



The Saturday the 9th November was our big day, finally the participants were able to show their creations in front of a large public!

The guests were eagerly expected from 3pm on in the big kitchen and a large room of American church, which is situated in one of the most beautiful districts of Paris, right next to the bank of river Seine, between the famous Alexander's bridge and Orsay's museum.

The participants arrived two hours before the official beginning of the event in order to decorate the room, organize the kitchen and welcome our special guests from Austria along with Kristina, who was responsible for coordination.

The event started on time with the first cooking workshop called "Constellation of flavours", a fusion of Colombian and Italian culinary traditions. Guests gathered around the large kitchen table and curiously observed the preparation of dishes, while taking notes and posing questions to our 'cooks' at the same time.

The dishes that were firstly represented were "Pasion Mole" ("Boles of passion"), a delicious mixture of Korean, Mexican and Colombian tastes. Afterwards, the floor was given to our Austrian friends who taught us how to prepare well-known "Wiener Schnitzel" which was accompanied by simultaneous translation into French by a German translator.

In the next workshop the invited were able to learn how to combine Chinese -Colombian tastes , gathered in a dish called "Asian Sancocho", which was followed by the presentation of 'Couscous Paisa': the innovative recipe that included something from French, Colombian and Bolivian cuisine.

In the last workshop our Austrian guests offered another demonstration of the typical and extremely tasty dessert often enjoyed in their country: "apple strudel" .

After each of those cooking workshops, there was the time given to one of the sweetest and most anticipated moments: the tasting! Participants and guests dived into the flavours and enjoyed the prepared 'delicacies'.

Parallel to our 'culinary' activities, various other workshops and expositions were taking place in the large room next to the kitchen.

In one corner we had a table where different pieces of fabrics, colors, wooden spoons were displayed, which were the basis for the art workshop: "Puppets of the World". Oana Plosceanu, an art therapy student, animated a wonderful workshop where everyone, both young and old could try out their artistic skills and had fun creating puppets from simple wooden spoons.

In the second table, the guests could enjoy a display of typical objects from different cultures, such as Nigeria, Korea or Peru. All the objects were selected and brought by the participants from their countries of origin.

In the third table, one could find different recipes for natural remedies accompanied by their ingredients. There was something new and useful for everyone, one could learn such things as how to recover from hangover or repair your dry hair.

A place was also offered for our youngest guests, who could enjoy a delicious snack and dive in the play with almond paste or making collages with cooking ingredients such as coffee, colors pasta and lentils.

The fifth table, featured information about the ALCE project through display of brochures and the screening of a video that contained images and music from the countries of origin of the participants (that women contributed themselves) as well as other videos that included information about the training "Appetite for Learning comes with eating".

And lastly, not to forget the dance: unexpected and spontaneously, guests from Colombia, a young couple, showed us a typical dance steps of their country.

The event ended at 9pm, with smiles and happy expressions on the faces: it was an unforgettable evening, thanks to the aromas, flavors and sounds of at least 15 different cultures.



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This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.