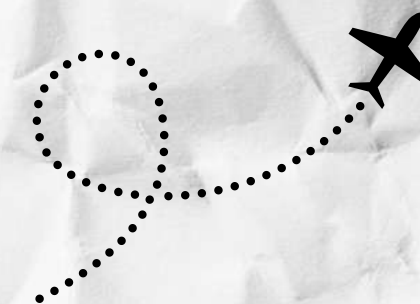




Erasmus Memories

Zamora - Ghent 2026



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Monday

12/01/2026



We started the morning at eight thirty and headed to the dining area. We were all together, the group of Spaniards and Belgians. The teacher started by talking to us about the education system in Belgium, and we can find quite a few differences between the two systems.

For example:

- In Spain you need good grades to get into universities; in Belgium, just passing is enough.
- In Spain, depending on the university, you pay more or less; in Belgium, it's only 1200.
- In Belgium, if you have 3 absences, you stay an extra hour at school.





Monday



After the presentation, a teacher started playing icebreaker games between the Belgian and Spanish students. In my opinion, I think they were quite helpful.

For example, one of the games was to make a circle with one person left out, and that person had to say something they liked. If someone identified with that, they would stand up and try to sit down; whoever remained standing would do the same, and so on.

And finally, we went to see different sites in the city while two teachers explained monuments, bridges, and typical sites of Ghent to us.

Then we continued with another game. This one consisted of forming groups, and we were given a slip of paper with different people and their characteristics. We had to choose seven people out of twenty to save and create a new humanity.

Then each group said who they had saved and explained why



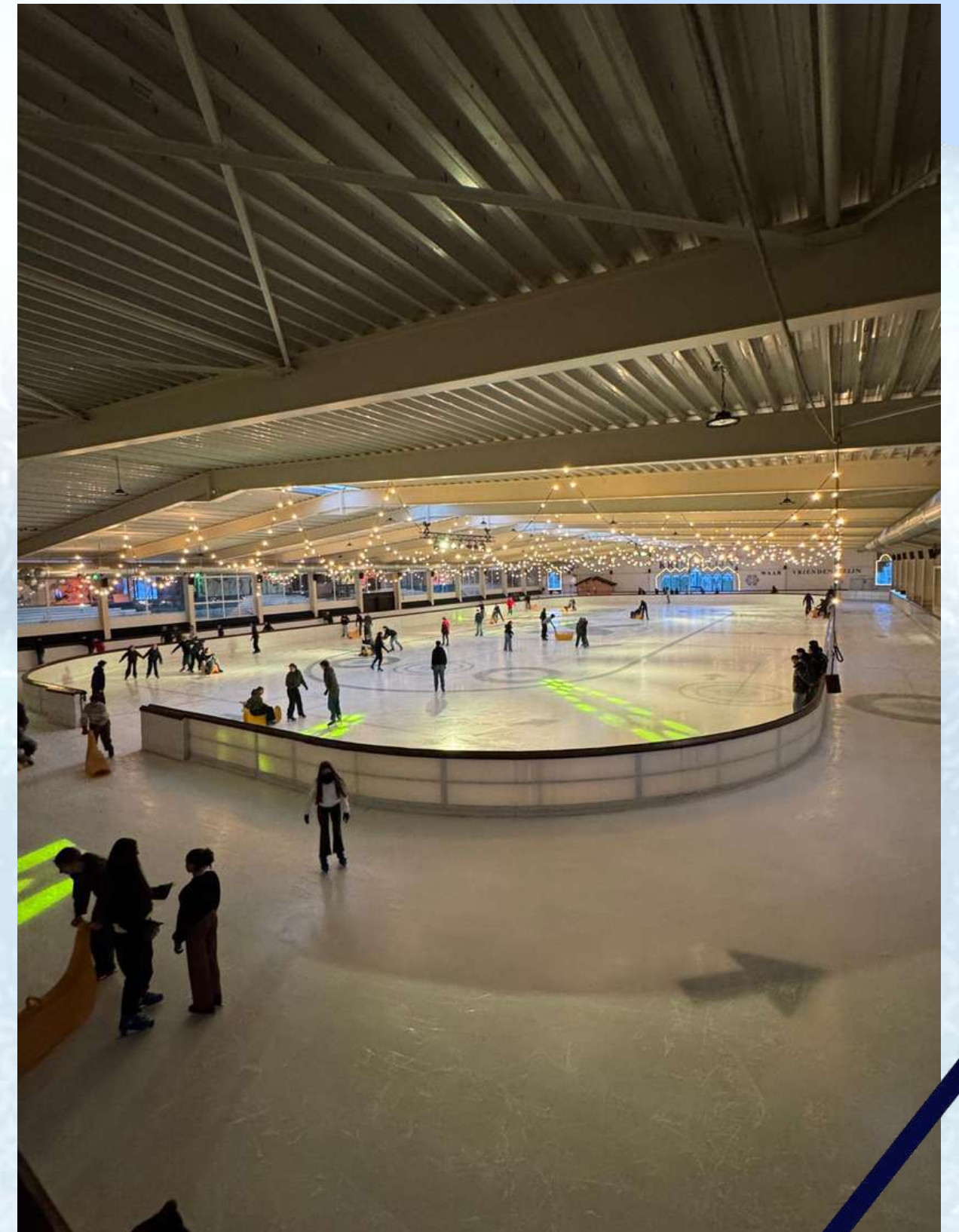


Tuesday

We started the second day by going ice skating. We can all agree that it was one of the activities we enjoyed the most. The ice rink was huge, and there were banana-shaped supports that we could use to avoid falling.



Even though some of us had never skated before, we had a lot of fun and laughed a lot together.





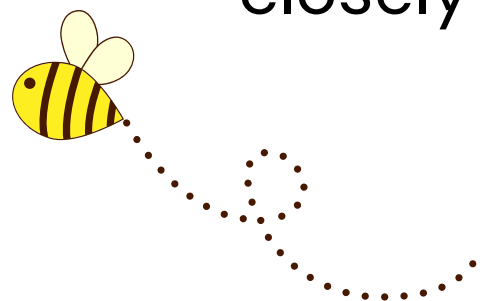
After that, we had the sustainability workshop. During this activity, we had to connect different causes with their effects on the environment and society.



The woman who led the workshop was very kind, and the activity was dynamic and easy to understand. We used information cards to help us relate each cause to its effect. We also had a great time decorating the fresk together.



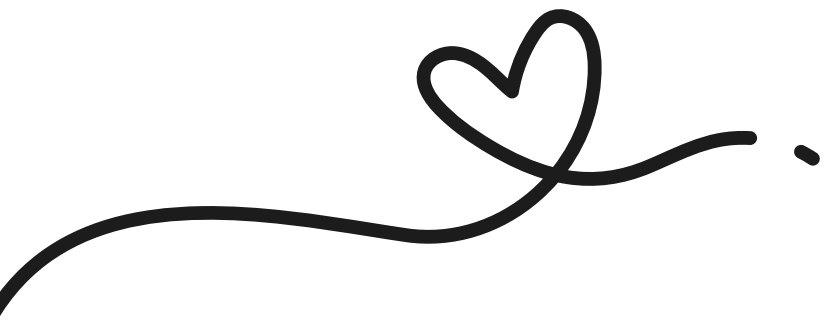
After this workshop, I am more aware of the cause and effect connections between different environmental phenomena. I understand better how human actions have triggered many of the environmental problems we face today. I also learned that issues such as war and poverty are closely related to environmental problems.





Bruges





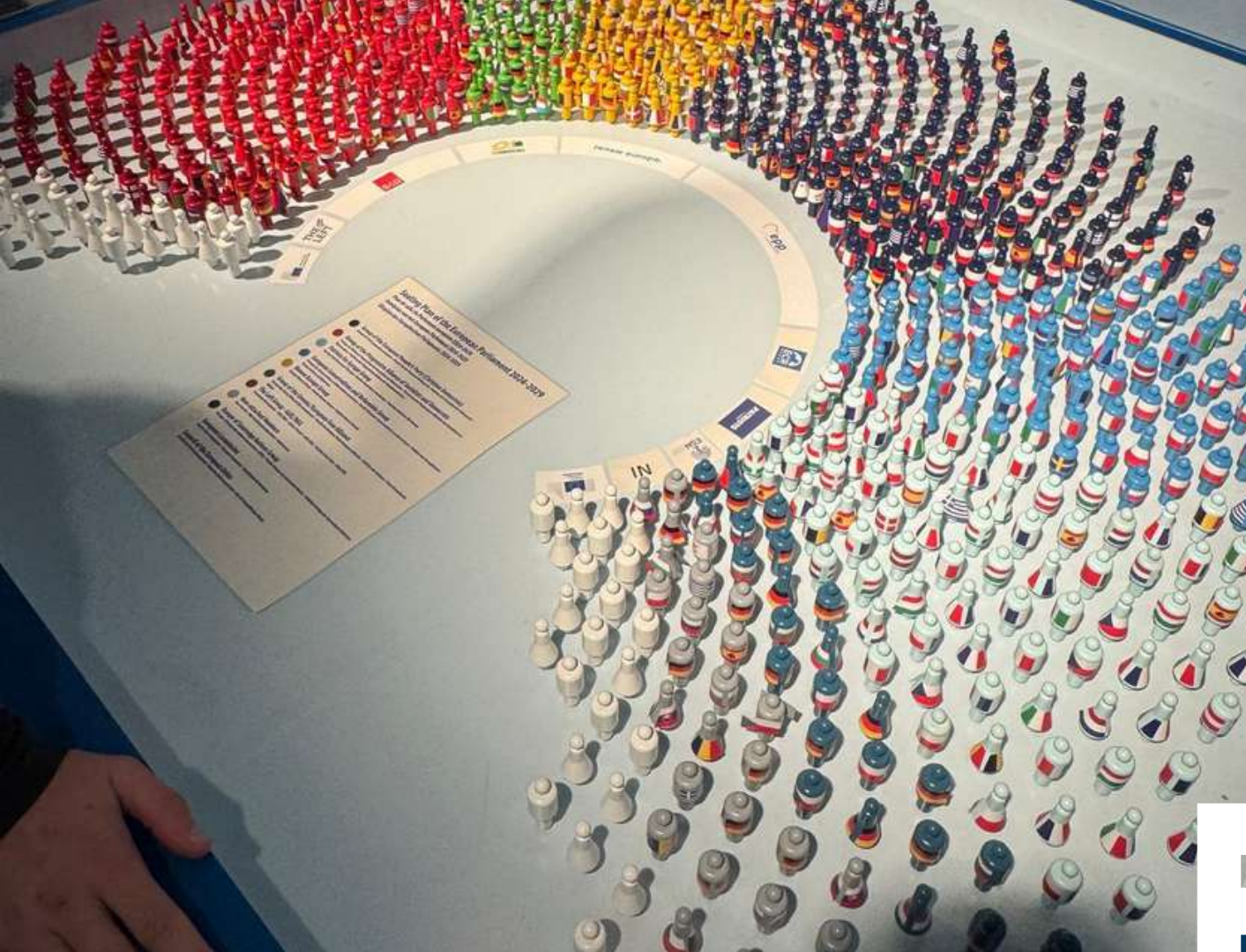
Wednesday



On Day 3, we went to Brugges. When I think about our trip to Bruges, the first word that comes to my mind is peace. Bruges is a peaceful, charming and lovely city, and I felt like I was living in a fairytale.

We visited a museum and the Beguinage, which was an important place for women in the past. We learned that it allowed women to live independently at a time when they had very few rights.

It would be great city to live in!! I would love to wake up every day in such a beautiful place. In my opinion, it is also a sustainable city, as many people travel by bike and the city looks very clean.



Brussels





Thursday

On Day 4, we visited Brussels and the European Parliament. The first activity we did was a game about saving a turtle. Through this activity, we learned how false information, especially on the internet, can influence people's opinions and decisions. It helped us understand how important it is to distinguish between fake and real information.

After that, a girl explained us how it works, how the political groups are organised, how they vote and how many members each country has. We also learned about some of the main topics discussed in the Parliament, such as economy, global warming, and human rights.



Next to the Parliament, we visited interactive museums related to the European Union. There, we could vote on different issues using digital screens. Our votes did not count, as it was only a simulation, but after voting we could see the real results of how people had voted at that time. We also sat in seats similar to those used in the European Parliament and sent messages to Members of the European Parliament.

Finally, we walked around the city. We also saw the famous fountain of the little boy urinating, which we imagined would be bigger. In addition, we noticed several murals painted on the walls around the city, as Brussels has many street art and comic-style murals. As Brussels is the capital of Belgium, the area were larger and with more official buildings. There were fewer traditional Belgian houses than in Bruges, Antwerp, or Ghent, but I still found the city very interesting and beautiful.



Friday

On the fifth day in Ghent, we started with a game about the European Union. We worked in mixed groups of Belgian and Spanish students and had to complete a digital escape room on the computers, answering questions and solving challenges together. It was really fun!

After that, we had the virtual reality workshop, which was fantastic. Using the VR glasses and controllers, it really felt like we were inside of a virtual room where I could move freely and interact with the paint and the paintbrushes. We had to paint a picture inspired by a Dalí painting, and it was amazing to see how each painting came out differently, making the experience feel very creative and personal.



Next, we had a film/film music workshop based on the movie "Contact", which tells the story of a woman who searches for life in space. The teacher paused the movie often to explain how the scenes were constructed and how everything in the film was designed to have meaning later on. We also learned how the music added intensity and expressed emotions, which made me realize how detailed and thoughtful filmmaking really is.

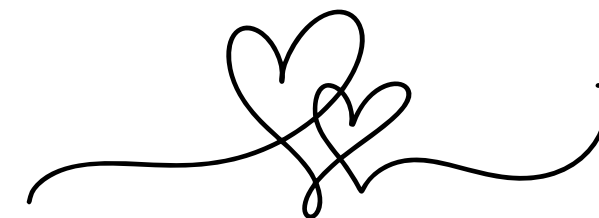
After lunch, we did a city game around Ghent, following instructions and answering questions like "Who is the person in the statue?" or "What is that?" It was a fun way to explore the city and notice details we might have missed otherwise.

Finally, Mr. Matthews gave us a farewell and certificates at the school, which was a nice way to end the week. All in all, the day was full of interactive activities, creativity, and learning, and it was a great ending to our trip in Ghent.

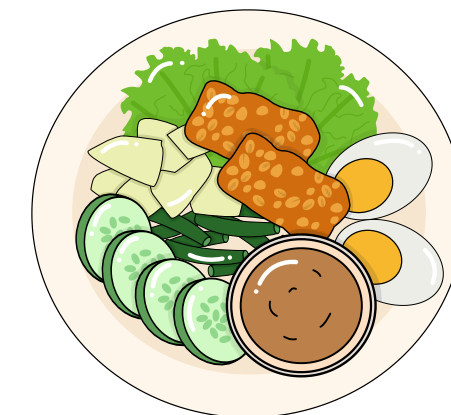
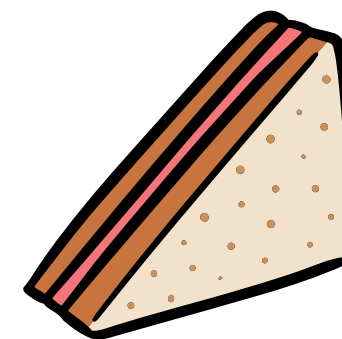




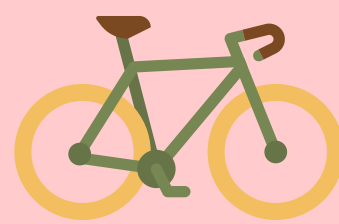
Our opinion



After spending five days with Belgian students, we noticed many things. One of the things that caught our attention was that being vegetarian is quite common. What is more, we ate vegetables every day and almost at every meal.



They have a healthy lifestyle: a balanced diet and daily exercise such as football, dancing, cycling, climbing or ice hockey. They are practical people who value punctuality, organization and spending time with loved ones. Family life is an important pillar of their culture.



They are warm, caring and friendly people, and excellent hosts. They really appreciate good weather, as it is uncommon in their country. Not to mention that they are all very respectful and well-behaved people. It was unforgettable to meet such charming people, and we are really looking forward to their visit to Spain.





**Thank
you!**
for the journey

