



projekt **KEMPELEN** Rozvíja kultúrne povedomie na stredných školách

My name is **Veronica Giuffrida**, I am a 24 years old student from the South of Italy, Sicily. I'm studying Linguistic Mediation and Languages at the University of Catania (bachelor), focusing on English and Japanese languages. I've studied French for 5 years in high school and some basic rules of German. One of my biggest interest is travelling and knowing lots of different cultures from all over the world, that is the reason why I've always loved foreign languages. I think that everyone in the world is different but similar at the same time, and all of us can always learn something more about ourself (and about others, of course) by meeting different people, different traditions, thoughts and behaviours. I'm firmly convinced that the only way to understand and really know foreign people and cultures, is not studying them, but experiencing their real life for long time, trying to feel and behave like one of them.

I'm particularly interested in Oriental cultures and their philosophy about life, especially Japanese culture and traditions, Buddhism, Shintoism and other common aspects such as Manga, literature, writing, food and so on..

I love very much music, especially rock and metal, but I like also classic music, country, ska, reggae.. I like singing and I've studied opera for one year. I also like going out and spend a lot of time with my friends, going to concerts, reading, surfing the web, watching movies and playing some relaxing video games.

I've already been in Bratislava for 6 months (from last February till August), being involved in Erasmus project, and it was definitely the best experience in my life! I know some bases of Slovak language (but really few things) and I felt in love with Bratislava. According to me it is completely different and better than my country, as for habits, culture, organisation (school, university, transports), costs of life, respect, civilisation, architecture.. Slovak people were really nice and kind with me all the time and I'm really looking forward to going there back again.

I think this project can be perfect for me because I really like dealing with different cultures, exchanging opinions, thoughts, behaviours, with foreign people and students. One of my goal in life is teaching Italian language and Italian culture to foreigners, so this is a good opportunity to improve and test my capability to teach and talk about culture. During my Erasmus time I had the possibility to attend some Italian language classes in Comenius University, assisting the professor during his lessons; it was a really interesting and constructive experience, and it allowed me to know better students and some of their difficulties.

I expect a lot from this experience, even if it the first time I do such a kind of project, and I'm sure I will learn a lot about dealing with young guys and working in a team with girls of all over the world. I would like also to learn something about Slovak culture and my project mates cultures. Besides this project will be really useful to learn and improve my skills in English and Slovak language. That is why I feel very motivated and I can't wait to begin.

Veronica Giuffrida