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Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Pärnu Ühisgümnaasium

Report

3/02/2020 - MONDAY *Getting to know each other*

After the warm welcoming ceremony + concert in the school's assembly hall we watched the presentations about Estonia, Pärnu and Pärnu Ühisgümnaasium. A short Estonian language lesson made us more familiar with the country and its people.

The Ice Breaker Game "I pack my suitcase with hopes and fears and more" was very creative and the presentations of the mixed country groups were interesting and funny. Most of the hopes and fears concerned the weather. There was no snow in Estonia in the beginning of February and no ice on the Baltic sea. That was very unusual. Other hopes and fears referred to the concert of various nations and our presentations there.

The lunch at the school canteen was free and healthy and delicious.

The movie about the „Singing revolution“ was very emotional and offered many details about the Estonian history. Not many people know how much the Estonian people had suffered during different phases of occupation and oppression and how peacefully they succeeded to gain their independence in 1991.

Even as it was cold and windy, most of us walked to the beach listening to the explanations of our guide. Then a very well planned start to our 2nd meeting came to an end.

4/02/2020 - TUESDAY *Workshop and rehearsal day*

The workshop „Estonian music“ was very astonishing because the language is so strange but the simple traditional songs were easy to sing and everybody was happy. We wanted to sing the *shepherds* song again and again.

After the coffee break we were divided into two groups. Group A took part in the workshop „Argumentation and Debating“ while group B went to the rehearsal for the song festival.

After lunch the groups changed. The rehearsals were very well organised so that everybody could feel save with the technical equipment for the concert on Thursday. The debating workshop was very interesting and the discussions between students and teachers were lively.

Another workshop "Phenomenon of Hate Speech; Radicalisation in the world and in Europe; Problems related to immigration in Estonia and some solutions" gave us the possibility to unmask hate speech and to react unaggressively to discriminators with memes.

5/02/2020 -WEDNESDAY *Day in Tartu, the cultural capital of Estonia*

This excursion day was also very instructive and educational. On the way to Tartu we were given interesting information on Estonia's nature and the Estonians beliefs and life style. The very amazing Estonian National Museum we visited was very new, of surprising architecture and full of interactive exhibition areas. Even if the guided tour was long the students always found some things to interact with. And they discovered a lot of the 11.000 year old history of Estonia.

We had a delicious lunch in the museum's buffet restaurant, a wonderfully designed room. So everyone went into the second part of the excursion to Tartu strengthened and rested.

The guided tour in Tartu (the sacred hill Toomemägi, the University of Tartu, the main square...) was great too. We saw several of the buildings of the renowned Tartu University and discovered a lot about Tartu and its past.

6/02/2020 - THURSDAY *Song Festival day*

The workshop: "How media affects our attitude towards immigration" was created for the students, while the teachers met for the organizational part of the work.

- We discussed the dates of the application form, the mobility tool and the certificates and Susanne will ask the National Agency what are the correct dates: working days or working days plus travelling days?
- We discussed details about the scenes that should be presented in Portugal in May.
 - The scenes should not be longer than 5 min (+/- 2 min.)
 - The scenes should be situations about variety and acceptance
 - If the main actors are not travelling to Portugal, you can record it and show the movie.
 - In the rehearsal of the live performances in Portugal some students from other countries can take over small and easy to learn roles (e.g. as members of a group).
 - At the end of a scene the students should explain what is so important for them and moderate a feedback and a discussion about the scene.
 - A script of the scenes should be prepared in English.
- During the meeting in Portugal we need a lot of time to write the interim report together.
- The work on the common values has to be deepened. It started in Estonia playfully with the Shoe-Fish workshop.
- More details about the outcome of the project and the preamble was postponed to later (=> Portugal)

- We discussed details about the travelling to Portugal:
 - Dionisio collected information on
 - how any teachers and students are coming from each country
 - how many single and double rooms they need
 - Arrivals at the airports of Porto or Lisboa
 - From Porto to Resende we can go by train or bus
 - We will have a common day in Porto at the end of the 3rd meeting.
- We had no time for questions about the journey to La Réunion island, but we can ask Aline by mail.
- We will get the evaluation of our 2nd meeting by Liis.

The workshop on art and values „Shoe-Fish“ was very funny for adults and students. And the results were presented and later collected by Liis to organize an exhibition.

After an early lunch we could feel the vibrations in all rooms where the artists of a lot of different schools of Pärnu and the Erasmus guests got ready for their performance in the cloakrooms (classrooms). Then the song festival „Songs of Various Nations“ started with 30 groups and 35 songs, a lot of guests and dignitaries. The quality of the performances was overwhelming and the guests added some colourful contrast to the festival.

But that was not the end of a wonderful day. We had a certificate ceremony at the assembly hall and after some free time we met again at school for the farewell party “Evening of Cultures“ with food and songs and dances from six nations.

7/02/2020 - FRIDAY Day in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia

This second excursion day was also very instructive and educational. When we arrived we were again divided into two groups. Group A visiting The Center of Human Rights while the other group visited the Memorial to the victims of communism in Tallinn by bus. Then we changed. Both was very impressive. First we learnt some details about the situation of human rights in Estonia (refugees often try to leave the country in south - west direction to countries where they get more money, women earn lower wages than men, in Estonia the Gender Pay Gap is the biggest in Europe, on the other hand Estonia is the best in digitalisation, Russian resentiments are big and a good excuse for everything that goes wrong). We had lunch in the medieval restaurant Peppersack in the old town of Tallinn and after that we made a walking tour in the old town of Tallinn to discover the medieval architecture of Tallinn. It was great!