



I.I.S. "L. DA VINCI – FASCETTI"

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MY EXPERIENCE WITH C.O.I.L.

Among the several activities carried out within the **EUDEMOS** project, the most interesting one for me was the COIL experience.

The COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) was an activity that, even though it took place entirely online, allowed me to connect with students from another European school and to engage with realities and perspectives different from my own.

During the meetings, we followed a structured program. In the first phase, called *icebreaking*, each group prepared and presented a project to introduce their city and school context. In our case, we presented Pisa and some characteristic aspects of life in our area, while the Portuguese students shared their own reality. Even though the contact was virtual, it was interesting to get to know another city through the perspective of the people who live there. I was struck by how, despite living in different countries, there are many similarities in the way school and daily life are experienced.

Later, we worked on more complex topics, such as gender inequalities and domestic violence. This part was the most engaging for me because it allowed us to explore very important issues from different perspectives. It was fascinating to see how culture, language, and social environment can influence the way certain problems are perceived. As an Italian and as a young woman, I have my own views on these topics, but hearing how they are approached in another country helped me understand how complex and multifaceted the discussion on equality and gender-based violence can be.

An important aspect of this experience was using English in a real context.

It wasn't about practicing grammar or dialogues, but about truly communicating. I realized that knowing English is not only about "doing well at school," but also about connecting with the world and making your thoughts accessible to others, even across thousands of



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kilometers. It was one of those moments when I truly understood how language can bring people together.

Overall, the COIL project gave me much more than I expected. It showed me that international collaboration is not only about travel or in-person meetings, but also about small moments of exchange that can change the way we see others and ourselves. It was an experience that made me reflect on the importance of being open, curious, and willing to step beyond our own boundaries — not just geographical ones, but also mental.

Anna Giulia D'Aurizio