

Short description of the experience:

Hi, my name is Giada Marcato and I'm 22 years old. I'm attending the last year in Mediazione linguistica e culturale at the University of Padua and, hopefully, I'm going to graduate in this summer session. I had my personal experience of VM last year, I've decided to participate at the Transatlantic Translation Project organized by prof. Musacchio by the end of her EN>IT translation course. We were divided into groups and we had to translate a quite long text (like a dissertation) written by a graduated American peer; in order to make a real good translation we had to communicate and collaborate with our partner, asking her questions and explanations on every little thing that was difficult for us to understand and translate.

I've used VM in order to improve my translation and collaboration skills. However this experience gave me the opportunity to get in contact with a different reality and a different environment.

Did this online experience help you to improve your intercultural awareness (did you gain a better understanding of another culture)? Can you explain how?

Yes, of course it helped. I had to understand (through internet research and direct questions) my American peer's background and point of view, in order to make my translation as close as possible to the original one. Sometimes some words or concepts were very unknown for us, such as economic terms or common American saying, so we learnt a lot of new expressions and we also understood many new features about American culture.

Taking part in an online intercultural exchange was a positive experience for you? Would you recommend the same experience to your friends?

Definitely it was a positive experience to improve my skills and also to work at something different and stimulating. Anyway I would like to say that the most important thing is personal motivation: if someone applies himself in a project like that with good intentions the result certainly will be satisfying.

TAGS: Language skills, intercultural skills, collaboration skills, translation