

Erasmus+ “Work in progress – My logbook“

Marie-Joy Zimmermann

(Name)

Friday, 24th November 2017

After the arrival of our guests the day before we could finally begin the project.

The first day started early. We had to be at school at 7.45 and the German students didn't have to attend their lessons on Friday. Instead we met at the auditorium of our school together with all the other students, the teachers and some twelve graders who helped with the planned program that day.

At first our responsible teacher and the second head master welcomed the guests with a few kind words. After that we talked about the program of the week and were able to ask upcoming questions.

When that first programme item was finished we could come to the interesting part which was a model debate presented by our teacher's twelve graders. The reason behind this debate was to become familiar with that sort of discussion, because preparing those ourselves was one of the main goals of this project meeting.

We also talked about the topic (air pollution) a little bit more in detail to get a more exact idea of what was going to come.

To be able to prepare for the debates we built teams and fortunately I got very lucky with mine that consisted of an Estonian, a Finnish girl and three Germans. During the games that had the intention of being able to get to know each other a little bit we got along really, really well. Luckily everyone in our group was very good at English so the communication wasn't a problem.

Before we could go to lunch we were given the topics and sides for our debates on which we could already start after eating and a really fun sports session. In the sports session we played a German version of table tennis (“Mäxle”), volleyball and basketball. Even some of our teachers played as well and the whole hour was full of laughter.

After our program was finished, my partner and I met with some other Germans and their partners in the evening to go out to eat burgers. It was great and the mood was relaxed.

All in all, the day was very exhausting but even more great.



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Saturday, 25th November 2017

On Saturday we had a very interesting program. We all met at the school and took the bus to Stuttgart together.

Our first stop of the day was the Mercedes-Benz museum. During the two hours in the museum we learned a lot about the history of cars and the importance of the car industry in Germany and especially in Stuttgart. But the fun was also not missing. Everyone started to really bond, become friends with each other and form little groups. Talking was a lot easier now because we slowly got used to speaking English all the time and got more fluent. I noticed how my English became better and better.

The second part of the day was a game called “Mr.X”. We got together in our debate teams. One group was Mr.X and the others had to catch him using the public transport system. The main goals of the game was getting to know said system and to maybe find some new arguments we could use in our debates. Sometimes using the tram etc. was really tiring because of the complexity of the system. It was quite hard to keep an orientation, even for the Germans. We realised that the public transport system isn't as good as it should be.

The game was finished in the afternoon and we were free to do what we wanted. Me and some others stayed a little bit at the main shopping mall in Stuttgart.

In the evening me and my partner met up with a few friends of mine to play “Cards Against Humanity” and watch movies. My partner and my friend got along well and it was really fun.



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Sunday, 26th November 2017

On this day we didn't have program although we were expected to work a little bit on our debates which we really needed, because of the very limited amount of time.

In the afternoon me and my family took us to the TV Tower and the Ritter Sport Museum. Sadly it was very cold that day so we weren't able to stay on the tower that long. But it was great to see the interesting view over Stuttgart and the surroundings. We were able to stay at the Ritter Sport Museum for longer. We saw the story of the company and were able to buy some chocolate in the store that was located in the museum.

A few of us had the idea to go bowling with everyone and we did that in the evening. It was probably the best day of the whole week. We all talked to each other and had a lot of fun. By that time we realised that everyone had made some amazing new friends and it was just such a great time.



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Monday, 27th November 2017

On Monday the Germans had to go back to school until 3.30 p.m.

After school and the guest´s program we had some more time to prepare for our debates.

Everything fell into place on that day, but we had a lot of time pressure and everyone had to work at home in the evening again. In the future this could be solved by giving us a little bit more time during the week, because we rarely had any possibility to work together in person. When the preparation was done the “Great OHG Bake Off” started. We baked many different kinds of traditional German Christmas cookies. Many of us messed around a lot but in the end the cookies tasted very good and we were all proud of ourselves.

Later a few of us met up and we played board games and talked for a couple of hours. It felt like we have all known each other for a long time and we suddenly realised that there was only one day left. To think about that was really sad because some of us built strong friendships in the last days and we didn´t want to lose that again.



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Tuesday, 28th November 2017

Tuesday was the last day of this project meeting and with that given the mood was kind of sad. We had already gotten used to each other and didn't want the guests, our friends, to leave. This day was the big day. We had a little bit of time to have a last look at our debates and practise. After that we held our debates. It felt good to finally be able to present what we had worked for the last few days. Everything went great and you could really hear how much our language skills had improved.

Before we visited the Christmas market in Esslingen we had some free time to eat lunch and relax.

I think that the Christmas market was a nice way to end the week. The atmosphere was joyful but also a little sad, because we knew that we would probably never see some of the people again or had to wait for a long time so we really tried to enjoy the last few hours we had together.

When we said goodbye (to some of them the next morning) we hugged our new made friends once again and some of us even shed a little tear.

We had gotten really close to the others and them leaving was way too hard. But the week was such a great experience and everyone learnt so many new things. We are all so grateful that we have the opportunity to be a part of this special journey and we are all really looking forward to visiting one of the other countries that participates in the Erasmus + project.

