

## Erasmus+ visit Vammala, 18 - 24 February, 2018

### **Sunday, February 18th. Arrival:**

On Sunday we met at 11.15 on the airport in Stuttgart and flew to Munich.

Then we continued our trip to Helsinki where we took a bus with the other participants of the Erasmus program coming from Italy, Estonia and Scotland to Sastamala.

### **Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> February. Day at school:**

The most obvious differences between Finnish and German are the letters and the way of speaking.

In addition, a “double vocal” isn’t that often used in the German language.

In my opinion the most peculiar thing about the Finnish language is the speed of speaking.

Besides my school starts at 7.45 and our lessons end later.

Furthermore, we have longer and more breaks especially a lunch break.

Besides our gym hall isn’t located in the school building.

### **Tuesday, 20 February. Trip to Helsinki:**

The visit to the Parliament house was very interesting, insightful and impressive. I found out that it consists of 200 members and that the parliament was founded May 9, 1906.

The way I see it is that you can face Finland’s history in Finland embodied by the building like the big white church/cathedral

In my judgment Helsinki isn’t that different to cities in Germany, in fact it is pretty similar. But I realized when we were walking along a main street that there were less cars than in comparison to Germany. In addition, there were less people on the sidewalk and the water in the harbor was frozen. Besides there were “normal” shops and shopping malls without any bigger differences to shopping possibilities in Germany. On top of this there were the same chains of stores findable as in Germany.

### **Wednesday 21 February. Winter fun at Ellivuori:**

It was such a nice day: in the morning we sledded, followed with bowling, skiing (in a traditional way), playing football in snow and in my view the highlight of the day dirt biking. But we also rested in a cottage where we broiled sausages and also cooked pancakes.

The evening at levo hunting lodge was pretty cool too. I enjoyed the time with the other participants of the Erasmus program and also the traditional Finnish sauna although it was maybe a bit too warm by my standards. Against my expectations the "swimming in snow" after sauna was bearable and even pretty pleasant.

### **Thursday, 22 February. Working on the panel discussions:**

#### The presentations:

Both countries, Germany and Finland, are concerned with too low political participation of young people. One big difference is that there are many more young people in Germany than in Finland which is in intimate correlation to the bigger population.

#### The team work:

We worked quite efficiently which is why our panel discussion participant was prepared really early. Basically, there were no problems except some little obscurities.

### **Friday, 23 February. Panel discussion:**

Our team's participant did really well and answered the questions without problems and with some helping on examples.

In general, I think the discussion was decent and sometimes fairly good, but there have also been some language problems and too short answers without enough information. The panel participants presented some plausible solutions for example like "internet voting" and advertise more for politics in social medias.

**Saturday, 24 February. Returning home:**

I learned a lot of the culture, current situation and language of other participants in particular of Italy and Finland for example some words and sentences.

Besides I got demonstrated that the political participation of young people has to be improved the same as the interest in politics must be changed (in positive).

In addition, I learned several ways of becoming a more active citizen for example by joining a youth party.