

Report on the visit at ETSI-ME

by students of 4AS of IIS Montessori - Da Vinci, Porretta (Italy)

We really enjoyed our experience at ETSI-ME, and we considered it very useful both from an educational and a cultural standpoint.

Thanks to the teachers and the university researchers, we had a chance to learn more about critical raw materials, and in particular about how they could be replaced in their fundamental everyday applications. We also played a game created by the researchers about the main usages of these materials. We will surely take inspiration from this activity for the creation of the raw-materials-themed Risiko! that we are currently working on.

Subsequently, we visited the recreation of a mine and learned about the extraction of raw materials, including those raw materials we are studying, with particular attention to the risks and dangers of mining work and the differences between past and present extraction techniques and safety norms. The most exciting part of this experience at the university was definitely our visit at a small rocks and minerals museum, where a very knowledgeable and helpful teacher told us about the source of some minerals and explained to us the properties of various rocks. Finally, he showed us some rare earth elements like gadolinium, europium, dysprosium and praseodymium, that we otherwise might have never seen in person due to their extreme rarity on Earth. All of this was in addition to a lesson about drones we listened to the day before.

The teachers and researchers we met were really welcoming and kind, and they were happy to answer all of our questions, which made our experience even more enjoyable and interesting. The lessons at the university gave us important information for our educational path on critical raw materials, and the overall trip was a memorable experience that we will definitely recommend to future classes.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to take part in this project,

the students of class 4AS