Italian and Hungarian Erasmus+

Giulia and Monika

Giulia’s experience in Hungary

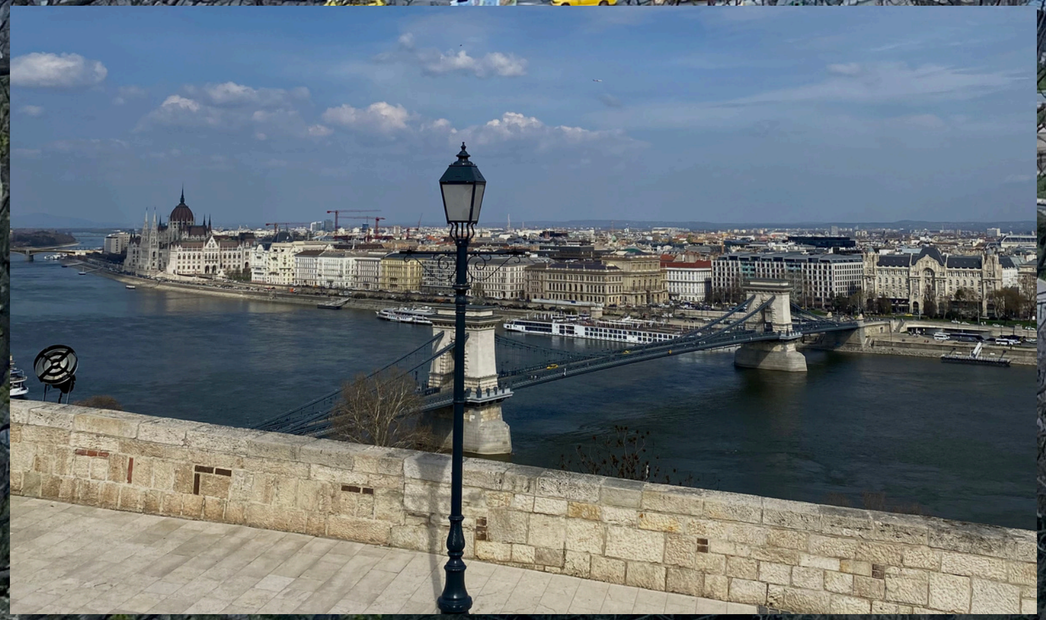
When I found out I had the chance to take part in an Erasmus program, even if just for seven days, I didn’t know what to expect. A week might seem too short for an experience abroad, but today I can say that in those few days I lived intense moments that left me with more than I ever imagined.
offering academic abilities, we started this jouney not only with the aim of bringing back to Calabria a piece of the Hungarian daily life but also the promise that this would be just the first of many adventures.

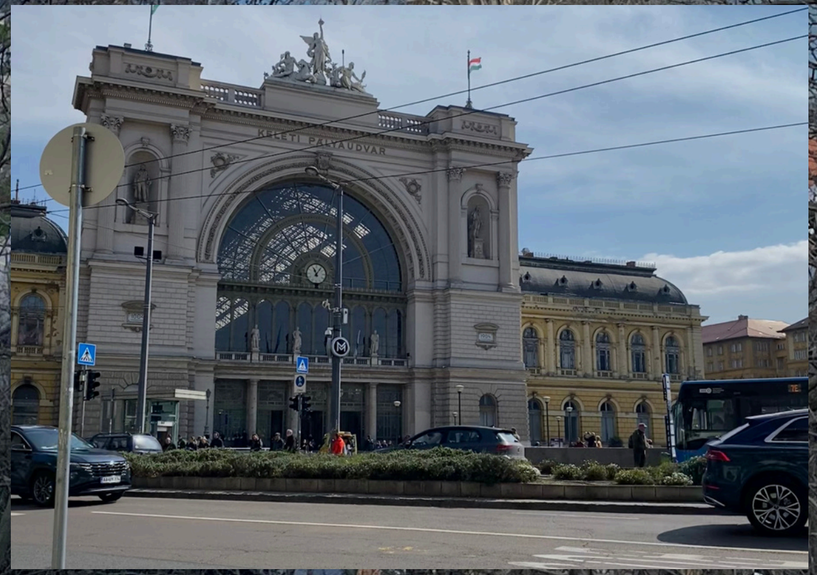
The arrival in Hungary..

Arriving in Hungary was like entering a parallel world, with a different language, atmosphere, and customs. At first, I felt a bit disoriented, but soon I allowed myself to be fully immersed in the experience. I met other students with stories and dreams different from mine, and despite the limited time, a strong sense of belonging quickly formed. I participated in meetings and cultural activities organized by the school, discovering how enriching it is to take risks and step outside of one's comfort zone. This experience taught me a lot about Hungarian culture, but also about myself.

Budapest

If I had to describe Budapest in one word, I would say: surprising. It wasn't the first European capital I visited, but few have left me with the same feeling: that of a city that is elegant and majestic, yet also young and lively, with a soul that gradually wraps around you.



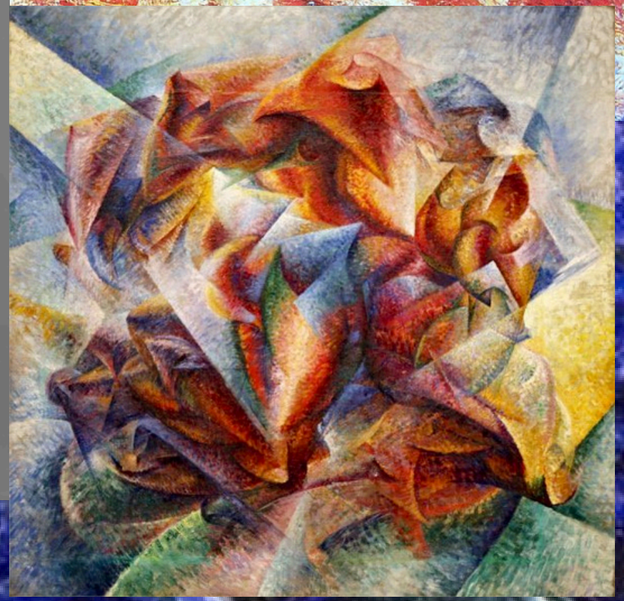


In the end, when I returned home, I felt a small emptiness. Those seven days had given me much more than I had imagined. They reminded me that sometimes just a few days are enough to broaden your horizons, change your perspective, and fill up on inspiration and a desire to explore the world.

Some pictures of us..

Umberto Boccioni

As an artsit from Calabria, I chose Umberto Boccioni.
Umberto Boccioni, born in 1882 in Reggio Calabria, was one of the leading figures of Italian Futurism. After starting with Divisionism, he joined the Futurist movement in 1910, signing the Technical Manifesto of Futurist Painters. His works, such as The City Rises and Unique Forms of Continuity in Space, explore dynamism and movement, aiming to capture the vitality of objects in transformation. Influenced by Cézanne and Picasso, Boccioni used lines of force to express the energy that animates matter. A fervent interventionist, he died in 1916 during World War I.



In Italy...

Our Erasmus project continued in Italy, specifically in Calabria, a region rich in history, culture, and fascinating traditions. During our stay, we had the opportunity to discover some of the most characteristic and significant places in the area.

Musaba

Next, we visited MUSABA (Museum of Santa Barbara), a contemporary art center and cultural park founded by artists Nik Spatari and Hiske Maas. Inside this creative space, we took part in a highly engaging art workshop, during which we had the opportunity to recreate a mosaic, experimenting with techniques and materials under the guidance of experts. It was a stimulating experience that allowed us to express our creativity while also working as a team.

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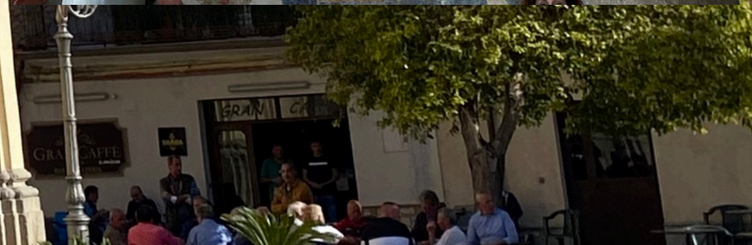
Stilo

One of the first stops was Stilo, a charming medieval village located at the foot of Mount Consolino. There, we visited the Cattolica, a wonderful example of Byzantine architecture dating back to the 10th century. This small religious building, set in a breathtaking landscape, impressed us with its simple beauty and deep historical and spiritual significance.



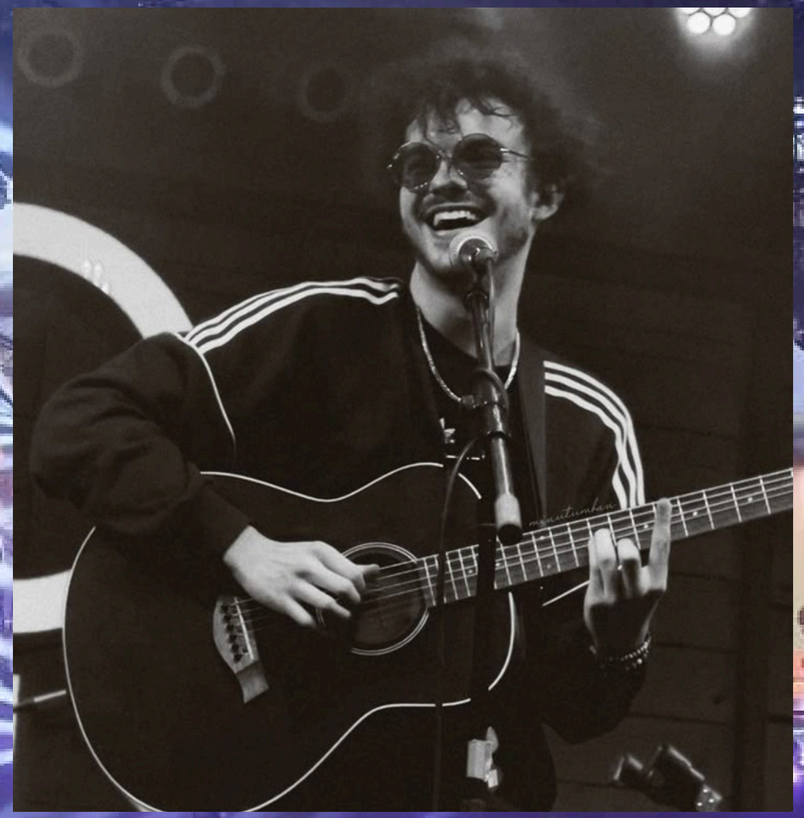
Squillace

The final stop on our itinerary was Squillace, a town famous for its ancient tradition of ceramics. There, we took part in a craft workshop where we tried our hand at working with terracotta. We shaped and decorated plates, following traditional techniques passed down through generations. It was very interesting to discover the importance of this form of art for the cultural identity of the area.

Who is Azahriah and his musical style?

Azahriah, whose real name is Attila Baukó, is a young Hungarian artist born in 2002 in Budapest. He began as a YouTuber but soon established himself as a singer and songwriter. Self-taught, he learned to play the guitar inspired by metal bands like Slipknot and Metallica, and later delved into music production.

In 2019, he adopted the name "Azahriah" and released his first album. Since then, he has released one album per year and collaborated with other emerging artists. His most famous album is Memento, released in spring 2023. His musical style is very diverse: he blends pop, alternative pop, hip hop, and Hungarian folk genres like mulatós, creating an original and cross-generational sound.



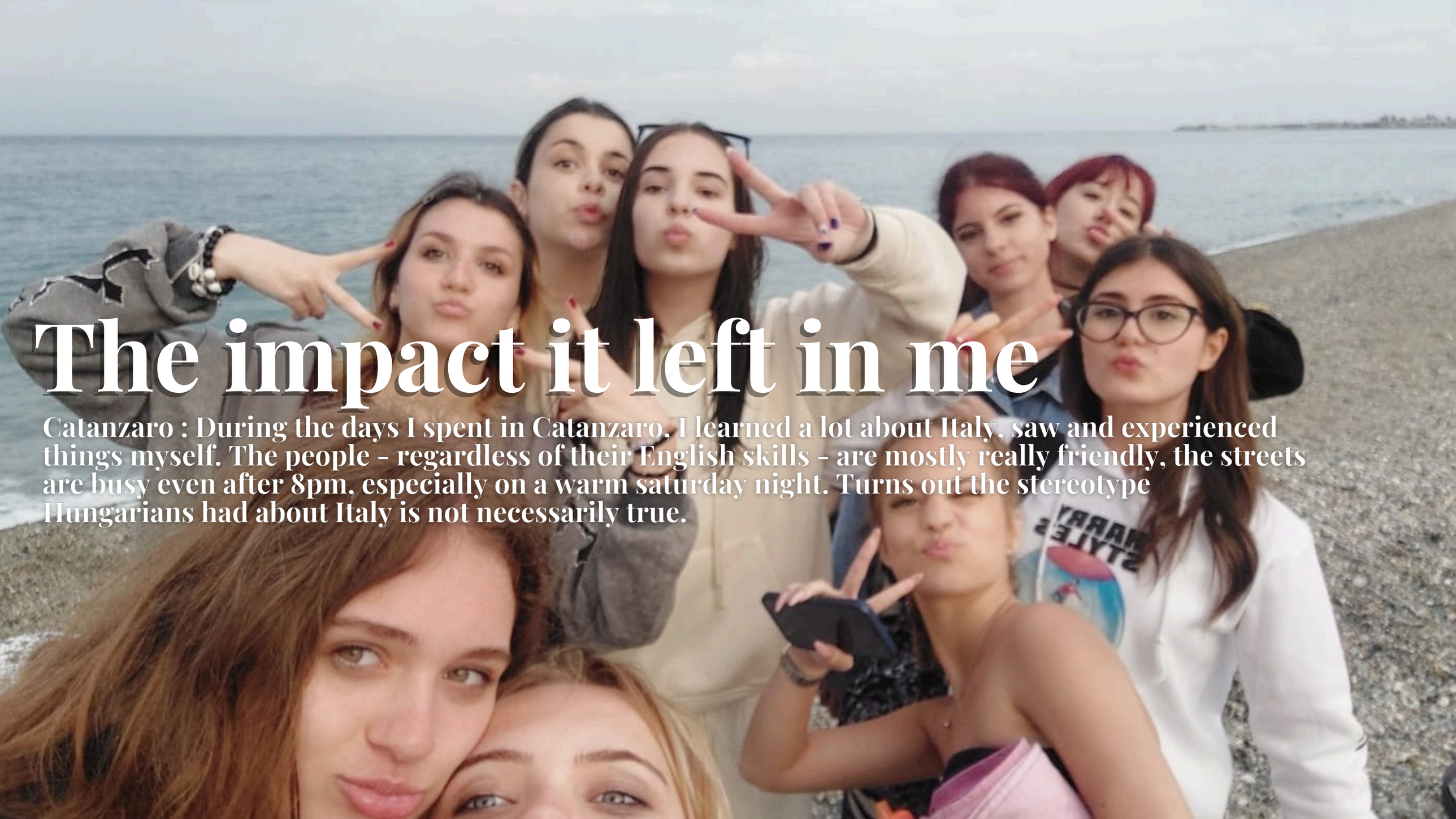
Cultural impact and career

Azahriah is more than just a singer—he has become a voice for Hungary's youth, addressing social and political topics in his songs, some of which criticize government propaganda. Despite initial skepticism from state media, his popularity grew to the point where even Prime Minister Viktor Orbán acknowledged him.

In 2024, he made history by performing three consecutive sold-out concerts at Budapest's Puskás Aréna, each with around 60,000 attendees—a record for a Hungarian artist. His performances at major festivals like Sziget further solidified his place at the forefront of Hungary's music scene.

Monika’s experience

* I have been waiting for this week ever since I decided to take part in this program. Although I had my own doubts, I was really excited to see both my Italian friends and Italy itself.
* I'm really happy that both my English and Italian have improved, I've got to experience local specialties, and have met many new people. Before this program, I've never really experienced something like this, so I didn't really know what to expect. Moving out of my comfort zone was quite difficult, but I handled the change much better than I expected. This program was an amazing opportunity for me to gain confidence and, collect memories and experiences, exchange views and cultures with foreign people, and to learn.



The impact it left in me

Catanzaro : During the days I spent in Catanzaro, I learned a lot about Italy, saw and experienced things myself. The people - regardless of their English skills - are mostly really friendly, the streets are busy even after 8pm, especially on a warm saturday night. Turns out the stereotype Hungarians had about Italy is not necessarily true.

About Italian art

On saturday, we normally went to school, just like on any other weekday. But a famous Calabrian artist, Massimo Sirelli has visited us, talked and taught us about his art and his life as an artist, through videos and pictures. Later, I've even got to see some of them myself. In Hungary, street artists are much less esteemed than in Italy, so it was a new experience for me.

Stilo

On monday, we set off to Stilo by bus. The trip was quite long, but at least we could see the mesmerizing coastline and countryside, and travelled through hills and mountains. In Stilo, we went to see a church from the Metropolitan times.

Musaba

The building itself wasn't really huge, but it was filled with really colorful little tiles, walls, glasses, windows, doors, pavements, everything was so colorful and had its unique patterns. It was truly beautiful, especially because I would not really have a chance to see something like this at home.

Squillace

On tuesday, we went to Squillace by bus. The trip nearly wasn't as long as before, and the weather was also pretty good. The city had really narrow streets, which the cars were also using just like us, so we had to look out for them. But the city itself was beautiful, having its own vibe. The workshop was also really fun to do with my partner. We both like art and things related to art, so I suppose we both had fun creating something together.

I'm so happy I decided to take part in this program, I really enjoyed the time I spent in Italy, and I wish I could come again. I will really miss my partner, the host family, and the Italian group, these memories and experiences have really grown close to my heart and I will always remember them.