In the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme
LEONARDO DA VINCI Mobility

28th September – 21st December

2013-1-ES1-LEO02-66427

“Prácticas de Diputación de A Coruña en empresas italianas”
The team of the Associazione Art.Cult. “A Rocca” and Eprojectconsult International department, in cooperation with Diputación de A Coruña took the role of intermediary partner for group of people from A Coruña, Spain in the frame of Lifelong Learning Programme Leonardo da Vinci. During the project named “Prácticas de Diputación de A Coruña en empresas italianas” we hosted 3 selected participants. The internships were in the various fields including administrative management, work with refugees and asylum seekers and clinical laboratory analysis, thereby they gained experience in their field of studies.
Duration, Dates, Participants

The duration of the project was for twelve (12) weeks, from 28th September to 21st December 2014.

Names of participants:

1. Estefania Suarez Alvarez
2. Maria Manuela Caamaño Lado
3. Miriam Pedre Segade
Preparation of the mobility project

In order to make the cooperation between both organizations effective, guarantee the best quality project and to satisfy the participant’s expectations and needs, we have designed the program of the project together. We have exchanged e-mails in order to discuss the aims of the project, to develop the plan of activities and to clarify any doubts.

Arrival of the participants

The group of participants arrived on 28th September at the airport of Catania. The “A Rocca” organization provided the transfer from the airport to participant’s accommodation in Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto town.

On the same day of their arrival they had an informative welcome meeting, designed to give the participants useful information they require during their stay in Sicily. Firstly, they had the introduction to the program in general. The tutor informed the trainees about the organization and described the work activities, obligations and tasks they will be involved in during the project. Next, they were provided with the plan of the city and were acquainted with all the hospitalities of Barcellona P.G. and nearest cities.

The next informative session was dedicated to the cultural aspects of their life in Sicily: the work style in Italy, rules to follow, behaviour and other cultural information was given to the participants. The “Help me” card with useful numbers and phrases in Italian as well as a leaflet with all the useful information they may need (address, rules, tips, etc.) during their stay were distributed.
Accommodation of the participants

Participants were accommodated in one flat in Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto. Barcellona P.G is located on the north coast of Sicily. It belongs to the Province of Messina. The city proper has a population of over 40,000 inhabitants. The strategic location is surrounded by many wonderful cities: Messina 45 km; Palermo 180 km; Catania 180 km; Taormina 80 km; Agrigento 200 km; Aeolian Islands 20 km. Barcellona P.G is a very nice town, located very close to the seaside, very busy during the day and very calm during the night time. Moreover, there are many interesting places to visit, such as natural parks, museums, ancient villages and Greek/Roman historical areas.

The flat for participants were fully equipped (including kitchenware, washing machine, bed covers etc.) and well located in the city centre. The participants were living in the following location: Via Tcp Arcodaci at the 5th floor. They were placed in three (3) individual rooms.
Placement Details

The subjects of the placement for participants were administration management, social work and biology. The interns had the opportunity to learn skills needed for a future professional career in this field.

Administrative management

- **Miriam Padre Segade**: F.N.A. Consal Messina (address: Via Roma 266, 98051 Barcellona Pozzo Di Gotto, Italy), working hours per day: 8, from Monday to Friday.

**F.N.A. Consal Messina** as part of EPAS is a body institution that provides social assistance to the local people of in Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto. They provide services that informs workers, pensioners and young people both on new legislation affecting them in terms of the protection and social interests, because often the rights provided are in fact denied because of bureaucratic problems and complications of still existing laws. The EPAS offers social security services, social and fiscal through its regional offices.

Activities/Tasks performed:

- Support of all the day-to-day operations of the related business.
- General clerical tasks including correspondence, filing, scheduling, data entry and phone coverage.
- Simultaneous management of multiple schedules.
- Report to supervisors.

Skills and professional competences acquired:
• Ability to work individually and in team.
• Ability to work abroad/with foreign colleagues.
• Establishing and Maintaining Interpersonal Relationships: learning on developing constructive and cooperative working relationships with others.
• Development of specialized Italian language skills.
• Critical Thinking: Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

Work with refugees and asylum seekers

• Estefania Suarez Alvarez: Associazione “I girasoli” onlus (address: Piazza Stazione 25, via Immacolata 78, 98051 Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto (ME), Italy, working hours per day: 8, from Monday to Friday.)

Associazione “I Girasoli” onlus run in Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto, in the frame of the project "SPRAR- Barcellona P.G.” (System of protection for refugees and asylum seekers). The services provided by SPRAR include: health care, social welfare, cultural and linguistic mediation, guidance and legal information, educational placement for the children, multicultural activities, job placement services, training services, and accommodation.

Activities/Tasks performed:

- Mentoring refugee families and individuals.
- Supporting and giving advice to help people settle in to a new environment.
- Assistance to the administration of the project.
- Get acquainted with the immigrant problems.
- Raise intercultural understanding.
- Cooperation with the refugees
- Participation in thematically related events

**Skills and professional competences acquired:**

- Simultaneous management of multiple schedules.
- Ability to work individually and in team;
- Improved communication skills in foreign languages.
- Critical Thinking: Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
- Observing, receiving, and otherwise obtaining information from all relevant sources in the field related.
- Development of specialized Italian language skills.
- Understanding the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making.
- Developing social perspectives and being aware of reactions of other co-workers and supervisors.
- Paying full attention to what other people are saying and taking the time to understand the points being made.

**Clinical laboratory analysis**

- **Maria Manuela Caamaño Lado**: Laboratorio Analisi Cliniche Filippo Genovese (address: Via Roma 77, 98051 BarcellonaPozzo Di Gotto, (ME), Italy) working hours per day: 8, from Monday to Friday.)
Laboratorio Analisi Cliniche Filippo Genovese operates since 1978 in the field of Laboratory Diagnostics. The facility is accredited with S.S.R. and provides services in the areas of: Hematology, Clinical Chemistry and Toxicology, Bacteriology, Microbiology, Radio-immunology.

Skills and professional competences acquired:

- Simultaneous management of multiple schedules.
- Ability to work individually and in team;
- Improved communication skills in Italian languages.
- Critical Thinking: Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.

**CULTURAL PROGRAM**

Taormina + Savoca Date: 23/11/2014

As soon as you arrive in Taormina, you feel the magical, mythical atmosphere which has enchanted visitors from all over the world for years. Settled on a hill of the Monte Tauro, Taormina dominates two grand, sweeping bays below and on the southern side, the top of Mount Etna, the European highest active volcano, often capped with snow, offering to the visitors a breathtaking, dramatic and memorable view over. Taormina is a medieval village perched alongside the steep terrain jutting out of the ocean. While it has kept its medieval character, it is now a shopper's paradise. Near the top of Taormina Village is a wonderfully preserved Greek Theatre. This pretty much sums up Taormina's charm. Here is something for everyone; great shopping, wonderful restaurants, Roman ruins, medieval pedestrian streets and even stairs to a great beach. Savoca is situated in the hills just above the sea near Taormina. The village is famous of having scenes of the...
famous movie ‘The Godfather’ filmed there. It is a medieval village which is one of those which can describe the Sicilian lifestyle the best.

**Etna + Catania Date: 16/11/2014**

Mount Etna (Sicilian: Mungibeddu or ‘a Muntagna) is Europe’s tallest active volcano (current height: 3329) and belongs to the most active ones in the world. It is a composite volcano which makes it even more explosive than the others. Its eruptions have already caused major devastation throughout history. As there are many inhabited places around it, such as Catania, the second largest city in Sicily, Mount Etna is under surveillance 24/7. Turning to Catania, this city founded in the 8th century BC is not only known for its violent volcanic eruptions but also for its seismic history which has already led twice to its partial destruction over history. Being one of Italy's most important and flourishing cultural, artistic, and political centers during the Renaissance, Catania is nowadays one of the main economic, touristic, and educational centers in the island.

**Evaluation of the project**

The evaluation of the project is excellent. Employees of the “A Rocca” Association and persons involved in this project hope it was a rich and useful experience for all the participants. The monitoring team did its best in order to satisfy the expectations of each participant and to ensure the communication with the sending organization at each stage of the project. In order to reach this, there were two days of evaluation - one after the first week and the other at the final days.

Participants had chance to see the way of working in Sicily. Certainly, they had an opportunity to get to know a lot of useful information about the functioning of Sicilian enterprises, which are related to administrative management, social work and biology. Those participants who had a previous experience in their fields could also compare all the similarities and differences of these related enterprises in Sicily and Spain. All participants gained worthy experience in working
in team, cooperation with colleagues and individual work according to the individual skills of the each candidate.

At the end of the project, participants received “A Rocca placement certificate” and EUROPASS.

Most importantly the participants gained professionally experience in their sector, so that they will be more competitive in the labour market in Spain.

**Conclusion**

Our monitoring team did its best in order to satisfy the expectations of each participant. We were always ready to offer help, advices and solve any doubts with our guaranteed 24-hour availability in any case they needed some assistance. Consequently, the participants seemed to be satisfied with this project. According to their opinion, it was an interesting and useful experience. We hope they found inspiration and got new ideas about how to deal with their future career in their country. We are satisfied because due to their participation in the programme, the participants have enriched their professional experiences. Moreover, participants had opportunity to explore new horizons by fully integrating in Sicilian culture and meeting many new friends from Italy and from the other parts of world. In addition, all the group of participants have become good friends and can still meeting each other and exchange their experiences after the project.

Our team is very satisfied with the participant’s involvement in the project and personal interest of each person involved. We hope we can continue our cooperation with Diputación de A Coruña.

29th January 2015, Barcellona Pozzo di Gotto

Antonino Pietrini

Director