

"The city we live. The city we want to live in in 2020"
5th LTT activity at "Theodor Heuss Schule" in Bielefeld Germany
7-5 to 13-5 2017

SUNDAY 7-5-2017

On Sunday all the teams of our Erasmus project arrived at different times in Bielefeld for the 5th Teaching-Training-Learning activity in Bielefeld. Some faced transportation problems and had to change tickets due to train derailment.

The students met their host parents and friends and went to their guest houses.

**MONDAY 8-5-2017**

On Monday morning we met at the assembly hall of the school and were given a tour at the Theodor-Heuss-Schule. It is a large school with about 700 students aged between 10-16 years. It has fully equipped classrooms with special rooms for skills development like a kitchen for cooking lessons, sewing lessons, craft lessons etc. There were indoor and outdoor sport places (3 different indoor gyms and outdoors football field and basketball court).



A very well organized school set in a very green idyllic area by a lake. The Greek students were taken aback by this school especially by the fact that there was parking space for bicycles since many students came to school cycling.

During the break the students went to the recreational room where they played various games and the teachers had the opportunity to taste various German delicacies and discuss the works to be done during the week. After this break students and teachers were offered lunch at the dining room of the school.

At 12.30 we went to the Sparrenberg Castle which was erected as a castle sometime before 1250. It guarded the Bielefeld Pass over the Teutoburg Forest, and also as protection for the city of Bielefeld. We had the chance to be guided (unfortunately not all the teachers) at the underground parts of the castle where we were informed about the living conditions of the soldiers. What impressed us was the use of 6-year old children for the cleaning of the hot oven before they cook the food and the bread. We descended the subterranean corridor and were explained of the methods and traps used to defend the castle. The northwestern part of the underground corridor is not accessible with the exception of three tours per year, as it is home to bats. Unfortunately, it was not possible to visit the zoo as planned due to weather conditions.





Then we went to the International food production company, "Dr Oetker", where we were guided throughout the three-storey building. The founder of the company, Dr Oetker, was the one who improved and brought into its final form the baking powder known to all. The company currently produces 250 products, including pizza, puddings, creams, cereals, which it distributes in more than 40 countries. The children had the opportunity to see how a well organized company operates, learn the rules that govern it, and see how important is quality to a product. In the end, the tour guides gave us a buffet and so we were able to try out a lot of these products.



At 19:30 the students returned to the homes of hospitality.

TUESDAY 9-5-2017

The day started very early, as we had to depart by coach to Cologne at 8:00. The trip lasted 3.5 hours, as we met a lot of traffic approaching our destination. For some a bit more as the coach faced mechanical problems.



We saw the Cologne Cathedral and we could hear the ecclesiastical organ, since the church service was in progress. The Gothic Temple, dates back to the 4th century and over the years several sections were added. The building was completed during the 19th century.

Unfortunately we didn't visit the tower of the Cologne Dome.

Then we all took the boat and sailed along the River Rhine during which we were informed of the sights we were passing through.

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Finally, we were given free time for a small city center tour.

At 20:00 we returned to Bielefeld where the host parents were waiting for the students.



WEDNESDAY 10-5-2017

We visited the Bielefeld transport station. There they informed us about the way buses and trams work, as well as the timetable of the routes. The consistency of the means of transport has been impressive.

During the tour, we understood how and why everything works on time. They led us to the repairing place of the means of transport and the students had the opportunity to sit in the position of the tram driver and explore the systems.



After a short break and lunch we visited the old town hall, which had been built around 200 years ago. There, the mayor of the city welcomed us, and afterwards he informed us about the city of Bielefeld. The German students asked him about his future plans to improve the city. Then two German students after expressing their wishes about their city, handed the "Wish List" to the mayor.



After that the students returned to the host families.

THURSDAY 11-3-2017

In the morning after meeting at the train station we departed by train for the city of Dortmund where we visited the German football museum.

The pupils could closely see the sports clothes of older and newer German National teams, they admired the four world cups won by the country in this sport and watched a documentary about the history of football.

After the tour, the children were given the opportunity to play football on a mini-football pitch. It was a good opportunity to develop love for sport and the athletic spirit.

After the museum we were given some free time for a city tour.

In the afternoon we returned to Bielefeld.



FRIDAY 12-5-2017

The day began early with the preparations at the school for setting up the National stands of each member country of the program.

Each country decorated its stand with posters, photographs, flags and brochures with information about its city. All this was accompanied by tasting samples of traditional delicacies.



After some rehearsals the students prepared for the final celebration of the program.

The school principal Mr Daniel Norkowski and Mrs Sylvia Stebbing opened the ceremony.

Then some students and teachers wore traditional costumes and danced dances of their countries.

15 girls of Germany's class 5d had prepared a modern synchronized dance and Germany also performed a traditional dance called "Funkenmariechen" that is popular during Carnival period running from November to February.



The French teacher Mrs Valerie and students danced traditional Perigord dances called "Le branle du rat", "Pincou" and "le saut de la rivière".



The Spanish teachers and students danced a “Sevillana” and the “Macarena”.



The Austrian teachers and students danced a "Viennese Waltz" and a "Quadrille Française" with Mrs A. Lady to impress us with her traditional costume.

The Quadrille Française was chosen by Austria because it is the traditional dance which is always performed at midnight at the famous Viennese Opera Ball. When you come from Vienna of course everybody expects you to dance the "Viennese Waltz", so we danced it to meet everybody's expectations. At school it was a lot of fun when we taught the two dances to the pupils (especially the "Quadrille Française" was chaos at the beginning!), but the pupils were really talented and had loads of fun during the rehearsals.



The Greek students danced a dance from Thrace called "Zonaradikos" impressing with their costumes.



Three students from Germany recited their poems from the Poetry Competition "Our Ideal City" and a student from Austria Jungsher Sonker, “Mr Erasmus” recited a poem he had written for our project.

There followed a debate where students from each country were invited to express their impressions of the program, as well as their feelings about this unprecedented experience. They also talked about the importance of being a European citizen.



The event was attended by representatives of the German press.

After the celebration everybody visited the National stands and tried the traditional delicacies.

In the afternoon the host school had organized a barbeque party. The parents had prepared many different and delicious dishes and sweets and some teachers grilled sausages and steaks for about 200 people.

After eating, almost everybody started dancing. It was an amazing evening to finish this impressive, great week.



Of course when it was the time to say goodbye many students and teachers couldn't stop crying. Very emotional moments for the end of a very important and beneficial program.

A very big thank you to our German partners for this unforgettable experience. The students were really enthusiastic about their experience, the warm-hearted hosting families and the friends they made from all the partners countries. They will always remember the last day and the disco party, not to mention the "Macarena" and "Syrtaki" dances of all the Erasmus group at the train station

A very special "thank" you to Sylvia for organizing everything and making this experience memorable.

Many thanks to Christian for opening his house for us on Wednesday evening, we had a great evening thanks to you! Thanks to Daniel, the headmaster of the school and all the teachers for their hospitality and for doing everything to make this week a success.

We can really be proud of our pupils and of what we have accomplished together.