



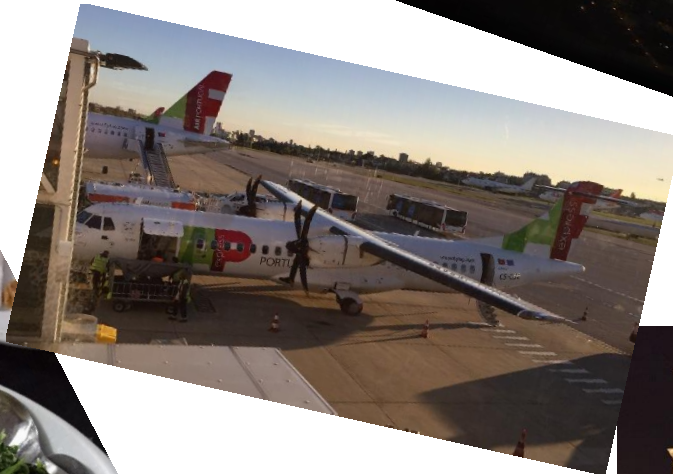
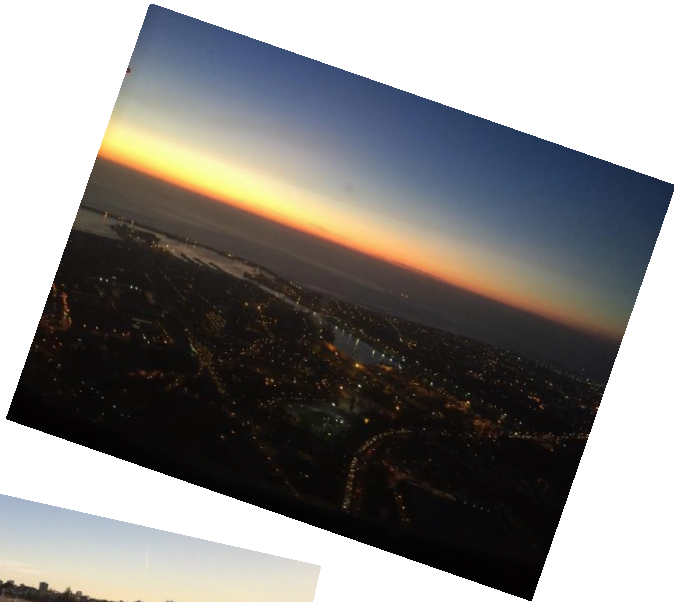
## *Journal Portugal Meeting - Dutch Team AMS Franeker*

### Day 1 - Tuesday 13 November 2018 - Travel Day

At 9 o'clock in the morning we (Janice, Betul & Claudia) met at the train station in Leeuwarden where we got the train to Schiphol. Time flew by quickly as we talked about home, school and the upcoming meeting in Portugal. Our first leg of our trip was a 3 hour flight to Lisbon and during this flight we talked about this and our other Erasmus+ project, world citizenship and about how we implement this at our school. We also went through the writing assignment our students prepared for the Portugal meeting, discussed them and picked our favourites. This was important for us as the winners are the students who will be going to Malaga.

At the airport in Lisbon, we had just enough time for a lemonade or juice before embarking the twin propeller plane to Porto. We were tired so we sat back and enjoyed the magnificent view of the sunset. At Porto airport our taxi driver was waiting for us and drove us directly to our hotel in Braga where we were greeted by our host Antonio. The other 5 countries had arrived just before us and we decided we would join them for dinner. After freshening up, we met all the delegates from Poland, Germany, Turkey, Spain, Italy and our hosts Antonio and Maria in the hotel lobby. One of the Turkish delegates wasn't feeling well so they decided to stay at the hotel. Antonio took the rest of us to a restaurant and after a discussion with the cook and with us, ordered appetizers; 'Alheira de Caça' (a traditional game sausage) and 'Pataniscas Bacalhauand' (a fried breaded cod and egg dish much like our 'kibbeling' but with more ingredients and less fishy) and 2 main dishes common to (this area of) Portugal; 'Polvo a Lagareiro' (octopus tentacles, onions and potatoes) and 'Cabrito no Forno' (baby goat cooked in the oven with potatoes and oranges). I'm not sure we could hide the way we felt about the thought of eating octopus, but as the saying goes, 'when in Rome, do as the Romans'. Dinner was finished off with a small piece of 'Pudim Abade Priscos' which was a very sweet caramel and port pudding.

It was great way to meet everyone in a casual setting while enjoying the taste of Portugal.



## Day 2 - Wednesday 14 November - BRAGA

Today was a cultural day in and around Braga. Antonio met us at the hotel and we walked to the City Hall where we were welcomed to Braga by the Mayor. Because the main reception hall is being restored, the meeting took place on top of the stairs in the central hall. This hall is decorated with gorgeous blue and white tiles and an amazing wooden ceiling. Following the warm welcome, a group picture was taken on the stairs.

Next Antonio took us on a walking tour of the old city centre, starting at the 'Arco da Porta Nova' (The Arch of the New Gate). This is one of the four gates which gave access to the city and is the last built, thus the 'New Gate'. What makes this gate special is that it was the opening to the world beyond the city walls. This is a nice link to our Erasmus project.

Our next stop was the 'Sé de Braga' which is the oldest cathedral in the country. It is actually older than Portugal itself.

The tour of the historical city centre continued with Antonio stopping us along the way, gathering us all together here and there to tell us the history of certain buildings.

After the wonderful lunch Antonio had arranged for us, which we were able to enjoy on the terrace because of the warm sunny weather, we were picked up by a private bus and driven to the 'Bom Jesus'.

Luckily, we didn't have to climb the almost 600 step stairway to the top because there is an old water powered elevator that takes you up for €1,20. The downside to this is that we missed the view of the beautiful baroque stairway.

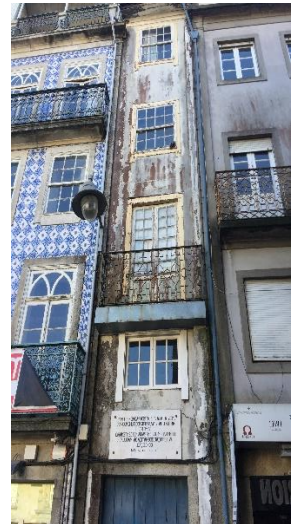
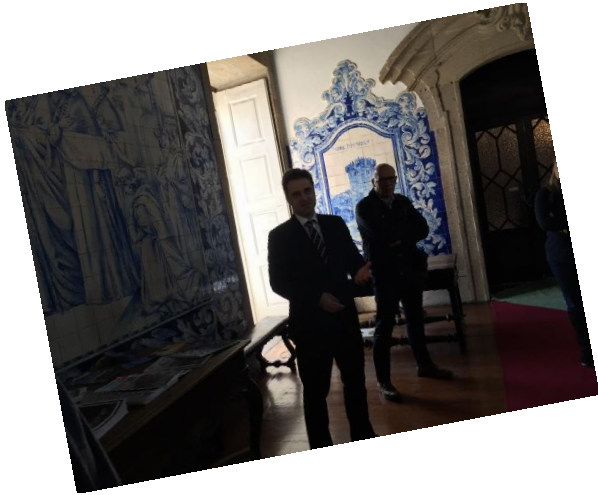
The Bom Jesus is beautiful and the area around it offers magnificent views of Braga and the surrounding area. We strolled the grounds and park before getting back onto the bus.

For the football fans in the group, we drove to the Braga football stadium which is different from any stadium we had ever seen.

From there we were dropped off at the hotel and had an hour and a half of free time to do some souvenir shopping before going to dinner.

Dinner was a variety of Portuguese dishes including 'Bacalhau à Braga' (Cod Braga Style) and 'Arroz de Pato a Mode de Braga' (Braga style Duck Rice). Antonio had arranged for us to experience another side of Portuguese culture and after the main course we were treated to a Fado singer. After dessert, at 11 pm, we decided to call it a night and returned to the hotel.





### Day 3 - Thursday 15 November- mobility meeting

This morning we had an early start. We were in the breakfast room at 7am because Antonio was going to be at the hotel at 8 o'clock to walk us to the train station to catch the 8:34 train to school.

After seeing the school grounds, which included the sports field, tennis court, ecologic pond as well as a small part sectioned off as garden used for biology classes, we were welcomed to school by the headmaster. A student sang 'Heal the World' and another 6<sup>th</sup> grade student (11 years old) played a few traditional Portuguese songs on a accordion. The theme 'war and immigration' was present during a very special performance by one of the art teachers. We watched a slide presentation of pictures he took during his trip to Syria in 2010 combined with pictures of the same sites in ruins due to the war there. He played an Indian string instrument while the slide presentation was being shown behind him.

During the coffee break we enjoyed home-made sweets made by the school's teachers before starting the meeting. The project progress was discussed before lunch.

The lunch we were offered was the same warm meal the pupils ate and today chili and rice was on the menu. We were flabbergasted when we saw the strict lunch regime the pupils followed. They queued for their lunch, walked in file around the canteen and filled the seats boy, girl, boy, girl without any comments, ate their lunch and when they finished they brought their trays away and went out to spend the rest of the lunch break outside. An older student seemed to be in charge of keeping the order and making sure no seat was left empty and that same sex children did not sit next to each other. Later, we told the Portuguese teachers that we were amazed and impressed at how the pupils behaved during lunch. They told us that they had implemented this because otherwise lunch was chaos. Children were sat boy next to girl to discourage talking during lunch so that they would eat quickly and then go outdoors.

After lunch, the meeting continued and the assignment for Spain was discussed. During the meeting in Franeker, homework for Portugal had been given and now we discovered that more structure was needed to prepare for the Spanish mobility. The delegations came to a mutual agreement as to how to proceed. Spain presented the invitation for the Spanish mobility and the meeting was finished after all countries had a chance to ask any questions they had.

The school visit ended with a tour of the school. We were touched by the special needs children, the pride their teacher has for them and the joy she obviously has in her work.

Upon returning to Braga city centre, we were happy to have a few hours free time to do some much needed (souvenir) shopping and were lucky to have a personal guide, António, who showed us the nicest shopping streets and best place to enjoy a cup of coffee before heading back to the hotel. He even came up with a plan for us to be able to see the inside of an upscale hotel so he could share more of the buildings history with us.

Dinner this evening was outside of the city centre and António, Maria and two other teachers drove us to the restaurant where we enjoyed a veal, potato and rice dinner. António surprised all the female delegates with a bunch of flowers which had been picked by one of the school's teachers that morning.

#### Day 4 - Friday 16 November - Porto

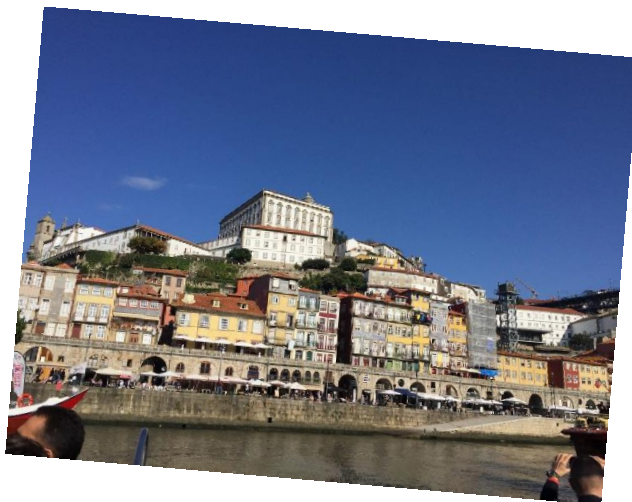
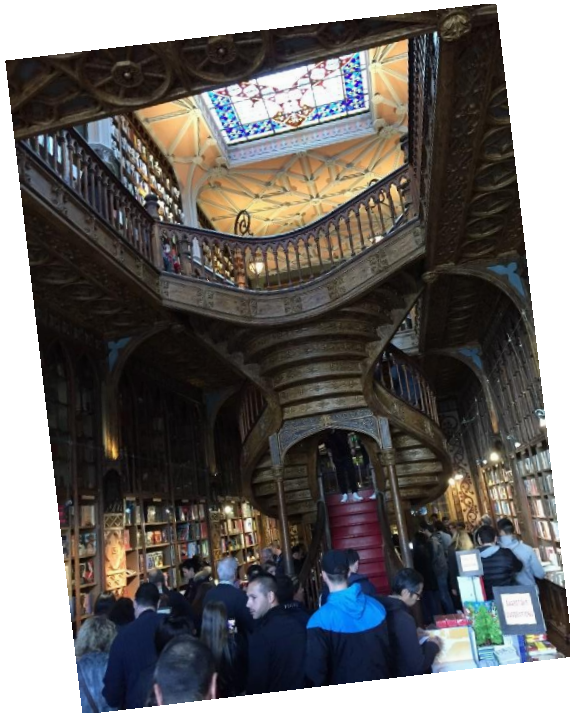
Today was another day of Portuguese culture. In the morning, we took the train to Porto. Within an hour we arrived at the beautiful Sao Bento station in Porto. Almost 20,000 azulejo tiles from the early 1900's depict different historical scenes in the entrance of this railway station. From here we walked down to the area known as Ribeira for the '6 bridges cruise' on the Douro river. After the cruise, there was some time to discover the area and have some lunch before crossing the bridge to the other side of the river.

The other side of the river is another city 'Gaia' and this is where all the port houses and cellars are. Naturally, a visit to one of these cellars was on the agenda and it was very interesting to learn that the cellars are on that side of the river because of the sun.

Before our tour of the cellar, we had time to take the cable car 'Teleférico de Gaia' which offers magnificent views of the river, Porto and of the Gaia waterfront. We were also lucky that local artists were exhibiting and selling their products.

Sadly, we had to leave Porto and head back to Braga where we had less than half an hour before another wonderful dinner António had planned for us. António wouldn't be António if he didn't have a final surprise for us. He had arranged for a few of his colleagues to take us to a special beer brewery outside of Braga. At the front of this brewery there is a café where we enjoyed a drink before saying our goodbyes and heading back to the hotel. It was past midnight before we were in the hotel. We packed our bags and called it a night.





### Day 5 - 17 November - travel day

As we all know, all good things come to an end and so it was time to head north. Our taxi picked us up at the hotel at 9 am, but Antonio was at the hotel well before to say farewell. We thanked him for all his hard work with a bottle of port we had purchased for him at the port cellar we visited yesterday. If there was a prize for best host, we would most definitely nominate him.

After a long day, we were greeted at Schiphol by Claudia's husband who drove us back to Franeker.

The end of a fantastic week! We not only learned a lot about Portuguese traditions, culture, cuisine and our partner school, but spending so much time together, we also learned a lot about each other and our own different cultures.