

The Super Turtles: from young people at risk of social exclusion to self-esteem champions

LOCATION: Seville

DURATION: 1'41"

SUMMARY: The Super Turtles are a group of eight high school students with five different nationalities that live in a depressed neighbourhood of San Juan de Aznalfarache, in Seville. Their accomplishment? Making it to the Spanish final of the popular science and robotics contest First Lego League. Their award? An experience that has increased their motivation for their studies, and mostly, an attitude that is hard to find in young people at risk of social exclusion and that makes them to be confident about achieving all the goals they set themselves. Centres with difficulties, like the San Juan High School, have counted on the financial support of the Andalusian Government and Vodafone Spain to cover the expenses generated by the participation on this contest.

VTR:

They are the Super Turtles, a group of students from a high school in San Juan de Aznalfarache, Seville, who have made it to the Spanish final of the popular science and robotics contest First Lego League. They are eight young people with five nationalities who live in a depressed neighbourhood.

CARMEN MACARRO
San Juan High-school teacher

"They carry heavy emotional baggage, since too early, from an early age their lives have been complicated."

DAVID PÉREZ
San Juan High-school principal

"It gives them a chance, as students, to prove that in the future they can be engineers or doctors."

Aisa is from Senegal, Omar from Morocco, Napo from Colombia, Rabab comes from the Sahara, Carmen from The Dominican Republic and Lidia is Spanish... Very different origins that for them...

RABAB AHRAYAM
San Juan High-school student

"Don't make any difference, as far as I know."

But sometimes there's one: economy. However, in this edition, centres with difficulties, like the San Juan High School, have counted on the financial support of the Andalusian Government and Vodafone Spain.

DAVID PÉREZ
San Juan High-school principal

"Many of them have never been outside Seville. It's going to be an unforgettable experience for them that it is going to boost their self-esteem. And I am sure that this is going to help them continue their studies with the same motivation."

In this contest, their presentation consists of a series of innovative proposals to save the endangered Baula turtle from Costa Rica. But this project goes beyond.

CARMEN MACARRO
San Juan High-school teacher

"Our most important goal is their personal transformation and improvement."

CARMELA VÁZQUEZ
San Juan High-school student

"I want to be a lawyer when I grow up, and this has brought me closer to my career by making me believe in myself."

NAPO SÁNCHEZ
San Juan High-school student

"I currently think that can accomplish any goal that I set myself."

There's no doubt: the Super Turtles are the winners.