

Exchange Bogerman Fryslân with Monastil Comunitat Valenciana

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Between 21 and 28 April, 18 Frisian students (16-17 years old) have visited the autonomous regions of Valencia. They had an exchange with the students of the trilingual (Valenciano, Spanish and English) school of Monastil in Elda near Alacant-Alicante. This 'Comunitat Valenciana' is an area with Spanish as the dominant language and Valenciano, linguistically close to Catalan, as the minority language. One of the reasons to go there was that the Frisian students could compare their own bilingual Frisian-Dutch community with the one in Spain. In Fryslân one of the spoken community languages is Frisian, but which has a weaker position as a written language.



In Valenciana there are a lot of written road signs in Valenciano, but as a community language it is less strong. In the school itself there were also bilingual signs. Some of the subjects are taught in Valenciano and English. The programme of the exchange consisted of lessons about multilingualism and Spanish, but also the sightseeing of Elda .



The special thing of this town is that in the end of May is the acting out of the medieval fight against the Moors (Muscelmen) en de Christians. Almost all inhabitants of Elda participate in the dressed battles, all belonging to one of both parties every year again. People who don't like this kind of open air theatre leave town during this week.....

Two excursions were made to Alacant and Valencia with a tour through the historical centre and the modern buildings of Calatrava (see picture: Palau de la Musica and the Hemnispheric). It was a successful exchange of two groups belonging two different bilingual areas.

In September there will be the return visit to Fryslân.

