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PRESS RELEASE – MEETING IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Náchod, Czech Republic, 14-18th March 2022 International visit at Academia Mercurii

A unique Erasmus+ project about European citizenship and cultural heritage of Czech Republic, Spain, Denmark and Malta

On 14-18 the March, Academia Mercurii had a number of foreign guests visiting them: a group of students and teachers from Malta, Spain and teachers from Denmark visited the secondary school in Náchod as part of the Erasmus+ project: 'European citizenship – Cultural heritage unites us'. Through the project, that is financially supported by the European Union, students learn about the importance of European citizenship and about cultural heritage of the participating countries. The cultural heritage of the Czech Republic was the topic of this meeting and was explored in a practical way through many workshops about culture of Czechia at school and visits of cultural places. As part of the project, there are student exchange programs for the students to meet and get to know each other. This week, Academia Mercurii was the first school hosting the international groups. Next month, students and teachers from the schools will reciprocate and visit the partner school of Madrid, Spain on an exchange. During this week's visit, cultural heritage of the Czech Republic, both tangible and intangible, was the central theme. Students learnt about the local culture and visiting students had the opportunity of participating in some lessons at the school and learnt some important expressions in Czech language. Danish teachers had the opportunity for job shadowing of teachers of Academia Mercurii.

On Monday, students explored the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the Czech Republic within various workshops on the topic, one of them was a workshop in Spanish with an EVS Spanish volunteer about the life of a Spanish citizen in the Czech Republic and then students tasted Czech cuisine, Czech typical meals prepared by Czech families. On Tuesday, all the participants were welcome by the mayor of Náchod in the town hall of Náchod who spoke to them about the importance of European citizenship. Later the participants visited Náchod Castle where they were guided by students of Academia Mercurii and then explored the historic town centre. On Wednesday, after workshop about the connection of Czech writer Božena Němcová to Grandmother's Valley, the students spent the day exploring the rural buildings complex in Grandmother's Valley. On Thursday, the monastery of Broumov along with the historic centre of Broumov was visited. On the last day of the visit, precious Prague historic centre was visited with students of Academia Mercurii as guides. Most of the schools had already been participating in Erasmus+ projects before, as these Erasmus+ projects are a great opportunity for students to improve their spoken English and Spanish, boost their self-confidence, develop their social skills, travel, meet people and face new challenges.