

Hi everyone, my name is Fabiana Buonaiuto and I am 20 years old.

Before Covid, I had the opportunity to participate in a competition that led me to win an exchange with Lions Clubs. Due to Covid, my trip was suspended until this summer (summer 2022). From 08/07 to 31/07 I was engaged in an experience that, without looking for new words, changed my life.



I was the guest in Austria of a very, very kind, open, helpful and fun family for about a week. With them I had the opportunity to visit Graz (second largest city in Austria) and the culturally important nearby places, but also to try fun experiences together with a Maren girl from Norway, also a guest of my own family and other guys in we like had done the same trip. My host family consisted of a couple, partners not only in private life but also in working life. Both, in fact, work for an NGO that promotes the rights of people with disabilities. Thanks to this I was able to approach this topic. I had the opportunity to speak and discuss with people, mostly visually impaired, who told me about their experiences, which I was impressed by.



starting from 16/07 together with Maren and other guys (Mia, Elena, Alexandru, Federico, Carla) we moved from Graz to the border between Austria and Italy, headed to the Camp "without borders" in Toblach.

Here I was able to meet many young people from different parts of the world, and with them not only form a beautiful union as a guest group in the camp, but also, by deepening the knowledge with some of them, form a beautiful group.



The experiences lived and the emotions felt in those 2 weeks, and in general during my Exchange, are many, alive and engraved in my memory.

I had the opportunity to meet different cultures, to improve my language skills in English and above all to really realize that language and geographical distance are not a limit. That in the end we are all young guys with dreams and hopes for the future, with the desire to have fun, to grow and to fulfill themselves.

I fell in love these days, and when I say in love I mean by vocabulary that the mutual feeling of attention, desire to be together, emotional involvement was and is very strong.

In just 2 weeks I found some real new friends.

There are many experiences with the camp: visit to different cities such as Lienz, Innsbruck, Venice; walk to the lakes of Anterselva, Braies, Dobbiaco; bike tours in the Dolomites of about 50km but also long walks in places surrounded by nature and it does not end here; but surely and sincerely what most remained to me of this experience was not the escape into the void or the fatigue of the bicycle uphill, but the laughter, the hugs, the tears shed together with the people to whom I leave a piece of my heart.

It was an experience that enriches you from all points of view, personal, cultural, linguistic; something that I will always carry with me.

