, so viel Kultur zu zerstören, kann ich nicht verstehen.

LUCIA: Wie denkst du jetzt über Bozen?

ICH: Ich bin beeindruckt von der Mentalität hier. Bis jetzt habe ich eine Straßenumfrage zum Thema Autonomie und Minderheiten

geführt, mit SchülerInnen von hier gesprochen und sogar an einer Diskussionsrunde mit Abgeordneten teilgenommen. Weiterentwickeln, noch mehr Autonomie erreichen und die verschiedenen Sprachen und damit Kulturen zusammenwachsen lassen, wollen viele, vor allem junge Menschen. Ständig wird über Autonomie oder Minderheiten gesprochen oder darüber nachgedacht, was zeigt, wie sehr diese Themen das Leben der Bozener Bevölkerung bestimmen.

LUCIA: Du hast von einer Straßenumfrage gesprochen. Gab es eine Antwort, die dich besonders überrascht hat?

ICH: Die Frau, die wir befragt haben, meinte, fehlende Autonomie, könnte zu einem Krieg führen. Denn die Unterdrückung von Gruppen führt nur zu Unzufriedenheit. Wenn man seine Ziele nicht auf normalem Wege durchsetzen kann, versucht man, sie mit Gewalt zu erreichen. Sie sieht die Autonomie als zur Bewahrung des Friedens notwendiges Mittel. Außerdem hat sie über die Situation der Schulen geredet. Während sie eine Schule besuchte, die Italiener und Deutsche streng getrennt hat, wünscht sie sich sowohl für die jetzige als auch für zukünftigen Generationen ein anderes System. In diesem Punkt stimme ich ihr voll und ganz zu. Um Autonomie und Offenheit für andere Kulturen garantieren zu können, dürfen wir Kinder und Jugendliche nicht streng nach Sprachen trennen. Jeder sollte möglichst viele Sprachen lernen, und zwar möglichst früh. Nicht nur, um später bessere Chancen im Bezug auf Beruf und Karriere zu garantieren, sondern auch, um die Offenheit der Bevölkerung gegenüber anderen Kulturen aufrecht zu erhalten und sogar zu verbessern.

LUCIA: Und wie ist das im Vergleich zu deiner Heimat Deutschland?

ICH: Tatsächlich habe ich vor meinem Aufenthalt in Bozen nie so intensiv wie in den letzten Tagen über Themen wie Minderheiten, Autonomie und Bewältigung der Vergangenheit eines Landes nachgedacht. Die Nachdenklichkeit und Offenheit der Menschen hat mich begeistert und wird mich auch noch weiterhin zum Grübeln bringen. Auch der Faschismus hier wird anders als der Nationalsozialismus Deutschlands behandelt. Hier wird man durch Denkmäler ständig mit der Vergangenheit Bozens konfrontiert und zum Nachdenken angeregt. Stattdessen wird die nationalsozialistische Vergangenheit in Deutschland, meiner eigenen Erfahrung nach, eher vermieden. Diese Reise hat mir gezeigt, dass Veränderung der Gesellschaft tatsächlich möglich ist. Minderheiten haben es in der Gesellschaft nicht einfach, aber mit der Zeit kann sich viel verändern. Wichtig zur Weiterentwicklung einer Gesellschaft ist immer der Wille der Bevölkerung, sich zum Guten zu verändern.

LUCIA: Jetzt habe ich dir tatsächlich mehr Fragen gestellt als du mir. Also, wenn du etwas über das Leben in Bozen während 1922 erfahren möchtest, stehe ich dir zur Verfügung. Nachdem Lucia dir noch einiges über ihr Leben erzählt hat, kehrst du auf dieselbe Weise in deine Zeit zurück, auf die du in Lucias Welt gelangt bist.

Emilia, 15, München

KLEINES FLECKCHEN ERDE

Südtirol, ein kleines Land im Vergleich zu anderen Und doch steckt so viel in diesem kleinen Fleckchen Erde.

Vollgepackt mit seiner Vergangenheit Unter deren Last es leidet,

Schnauft und ächzt

Und die es gilt, in die Zukunft zu bringen.

Jahre über Jahre haben sich mittlerweile angesammelt Dicht aneinandergedrängt Rebellion und Unterdrückung.

Rufe nach Freiheit hallen durch die Luft

Hängen wie eine dunkle Wolke über den Köpfen aller

Schwer bleiben sie hängen im Nirgendwo Werden von den Schwalben weitergetragen Aufgeschreckt durch das Geräusch der Kanonen.

Abhängigkeit oder Unabhängigkeit, Gehen oder bleiben

Die Bevölkerung steht vor einer schwierigen Entscheidung

Bei der es kein Richtig und kein Falsch gibt Keinen Mittelweg, keine Ausflüchte Das Zerreißen von Familien sie mit sich bringt.

In der Hoffnung auf Besserung verabschiedet man sich voneinander

Wann man sich wiedersehen wird ist ungewiss Ob ein Wiedersehen überhaupt erfolgen wird, auch

Schwer wie Blei es alle belastet und zu Boden ringt

Unausgesprochen hängt dies im Raum.

Was wenn?

Was wenn wir uns alle nie mehr wiedersehen? Was wenn dieser Krieg die Macht hat, uns endgültig zu trennen?

Was wenn das Danach noch schlimmer sein wird als das Zuvor?

Was wenn es überhaupt kein Danach gibt?

Beatrix, 17, Bozen

A SUCCESS MODEL FOR MINORITY PROTECTION

During your visit here in Bozen-Bolzano we have tried to convey to you why Südtirol/South Tyrol/Alto Adige has been hailed internationally a success model for minority protection and conflict resolution. The overwhelming positive

Eigentlich scheint jetzt, nach dem angsteinflößenden Ereignis vorher, wieder alles normal, bis sich herausstellt, dass Lucia nicht 2022, sondern 1922 in Bozen lebt.

evaluation of these historic developments is somewhat overshadowed by a certain degree of stagnancy when it comes to societal development of the Province in the modern world of the 21st century. The 1972 Statute of Autonomy, generally seen as the foundation of this success, stipulated that all three ethno-linguistic groups (German, Italian and Ladin) must be allowed to develop unobstructed by the other. This has, after decades of Italian supremacy, led to an emancipation of the other two groups, which was healthy in the context of conflict resolution, yet, which has obstructed the cultural, linguistic and creative exchange between all three populations. Today we observe three populations developing independently and without the creative energy of the others.

This, in a modern world, where regions compete with each other on a global scale, and where English is used as a lingua franca, - not just globally, but often even in South Tyrol itself - is a major strategic disadvantage in the realm of economic development, but also for the quality of life in the Province. A modest modification of the Statute, combined with a more embracing attitude of all three groups in the province and its recent new arrivals - refugees as well as highly skilled workers - may set free societal synergies that reinforce the success of South Tyrol.

Secondly, the pacification of the South Tyrol conflict would not have worked without the enabling framework of the post-war European project. Internationalising local and regional conflicts has been one of the key qualities of the EEC/EG, and the withdrawal of this strong and

mollifying framework can in turn lead to the flaring up of conflicts that seemed to have been solved, as we can currently witness in Northern Ireland.

To believe in the basic ideas behind the inception of the EU, despite its flaws, and our personal and societal commitment to the EU seems to me to be one of the most important statements each and every one of us can make in the challenging times in order to ensure peace and stability prevail on our Continent.

Georg Grote, EURAC Bolzano

WHEN I ARRIVED HERE, I WAS TOTALLY AMAZED BY THE CITY

Bolzano, the capital city of the province of South Tyrol has, in my opinion, all the necessary things a city could require. First of all, the city enjoys a very high quality of life: the economy is based on intensive agriculture, such as fruits and dairy products. The city has one of the best economies in Italy, being supported by the government's funds. What I learned is that the city also lives from tourism, traditional handicraft like wood and ceramics. The local economy is dependent upon the public sector, meaning that the people of Bolzano have everything they need. Not only

that but, the city consists of many green places, there are many eco-friendly parks, forests and especially there are mountains all around. What I noticed is that, there are also palm trees, making the city more exotic. One of the reasons why Bolzano is such a healthy, eco-friendly city is because its citizens use their bikes for transport. Everywhere I went, I noticed not just a bike, but more than 10. There was not even a single place where there was not a bike to see. In comparison to my country, Romania, Bolzano, being located at multiple climate borders has a humid subtropical climate. While I was here the weather was most likely hot around 30° degrees, even tough on some days it was raining.

Secondly, another thing that impressed me is based on the fact that when the teenagers of Bolzano turn 18, they have to make the hardest decision: identify as a German-speaking person or an Italian-speaking person. So far I know, choosing German is better for their future jobs, meaning they can work in more places such as German schools, for example. If they decide to declare themselves Italian and later on they want to change that declaration, it will take about 4 years to do it and, during that time, they cannot leave Bolzano.

When I think about the Minority Institute at the EURAC, I learned so much new information about the minorities and about Bolzano's autonomy. South Tyrol is known as a territorial autonomy and is made out of a beautiful community of German, Italian and Ladin language groups. Here exists a huge diversity of people from many countries. More and more people from all over the world live here, for example, one of the employees at our hotel was from the Dominican Republic. If you ever come here, you will see a huge number of people of all colors, from different cultures. There German speakers, are estimated by the authorities about 75%. Additionally, the Italian language is spoken here as well and there is also a smaller number of Ladin speakers. Because there are linguistic minorities, the autonomous province of Bolzano is one of the five autonomous regions here in Italy. What I also found out, is that there is a struggle for the autonomy.

I have learned that after the World War II the winners of the war refused South Tiroleans the right of self-determination. However, they made Austria and Italy conduct negotiations over South Tyrol. Later on, in 1946 the Paris Treaty was signed by both countries, securing the special provisions for South

Tyrol regarding their evolution in economy, language and culture. What else I remember from the EURAC Institute is the fact that in 1961, the citizens started having a hard life. There was an evening called "the night of fire" where electricity pylons were blown up in the air. In 1972 after many horrible events such as bomb attacks, Rome, Bolzano and Vienna agreed on introducing the Second Autonomy Statute: South Tyrol's new economy was and is meant to protect all three languages spoken in Bolzano and obviously, their minorities.

In conclusion, we can say that Bolzano is an ideal city for each and every person, who is willing to open up to new people and learn new languages. Nowadays, the South Tyrolean autonomy model is considered one of the most successful political deals in the world, due to its autonomous powers.

Delia, 16, Braşov

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED,

that the people in South-Tyrol have to choose which language group they belong to, when they turn 18, although most teenagers speak two languages (German and Italian). I was also surprised, that there are different schools for each language. Ok, I think it would be good in the first years of school, when only a few children speaking both languages, but I cannot understand why schools are also separated in the end, when most students could speak two languages. In this way the different language groups never really interact with each other.

Moreover, when we did a survey with people at Bolzano, most of the interviewed said, that they speak both Italian and German; so why doesn't the government mix up the linguistic groups? Why are there still jobs only for German-speaking people or jobs only for Italian-speaking people? This is horrible. Imagine,

that you were an Italian speaker and found the perfect job for you, but then you can't get this job, because you are an Italian speaker and the job position is foreseen for Ladin or German speaking people. I really didn't understand why the Southtyrolean government keeps the linguistic groups so extremely separated.

During the next day we tried to get some answers to my questions and doubts. Before the World War I Tyrol was part of Austria. So, the people in Tyrol would speak German and live with their German traditions. But when Austria and German lost World War I, Italy got South Tyrol from Austria. Imagine how crazy this change was for the Southtyrolean population back then. And then the Italian Fascists discriminated the German-speaking people. It was forbidden them to speak their own language in their home. Even after the Fascist era it was easier for an Italian speaker to get a job, than for a German-speaking person. Still today a lot of fascist buildings remind the people of South Tyrol of this time.

So, at that time it was obviously one of the best options to help the German minority by separating the groups. That way the people couldn't discriminate the German-speaking people. Nevertheless, you can see that this law was a great option, but it's not the case today anymore, because the German speakers aren't a minority anymore. Still, the problem at the end is, that the strongest/most representative party (a completely German party) in South Tyrol doesn't see the issue and is afraid of changing anything. For me there is now only one question left (which can't be answered): There are so many other parties in South Tyrol, which want to mix the linguistic groups and their cultures. Why don't the people vote for those parties?

Jakob, 14, Munich

WHAT IS A MINORITY?

A question that I heard a lot during the past few days was "What is a minority?" A minority

South Tyrol is known as a territorial autonomy and is made out of a beautiful community of German, Italian and Ladin language groups.

is a small group of people within a community, differing from the bigger group and also differing from the main population of a country. A minority group can experience disadvantages because of their differences whether we are referring to race, religion, language, ethnicity, sexual orientation or other characteristics. The students here, have showed me how everyone can form strong friendships and relationships and ignore the differences that the society inflicts upon us.

Mara, 16, Braşov

MY VIEW ON THE 'PROPORZIONALE'

When we first learned about the situation of minorities in South Tyrol, the 'Proporzionale' mostly really shocked me. The 'Proporzionale' is the rule that jobs in the public offices are divided by each proportion of the different ethnicities. So if you are a German speaker you can only apply for a job for German speakers. At first, I couldn't believe the existence of such a rule, because we don't have any rule like that in Amsterdam. I felt like everyone should get the same opportunities and for me that includes being able to apply for every job you want, if you have the proper qualifications. Then we learned more about the history of South Tyrol and the South Tyrolean identity and I realized that, in the past the 'Proporzionale' was a measure taken to give everyone the same opportunities. Back then it was even necessary. However, now I think the 'Proporzionale' has a backward effect, because bilingual people are often forced to choose between their identity and the language which will get them the best opportunities. I think this has to do with the fact it wasn't taken into consideration



that although German-speaking people are a minority in Italy, Italians are a minority in South Tyrol, so this minority of South Tyrolean Italians should also be protected in my opinion. The 'Proporzionale' also reminds me of the discussion we are having now in the Netherlands about positive discrimination, and this is a very discussed topic. But I think we can take South Tyrol as an example. I think in a time like this positive discrimination is a good thing and we should definitely have a rule about it, but when the position of the minorities is equal to the majority, positive discrimination should be abolished. Because if this is not the case, you get the same situation as in South Tyrol, where the minority (German speaking people) will have a stronger position than the majority (Italian speaking people) and this is the opposite of what we want to reach, namely: equality.

Veronique, 16, Amsterdam

PARTICULARLY SHOCKED ABOUT THE PROPORZ

1) Made me think first meeting

I as South Tyrolean am used to the situation of the autonomy and I normally think it works pretty well. But after discussing it for just some

hours I realized that it's far from being perfect and that I have to face a lot of problems daily, without even realizing it.

2) Tour

I really was impressed by how some people that are considered experts in the field of Autonomy, like the at the Eurac or the politician Martha Stocker, said a lot of things, that for me as a young South Tyrolean are simply not true. And now I'm asking myself, by whom am I represented?

3) Creative writing: Journal article

BOLZANO: a group of Highschool students from all over Europe came to South Tyrol to discuss the topic of ethnic minorities. I followed the group as journalist of my school's journal and the impression I had, was that they would have never expected, that such an apparently peaceful region, surrounded by idyllic mountains and nature, hid this kind of history and problems.

When the topic was introduced to them, they were particularly shocked about the Proporz.

Why should someone not get a job because they have declared themselves Italian?

At night we took the visiting students to our Obstmarkt, the heart of Bolzano's nightlife, they didn't admit it, but I think they all were a

bit disappointed, coming from big cities such as Amsterdam or Munich.

The next day they got a tour around Bolzano and interviewing some of the students the opinion of a stereotypically blond, tall Dutch student, about the Victory Monument, that should be torn down, impressed me the most.

And then of course there was the little trip, to Ortisei, which I've never seen so empty of tourists. I really enjoyed the curiosity of the students, for the Ladin language and people. They are an interesting group for all of us.

Now they have to leave and I'm very sad, because in these days some of them really -I will use a German expression now- "sind mir ans Herzen gewachsen", but I'm sure we have all learned a lot, even I as South Tyrolean. And this makes me think... Do I really know my home?

Alex, 17, Bolzano

THE MOMENT I ENTERED BOLZANO

I smelled the flowers and heard the crickets even though we were at the train station, our hotel seemed like one belonging to a fairytale and we even saw fireflies.

What I will remember most is the kindness of most people, even though a lot of the young

people said they didn't like the city, they don't know how lucky they are.

Most of my memories now are about the walks we made through the city and all the different buildings we saw (Runkelstein in particular because our guide was very passionate about it). I was personally very interested in the Tyrolean identity (as opposed to the Italian or German identities) and I have to admit it felt like the whole area lived in a different reality making everything feel very surreal.

Bruno, 16, Amsterdam

AM ENDE DER FÜNF TAGE IN BOZEN

ist mir persönlich vor allem ein bestimmtes Gespräch in Erinnerung geblieben, nämlich das mit der Politikerin Martha Stocker (Südtiroler Volkspartei, kurz SVP).

Im Rahmen unseres Erasmus-Projektes hatten wir die Möglichkeit, mit Mitgliedern unterschiedlicher Parteien zu diskutieren, ihnen Fragen zu stellen und sie im Bezug auf das Thema Minderheiten, vor allem in Südtirol, anzusprechen.

Auf die Frage „Woher kommen Sie?“ meinte sie wie aus der Pistole geschossen „Südtirol“. Normalerweise denkt man sich dabei nichts, denn, wie gesagt, kommt sie aus diesem nördlichen Teil Italiens, aber in einem weiteren Satz erklärt sie, sie würde niemals sagen, dass sie aus Italien kommt, obwohl sie das offiziell natürlich tut.

Im weiteren Gespräch wird deutlich, dass sie und auch weitere Südtiroler sehr stolz darauf

sind, sich Südtiroler nennen zu können und sich zunächst nicht zu Italienern zählen zu müssen. Dies ist in Südtirol von erheblicher Bedeutung, denn dort muss man sich am Anfang des neunzehnten Lebensjahrs entscheiden und eintragen, ob man Deutsch, Italienisch oder Ladinisch spricht. Anhand dieser Informationen werden öffentliche Einrichtungen und Arbeitsplätze proportionell auf Deutsch-, Italienisch- und Ladinischsprachige

verteilt. Dies soll vor allem die deutsche Minderheit in Italien schützen und bewahren. In der Provinz Südtirol hingegen bilden die Deutschsprachigen eine deutliche Mehrheit gegenüber den Italienischsprachigen. All diese Sonderregelungen wurden durch eine sogenannte Autonomie aufgestellt. Dies bedeutet, dass Südtirol selbstständig entscheiden kann, wie mit den verschiedenen Sprachen und Minderheiten umzugehen ist. Martha Stocker positioniert sich deutlich für diese Autonomie, für die Einteilung in Deutsch, Italienisch und Ladinisch. Ihrer Meinung nach hilft das getrennte Schulsystem in deutsche, italienische Schulen die verschiedenen Sprachen und Kulturen zu wahren. Zudem unterstützt sie die getrennte Parteipolitik, denn die SVP gewährt nur Deutschsprachigen den Eintritt.

Diese Aussage hat mich zunächst einmal ein wenig überrascht, denn bisher habe ich hier die Erfahrung gemacht, dass die meisten Einheimischen für den gegenseitigen Austausch und ein gemeinsames bilinguales Schulsystem plädieren. Martha Stocker aber findet es genau richtig so, wie es ist, mit getrennten Schulen, getrennten Sprachen und getrennten Parteien. Ich persönlich denke, dass diese Sichtweise einschränkend und verlangsamernd ist, da man allgemein durch jeden Austausch mit anderen Kulturen Neues kennenlernt und an seiner eigenen sieht, was vorteilhaft oder weniger gut ist. Für mich ist die strikte Teilung nach Sprachen und Kulturen nie eine wirklich

Im weiteren Gespräch wird deutlich, dass sie und auch weitere Südtiroler sehr stolz darauf sind, sich Südtiroler nennen zu können und sich zunächst nicht zu Italienern zählen zu müssen.

langfristige Lösung, hingegen wäre ein bilingualer Schulunterricht für alle nützlich und empfehlenswert, da die meisten in dieser Gegend sowieso beiden Sprachen ausgesetzt sind.

Dazu kommt, dass sich durch das gegenseitige Beobachten aber nichts Miteinander-zu-tun-zu-Haben immer mehr Vorurteile bilden, hatte ich zumindest das Gefühl. Demnach wollte Martha Stocker nicht als Italienerin bezeichnet werden, da ihr ihre Identität als deutschsprachige Südtirolerin sehr wichtig scheint. Für mich als Deutsche aus München scheint das ein wenig unverständlich, da die deutsche Herkunft nicht wirklich als erstes erwähnt und herumposaunt wird, so wie bei den meisten Deutschen. Dennoch wirkte ihre Verbindung zu Deutschland bzw. Österreich weg von Italien sehr bedeutend für sie.

Daraus ziehe ich den Schluss, dass die Südtiroler wohl nicht mehr die Kultur der Italiener haben, aber auch nicht mehr die der Deutschen. Dies zeigt, dass die Trennung zwischen zwei Kulturen, die auf demselben Gebiet leben, gar nicht völlig möglich ist, denn sonst gäbe es ja zwischen den deutschsprachigen Südtirolern und den Bewohnern Deutschlands keinen Unterschied. Deshalb denke ich, wäre das gegenseitige Begegnen und der Austausch sehr hilfreich und eine Chance für Südtirol, denn so wird Konflikten sowie Missverständnissen als auch Vorurteilen vorgebeugt und sie können leichter verhindert werden.

Valena, 16, München



Links: Ladinische Minderheit: Austausch mit Schüler*innen in St. Ulrich

NONE OF MY WORKING DAYS GETS BY WITHOUT THIS WORD: AUTONOMY

As South Tyroleans, we encounter our autonomy every day. It has become part of our everyday life and we have become used to it. But perhaps that has also led to the situation that we take it for granted. Therefore, I see a first challenge in people once again confronting the topic of autonomy more intensively and trying to understand it. This is also one of the main tasks of the Center for Autonomy Experience. I was therefore happy to see how the young people from the various partner schools discussed the topic of the living together of the different language groups in South Tyrol when they visited Eurac Research. In doing so, they also addressed an important question for the future: How do we make all people in South Tyrol feel at home and not excluded?

The latest youth study by the South Tyrolean statistics office ASTAT has shown that there is a need to build more bridges between the young people of the different language groups. But this task applies to the whole of the South Tyrolean society. Is the modification of the Autonomy Statute the way to initiate social change in South Tyrol? I think that social change cannot be imposed with autonomy statutes, but must

first of all be lived. Our autonomy provides us with the basis for a peaceful and successful living together. Each and every one of us has, so to speak, the autonomy to shape South Tyrol and its society.

The Second Autonomy Statute turns 50 this year. Since then, Europe and the world have changed. At that time, the European Union was still in its infancy. But what happens nowadays in South Tyrol is closely connected to politics at the European and global level. The networking of minorities is therefore all the more important. In addition, there are also challenges at the state level that need to be taken seriously. In recent years, the Constitutional Court has repeatedly intervened in South Tyrol's autonomous legislation through various rulings. This has made South Tyrol's catalogue of competences less clear. Autonomy is therefore not a matter of course, but must always be renegotiated.

Jakob Volgger, EURAC Bolzano

BEFORE THIS PROJECT I HAD NEVER BEEN IN BOLZANO

I had only known that Bolzano is in Italy, so I was surprised to see that the city hosts two different cultures, Italian and German. But why is that so?

On Friday, our first day here, we made an interview about the autonomy and languages in South-Tyrol, after we had learned some basic facts about the autonomy of South-Tyrol. It was interesting to see how different the people answered to our questions. Some didn't think that it really helps so much and the other found it really important. But now the question arose what the autonomy of South Tyrol means?

I will start with the history, which we learned about on Saturday in the morning. Since 1918 South Tyrol had been under Austrian-Hungarian rule, so of course the people spoke German and followed German traditions. But then, after Austrian-Hungary had lost the World War I, Italy, which was on the winner-side, got South-Tyrol. There were no problems between Italian-speaking people and German-speaking people, until 1921, when the Italian fascism started. They began to Italianize the German-speaking people, and the German-speaking people weren't allowed to follow their traditions and speak their language. In 1939 the Italian fascist leader Mussolini and the German Nazi leader Hitler signed a pact. All people in South-Tyrol could choose: If they wanted to speak their language and follow their traditions, they had to join the "Deutsche

Reich" and move there. But if they wanted to stay in South-Tyrol, they had to become Italian, and were only allowed to speak Italian and learn the Italian traditions. Later on some years after the end of World War II, in 1968, there was the "Gruber-De Gasperi Agreement", which stated the autonomy of South-Tyrol. Now German and Italian are both official languages. Despite this, there were many fights between Italian-speaking people and German speaking people in the fifties and the sixties and because of this many people got hurt or even died. Then, in 1972, there was the "Second Autonomy Statute", which said that South-Tyrol had its own parliament, and could make its own laws, if they agreed with the constitution of Italy. Now the relationship between German-speaking people and Italian-speaking people in South-Tyrol has become more peaceful.

On Sunday we talked with the local politicians why the children in South-Tyrol have to decide, whether they want to attend an Italian or a German school. Two of the politicians didn't agree with that. They wanted to have bilingual schools, so schools hosting both German-speaking children and Italian-speaking children, because they claim, that because of this separation of schools, children don't mix up and Italian-speaking children just hang out with Italian-speaking groups and German-speaking children just hang out with German-speaking groups. Anyway, the other politician found that mixing up the schools could be dangerous, because sometimes children would speak just one language and the other language would be lost.

On Monday we drove to a village. In this village we heard another language, which is also spoken in South-Tyrol: Ladin. Only a few people in South-Tyrol speak this language, but it's also an official language in South-Tyrol. And there are also Ladin schools. We visited one

and it was just amazing, because it was an Art School. In that school students learn how to carve fantastic sculptures made of wood.

Today it's Tuesday and I'm sitting here at the table and writing this text and I'm really sad because we will be driving home soon. Goodbye Bolzano! It was a great time.

Mathäus, 13, Munich

DEAR ME FROM THE PAST,

maybe it will be hard for you to believe that, but right one month before turning 18 you'll have your first trip by plane, far from home and your family, but near your new incredible friends - friends who have completely different background stories than you.

From so many points of view Bolzano will remind you of your beloved hometown, Braşov, not only because of the breathtaking landscape, but also because of the union of so many minorities. Of course, you've already seen people speaking different languages living in harmony with each other, but Bolzano is a totally different case. Also, you'll have the amazing opportunity to discover the ancient secrets of the Ladin language, going back in time and feeling all the hardships people from here had to go through in order to keep their culture alive. I know you have a great passion for traditions, but please let me tell you a secret: sometimes, in order for a culture to stay true to its own identity it needs other cultures as well. They don't always have to stay separated, instead, it is important for a community to create the perfect balance between history and modern life. And one more thing: the real love for one's culture comes from within. As long as YOU want to embrace your past and honor your ancestors, no government will take that devotion away from you. They can change you on the outside, but the real change happens inside and you are the master of your own inner world.

Another unbelievable fact is that you will create long lasting connections, with people

The Second Autonomy Statute turns 50 this year. Since then, Europe and the world have changed.

who have roots from all over the planet. Can you imagine? So many languages, so many diverse perspectives and all the values of so many different countries or even continents in just ONE single person. Maybe our backgrounds are totally different; maybe we learn and grow in other ways; maybe we come from faraway places, but the human essence will always remain the same. Each and one of us is unique, but we are all connected to the same source: Earth. And you all had the chance to discover each other's uniqueness during these 5 days in Italy, thanks to the Erasmus+ project.

I think the most important thing you will learn from this experience is just to enjoy life in a calmer manner, letting all preconceptions regarding nationality, race or anything else aside. And most important: don't let others' opinions about you harm your spirit!!!

With love, your future Self

Larisa, 17, Braşov

ZERRISSENHEIT UND ZUSAMMENHALT-SÜDTIROL

Südtirol bietet als Gebiet mit einer wirklich umfassenden Geschichte natürlich einen geradezu perfekten Nährboden für Fragen und Vorschläge rund um Minderheiten und Sprache.

Wie tief verwurzelt diese oft als Problem angesehene Angelegenheit „Südtirol“ immer noch ist, erkennt man schon anhand einfacher Alltagssituationen.

„Kannst du bitte für mich bestellen, der Kellner spricht Italienisch.“ „Frag du nach dem Weg, ich traue mich nicht auf Deutsch.“

Vor allem außerhalb der Städte ist immer noch große Scham zu beobachten, wenn es zu Situationen kommt, die die jeweilige Fremdsprache verlangen, dabei sollte man das



Links: Ladinische Minderheit: Austausch mit Schüler*innen in St. Ulrich

Ganze doch viel mehr als Chance sehen.

Bei vielschichtigen Themen wie diesem mit vielen Fragen gibt es auch immer viele Meinungen.

Während man einerseits für größere Verbundenheit aller Südtiroler und Südtirolerinnen kämpft, versucht, sprachliche Differenzen so weit als möglich zu überwinden und offen für neue Ideen und innovative Vorschläge ist, setzen sich andere weiterhin für eine klare Trennung aller Sprachgruppen ein und versetzen Mitglieder der deutschen Minderheit in den Glauben, dass die deutsche Sprache und Kultur bei der kleinsten Vermischung mit dem Italienischem aussterben wird.

Und dann tauchen plötzlich Grundsatzfragen auf, die sich viele von uns nicht mal stellen.

Neben den persönlichen Fragen, die man sich zur eigenen Identität vielleicht stellt, philosophischer und theoretischer Art, die jeder für sich klärt, hinterfragt man aber auch Regelungen, nach denen wir mittlerweile schon jahrelang leben.

Ein Beispiel dafür wäre die heutige Sinnhaftigkeit des Proporz, einst eingesetzt um deutschen und ladinischen Mitbürgern und Mitbürgerinnen die Chance auf eine öffentliche

Stelle zu gewähren beziehungsweise zu sichern, was viele für mittlerweile überholt halten. Ist eine solche Regelung immer noch notwendig, damit niemand zu kurz kommt? Sollte nicht die Person den Arbeitsplatz bekommen, die die besten Voraussetzungen dafür hat, unabhängig von ihrer Sprache?

Vergessen wir andere Minderheiten in Südtirol, weil wir mit unserem sprachlichen Kram viel zu beschäftigt sind?

Fragen wie diese lassen sich spontan natürlich nicht beantworten, trotzdem sollten wir uns damit auseinandersetzen.

Auf jeden Fall sollten mehr Leute zumindest gehört werden, zum Beispiel die Jugend. Viele von uns wurden in den letzten Tagen das erste Mal nach konkreten Verbesserungsvorschlägen bezüglich Südtirols Autonomie und Sprachenvielfalt gefragt. Das erste Mal sollten wir uns kritisch mit uns selbst in gewisser Weise auseinandersetzen. Wir hinterfragten Dinge, die wir normalerweise einfach so hinnehmen. Die Ergebnisse? Viele verschiedene Vorschläge zu neuen Projekten für Jugendliche verschiedener Sprachgruppen, unterschiedliche Modelle zu zweisprachigen Schulsystemen, Anregung zu vermehrter Zusammenarbeit mit anderen Schulen im

Allgemeinen, aber vor allem natürlich mit verschiedener Unterrichtssprache und Vieles mehr.

In einem anscheinend so zerrissenen und gespaltenen Land wie unserem ist also doch großes Bestreben zu Zusammenhalt und Verbundenheit spürbar. Irgendwie versuchen wir ja doch ein Umfeld zu schaffen, in dem sich jeder wohl und akzeptiert fühlt.

Wahrscheinlich werden gewisse Differenzen in der Gesellschaft Südtirols immer bleiben, doch so ist das auch in allen anderen Teilen der Welt. Sprache, Autonomie und Freiheit werden immer aktuelle Themen bleiben und das sollte auch so sein.

Anstatt also an verschiedenen alten Normen, Vorurteilen und Einstellungen festzuhalten, die uns in unserem Fortschritt eher einschränken als uns helfen, könnten wir für uns versuchen, eine neue Form von Identität zu kreieren, so utopisch das auch klingen mag.

Abschließend kann man also sagen, dass möglichst viele Angebote zur größeren Verbundenheit geschaffen werden sollen. Ob man sie als Individuum dann nutzt oder nicht, ist am Ende natürlich jedem selbst überlassen.

Veronika, 17, Bozen



I WAS SURPRISED BY THE FASCIST BUILDINGS

in the city. It hadn't expected them at all and was wondering about how the inhabitants of Bolzano felt about that. Especially because recently there has been a lot of discussions in the Netherlands about buildings, street names and statues that are reminders of moments in the past we are not so proud of. Later I was told that the Fascist buildings are reminders of the past themselves, as some sort of lesson for the present. I found that an interesting way to look at them. Now, I kind of get it. If they were to remove all the Fascist buildings, it would erase a part of the past. But the oppression of the German-speaking population is an important thing to be aware of. By ignoring discrimination, you give it space to grow. We learned about the pyramid of discrimination; microaggressions that seem harmless can grow into weaponized hate, as we saw in the past (during World War II for example). However, I think the historical building should be better contextualized, as the German historian who gave as a tour around the city said. I don't think most inhabitants or tourists know what the buildings are and what their story is. If the artifacts were accompanied by information boards with a short story about the history and what the buildings/statuses mean for us today, people would have a better understanding of the past.

Another interesting thing was the separation of Italian-speakers and German-speakers. The students we met here, at the "Walther von der Vogelweide" school (a German school) are generally bilingual.

But from what I have heard, there seems to be a separation in the population. At the EURAC institute we learned about a study that asked the youth about how many of their

friends were Italian-, German-, Ladin-speakers or bilingual.

The conclusion was that most adolescents mostly have friends who share the same native language. Especially the Italian-speaking people are the most segregated. And the Ladin people are the most mixed. Probably because they have a bilingual school system.

The day after we heard about that study, we had interviews with local politicians. We asked them about the separation. The politicians had very diverse and interesting answers. What I was most surprised by, were the views of the SVP-politician. She said that bilingual schools would be a threat to the German-speaking minority. She was scared that the Italian would overpower because Italian-speakers have more difficulty learning German than German-speakers have with learning Italian. She is scared that the nationalism would rule. The host students who also participated in the debate didn't like her statements and felt quite hurt, I think. The politician believes in peaceful separation to conserve the South-Tyrolean identity, but the bilingual students felt like their complicated, mixed identity was being erased, I think. But I am not really the right person to have thoughts about this matter, because I don't live here and will never fully understand the situation, but this was my impression.

Yuna, 16, Amsterdam

A PLACE NAMED BOLZANO/BOZEN

When we began our journey to Bolzano/Bozen, we thought we were only going to Italy, to one of the many beautiful regions of this country. However, before leaving, we read some articles about South Tyrol and our curiosity about this part of Italy started to grow.

Two of the first articles we read (in Romanian) were entitled "South Tyrol – a model of autonomy and coexistence" and "South Tyrol. The recipe for success in the richest region of Italy". This is how we learned about the turbulent history of the region, about the

I was surprised by the Fascist buildings in the city. It hadn't expected them at all and was wondering about how the inhabitants of Bolzano felt about that.

agreements of autonomy and the system of proportionality in public offices, about the difficult road from permanent conflicts to peaceful understanding between German and Italian speakers and about the preservation of the language, rights and traditions of a lesser known minority - the Ladins.

We spent a week there and every day was a wonderful experience – we enjoyed getting to know our colleagues and pupils from Italy, Holland, Greece and Germany, we discovered with great interest a part of European history, less known to us, and we were delighted by the beauty and the charm of the town and its surroundings. In a short time, we also tried some local delicacies - Südtiroler Gulasch with polenta (this kind of food is also part of our regional traditions, being a speciality of the Hungarian minority in Romania), Mezzelune or Schlutzkrapfen, Canederli or Knödel, Schüttelbrot, Apfelstrudel. And, of course – one of our favourite cocktails- Hugo (which we found out was invented in South Tyrol).

Returning to the activities, all the discussions were very interesting and constructive. From the first day, since the official opening, we got acquainted with the local history and realities – all these were developed and reinforced in the meeting at the Eurac Research Center, through the discussions with the three politicians, through the two well-organized city tours (in an original way, we were presented many significant locations and buildings symbolising the history of the region) and through the trip to the Ladin school and Museum in Ortisei, Val Gardena.

As we could notice, the status of autonomy

[Links: Besuch der Kunstschule Cademia und der WFO in St. Ulrich](#)

and the maintenance of the system of the proportionality in public functions have led to peace in the area and to a balanced coexistence. Maybe it's not the perfect key, maybe the new global realities demand other local solutions. And yet, we have seen a system that works. As always, time and people will determine the course of future events.

For us, it was a wonderful, attractive, positive experience. A lot of thanks to the colleagues and the pupils from the Klassisches Gymnasium Walther von der Vogelweide, involved in this project and who proved to be excellent hosts.

Gisella Cioconea - Erasmus participant from Romania

Cristina Spînu - Erasmus participant from Romania

NOW, TUESDAY,

this writer is writing this with tears in her eyes and a lump in her throat. I am going to miss it here. Thank you, Alex, Agatha, Bea, Martina, (also Paolo, Raul and Matteo a little bit) for everything. I am going to miss you guys like crazy.

Sudenaz, 17, Amsterdam

MINDERHEITENSCHUTZ, WARUM EIGENTLICH?

Diese Frage hat mich beim Treffen mit den Jugendlichen sehr berührt. Für uns in Südtirol ist Minderheitenschutz dermaßen „logisch“, dass wir uns die Frage gar nicht so deutlich stellen. Warum also? Ich habe zwei „grüne“ Antworten.

Denn einmal gibt es eine Parallele zum Artenschutz in der Natur. Die Vielfalt ist immer ein Reichtum, den es zu schützen gilt, oft ein zerbrechlicher Reichtum. Jede Pflanzen- und Tierart hat etwas Besonderes entwickelt, etwas, das sie einzigartig macht und das aufzeigt, dass ähnliche Voraussetzungen zu unterschiedlichen Entwicklungen führen können. Erst recht gilt das für die menschlichen Gesellschaften. Denken wir daran, was es braucht, um eine Kulturgemeinschaft zu werden, wie viel Zeit, wie viel Kommunikation, wie viele Versuche, wie viel menschliches Leben in der Geschichte einer Kulturgemeinschaft und einer Sprache liegen. Wie viele Schicksale sich darin verknüpft haben, der Nachwelt etwas zu hinterlassen, das sie prägt und zusammenhält. Schon rein deshalb gilt es alle Kulturgemeinschaften zu schützen, und

Minderheiten ganz besonders.

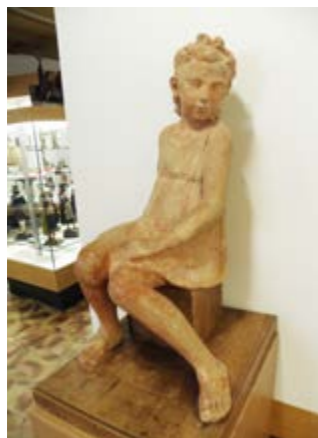
Zum Zweiten gilt für mich in jeder politischen Entscheidung der Grundsatz: „Im Zweifelsfall für den oder die Schwächere:n“. Das ist auch auf Minderheiten anzuwenden – gegenüber der Tendenz von Staaten, zu vereinfachen, zu zentralisieren, zu rationalisieren.

Was ich für unser Land aber auch möchte, ist, dass wir über die Verteidigung unserer Autonomie die Weltoffenheit und das Zusammenleben im Land nicht vergessen. Wir sind nicht nur eine Minderheit, sondern ein Ort des Zusammentreffens von Kulturen. Wir sind nicht eine Insel im Ozean, sondern eine Kreuzung der Wege mitten auf unserem Kontinent Europa. Wir sind der Norden des Südens und der Süden des Nordens – als solche haben wir eine wunderbare Aufgabe: Brücke zu sein, Welten zu verbinden.

Brigitte Foppa (Die Grünen)

SOUTH TYROLEAN AUTONOMY ON A CLASSICAL LICEO LEVEL

A crash course on political autonomy by South Tyroleans is what I had my pupils sign up for. On their return from Bolzano they were quick to mention street interviews, a seminar and discussions with local politicians on this topic.



South Tyrol remains a splendid case of peace and prosperity ensured by regional autonomy. For me personally this Erasmus+ exchange has provided opportunity to deepen my knowledge of Bolzano's cultural history and South Tyrolean language-based partition in particular. It also was an eyeopener concerning the spleen and unease felt by youngsters about the status quo of the tripartite (Italian, German and Ladin) language divide and its social ramifications. And their 21st century preference for English in order to bridge that divide.

The term "Byzantinism", implying unnecessarily complicated social patterns, came to mind in a discussion following a brilliant lecture at the EURAC by Georg Grote offering a broad historical overview. For me "Byzantine" implies a certain social stagnation, describing a society where the structural benefits for all parties are clear and well-balanced, but which itself has become compartmented, bureaucratized, and thus rather fossilized.

I would like to skip to the very end of our stay in Bolzano, when the pupils collectively sang Bella Ciao. In preparation of that polonaise they had laughed and wept together. Real cohesion requires heartfelt emotion. The same went for the collaborative performance of Beethoven's 9th, by an Italian and a German language liceo and the local conservatory, on the opening night of the exchange. In contrast, the lukewarmness of the South Tyroleans over their overwhelming societal achievements resembles our own Dutch (Republican) "Embarrassment of riches". It made me speculate on the durability of such comforts in times of economic hardship. For now, Europe of the regions may take an example of the wealthiest (because autonomous) region of Italy, where political dissent is blanketed by prosperity, where a real possibility exists of becoming truly bilingual

[Links: Besuch in Gröden](#)

by choosing as a mother tongue Italian speaker an education at a German language liceo, or vice versa. Youngsters from all over the region are able to educate themselves thoroughly in woodcutting at the amazing Ladin Arts Liceo we visited. According to my fellow Justin van der Veen, a must for every Dutch politician to witness the quality and level of craftsmanship, achieved by a mere ten hours a week, well spent on practical and painstaking education in the visual arts.

Richard Haasen (60)
Classical languages teacher in Amsterdam

DEAR DIARY,

I checked the weather before coming here, not really pleasing if you asked me... It was going to rain all week, it kind of blew away some excitement but I was still really happy to come. When we got here, my jaw dropped. It was sunny!! And so warm, there were like 26°C. The views were breathtaking, everyone here seemed so happy, it made me happy too. I didn't expect to like the city as much as I do now aha. It has everything you need, from amazing food to palm trees. What really surprised me were the exotic features Bolzano has, while being a mountain city.

The first day. So much happened, I was so nervous about meeting all the other kids but the weather gave me some motivation. I mean, I think it did. We went to the school to meet with everyone. We got there 20 minutes earlier... Anyways, the first activity we did was introduce ourselves, I was excited. The kids seemed so sweet and everyone was so friendly! An introduction of the minorities was presented. We then interviewed strangers on the street. It was so much fun and I also made new friends. Interesting facts. I came here briefly knowing about South Tyrol's history but I could learn so much! The autonomy plays a big part in their history. Germans were once a discriminated minority, which eventually became the majority. They are now privileged and also have more opportunities. Something that I found

Für uns in Südtirol ist Minderheitenschutz dermaßen „logisch“, dass wir uns die Frage gar nicht so deutlich stellen.

really interesting was the fact that when you turn 18 you have to choose if you want to be considered an Italian, German or Ladin speaker. This made me think a lot about how mixed kids have to choose between their cultures and native languages. The Italian students here told us that even if they consider themselves Italian they would choose to be considered a German speaker because of the different opportunities. People. I think that I was most excited to meet the kids from the other countries. At first, it was kind of awkward but we got along really well eventually. I befriended the girls from Greece first and they are so sweet and have the same vibe as us. The kids from Amsterdam, Bolzano and Germany were also really nice and I'm really happy I got the chance to meet all of them.

In conclusion, this was an amazing week and I loved every second of it. Thank you, Erasmus for giving me this opportunity!!

Tea, 17, Braşov

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE:

Video The Autonomy of South Tyrol:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVlsRypbTxo&feature=emb_logo

E-learning The Autonomy of South Tyrol:

<https://e-learning.eurac.edu/en/autonomy-south-tyrol/#/>

E-learning The History of South Tyrol:

<https://e-learning.eurac.edu/en/history-of-south-tyrol/#/>



(V)ERKANNT E VI E L F A L T :
M I N D E R H E I T E N I N E U R O P A

HERBST 2022
KLASSISCHES GYMNASIUM „WALTHER VON DER VOGELWEIDE“
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