IIS BERTACCHI - ERASMUS+ PROJECT

NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL EDITION: IRELAND

THE LONG-TERM INDIVIDUAL MOBILITY IN IRELAND: A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE!



This special issue of our newsletter is entirely dedicated to the **"Emerald Isle": Ireland!** We want to shine a light on one of the most transformative opportunities our program offers: the **Long-Term Mobility**. While short trips are exciting, spending an extended period abroad allows students to truly **immerse** themselves in a new culture, master the language, and build a "**home away from home**".

We are particularly proud to feature the experience of four girls, **Alessandra, Alexandra, Laura and Rosaria**, who recently came back from a **life-changing four-month mobility** in Ireland. They lived with host families in **Thurles**, attended local schools, and navigated the beautiful Irish landscapes.

Enjoy their story and get ready to be inspired!

OUR PERSONAL IRISH EXPERIENCE

Our experience began on the 6th of September and ended on the 13th of December: **almost four intense months filled with new adventures and emotions**!

Each of us lived this mobility experience in our own unique way, but what unites us all is that **this journey left a mark on us and changed our lives forever**.

Ireland has been a fantastic, exciting and deep journey, not only through this gorgeous country, but also **within ourselves**. We attended school, lived with host families, explored a lot of towns, and made the most of every single day. We learned so much about Ireland, but above all, **we learned about ourselves and about life**.

It wasn't always easy, especially at the beginning, but as time passed, we gradually adapted to a new lifestyle, opened ourselves to new friendships, and learned to appreciate even the smallest everyday moments. And in the end, **we didn't even want to come back!**

This journey gave us memories we will carry forever: the laughter shared at school, the warmth of our host families, the breathtaking landscapes, the rain that caught us by surprise, the pride of overcoming challenges and discovering how much we can grow when we step out of our **comfort zone**.





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EXPLORING IRELAND TOGETHER: FROM DUBLIN TO THE COAST

During our Erasmus experience in Ireland, we had the opportunity to visit several cities. One of the most impressive was **Dublin**, where you can clearly see history and modern life coexist. While challenging at first, mastering the city's transport boosted our confidence and responsibility.

We also explored **Cork** where we visited the Cathedral, an impressive building that showed us the religious and historical importance of the city. Another unforgettable stop was **Cobh**, a small and peaceful seaside town known for its colorful houses and its connection to the Titanic; this was the last town where the Titanic stopped before sinking. Visiting the Memorial was a very emotional moment and helped us reflect on an important part of **Irish history**. Many of these experiences were even more special because we were often accompanied by our Spanish host sisters. Exploring new cities together, helping each other and sharing moments of discovery created a **strong bond between us**. These beautiful experiences not only enhanced us culturally, but also strengthened our bonds, making our Erasmus mobility a **truly meaningful and unforgettable lifelong memory**.

FUN FACTS AND CURIOSITIES

Hurling: As Ireland's national sport, hurling is one of the world's oldest and most popular outdoor team sports. Played with a wooden *hurley* and a small *sliotar*, it has great support from local communities.

Unpredictable Weather: You can experience four seasons in one day! The weather changes so fast that if you don't like it, just wait five minutes. However, the wind is your true enemy; umbrellas are merely decorative here.

Irish Breakfast: This rich, satisfying meal usually includes eggs, bacon, sausages, and black and white pudding. Paired with a strong cup of tea, it's the best way to feel like a true local.

Transition Year (TY): Irish schools offer a "TY" year focused on life skills and workshops rather than exams. It provides students the freedom to explore, create, and learn without any stress.

The Harp: Ireland is the only country with a musical instrument as its national emblem. Appearing on coins, passports, and even the Guinness logo, the harp represents Irish history, culture, and resistance.

Gaelic (Irish): Taught in schools and visible on every street sign, the Irish language is everywhere. You might not understand it all, but saying '*slán*' or '*thanks a million*' will make you sound like a local in no time!





Don't miss a single update, photo, or success story! Follow our journey and share your excitement with us online.
INSTAGRAM: mobility_bertacchi