



Team Members:

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Introduction

We first became familiar with the words Third Culture Kids (TCK) while watching the movie “The Road Home” by Rahul Gandotra at school. For many years we were confused about the struggles we had while moving from country to country because of our parents’ jobs and we wanted to know more about our identity as TCKs. TCKs are often discriminated because of their unique background and we were wondering how many of our schoolmates suffered from discrimination like the main character of the movie. Because we experience discrimination, we also wanted to help other people who suffer because they live in a different cultural environment. In Brindisi there is a community of migrants that is often discriminated because of their skin colour. We decided to put together the challenges of our international identities and the migrants’ stories to make them feel more included in the community and to spread awareness against discrimination.

Plan and Outcomes

Something we really believe in is the power of stories to raise awareness. For this reason, we created a website (<https://www.tckdiscrimination.com/>) which would serve as the backbone of our project. There we posted some videos sharing our stories and experience of discrimination as TCKs, but we didn’t stop here. We also included the stories of the students in our school who wanted to share their experience as a TCK and the stories of the migrants of our community. On the website, we added the pictures of our meetings with the migrant community. Now that the material was ready, we wanted to share it with as many people as possible, this is why we decided to use social media. We created:

- An Instagram account (<https://www.instagram.com/tck.discrimination/>)
- A YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAejb4sM_1Vj5a49u8-SGSQ)
- Submission page on the website to receive new stories

Another part of the plan was contacting a humanitarian named Ruth Van Reken who is an expert on TCKs. Since she lives in the United States, we Skyped her and during our long conversation we discovered a lot about how others lived and coped with being a TCK. We recorded the whole conversation and turned it into a form of a report to share it with other people.



One of the main road to integration is language. For this reason we decided to support the Italian school for the migrants of the Migrantes Association by giving them school supplies collected in our school and by selling on Amazon a collection of children's stories based on the dreams of our migrant friends.

We loved spending time with them playing games in Italian, soccer and talking about the challenges of living in a foreign country.

What we learned

Throughout our project, we learnt multiple new skills. One of them was to create a social media network. For the first time in our life, we designed a website, schedule meetings with international experts, like Mrs Ruth Van Reken and became managers on different social media platforms (YouTube, Instagram, and Gmail), managing the money we gathered to support our activities. We certainly had fun improving our communication skills, getting in touch with people from around the world online and sharing our stories to fight discrimination. This project taught us more about our identity as Third Culture Kids and to think in a multicultural perspective. It was a challenge for us to get in touch with this association because we are international students and we are learning the culture and language ourselves.



Highlights

One of the many highlights of our project was our friendship with the migrants, that grew stronger every time we met. We realized we have so much in common: Henry wants to be a football player and play for Manchester United (how fun it was to challenge him during our football match!), Raphael wants to become a cook, Mike a singer (he sang for us and we also danced together on the beats of Afro music). We share the challenges of living our dreams in a country with a different culture from ours. Getting to talk with Ruth Van Reken taught us more about Third Culture Kids and the importance of being one, and it reinforced our dedication to spread the challenges of TCKs, especially among the students of our school. But perhaps the most memorable highlight for us was when we showed the migrants all the work that we had been doing with the website, the stories, and the support to their school. It was beautiful to see them happy and proud of what we had accomplished working together.

Thanks

We would like to thank the Migrantes Association for working with us and our school for the free avenue for our meetings. Many thanks also to QSI Brindisi Student Council for helping fund our project.



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