

## Culture Bridge ...



## ... Means Understanding Others And Reflecting Our Own Situation

### (1) Lifestyle - school - leisure time

On Monday, March 9th 2009, we visited at the Italian School I.S.I.S.S. – P. Gobetti – A.Gasperri. We had a glance at Italian school life and we worked together with our Italian and Turkish partners. So besides our group of twelve German students, there were also seven Turkish and about 40 Italian students present and we wanted to learn from each other about the others' cultures. The whole group was divided into six smaller ones consisting of at least one Turkish pupil, two Germans and several Italians. We found out differences and similarities of our lifestyles, our schoolday, our freetime, our families and how much time we spend together with our friends.

After about an hour of lively conversation with each other, we pointed out that Italian and German schools require more or less the same efforts from young people, whereas Turkish pupils spend much more time at school and after a long schoolday they seem to have to do much more homework than Germans or Italians. In Turkey school starts at 7.30 a.m., in Germany at 8.00 a.m. and in Italy at 8.30 a.m. All pupils stay at school until early afternoon. So, obviously, the Turkish young people have less leisure time for themselves.

We also noticed some differences in how we spend our free time. Italians and Germans usually see their friends most of the time. We were astonished to hear that Italians never meet their friends at home, but almost only in discos, at clubs or restaurants. Turkish young people spend a lot of time with their relatives. On a weekend they go out to see their grandparents, their aunts, uncles and cousins. When meeting our friends, we talk about the same topics in all three countries: music, sports, boys and girls.

Another topic worth mentioning is pocket-money. Italian parents seem to be more generous than German or Turkish ones, since they give 50 Euros per month. German youths get an average of 40 Euros. Turkish youths are only allowed the equivalent of ten Euros (the Turkish currency is called Lira), but then we learnt that the purchasing power of this amount of money in Turkey is much higher than in Italy or Germany, so that Turkish girls and boys do not really get less pocket-money than we do.

We think we are better informed now about Italian and Turkish lifestyles. We enjoyed talking about these topics personally (and not only on the Internet) and we feel that comparing and exchanging our experiences helps us very much to understand other people and also to reflect our own situation.