



Erasmus+ in Finland

18th-24th of February 2018

Scotland, Germany, Finland, Estonia and Italy

The Purpose For The Visit

The purpose for the visit to Sastamala is to discuss the political participation of young people in politics and voting, and prepare four people for a panel discussion about the same subject.

We had to prepare for a panel discussion in groups, and create this brochure describing the visit. Independently we all had to fill in a survey and a travel log.

Program for the week

19th Feb: At the school and Aarikkaranta

We had some Finnish lessons, and we divided into the project groups and started preparing for the discussion. In the evening, we went to Aarikkaranta, where we had a “welcoming party” where we had some activities together plus food.



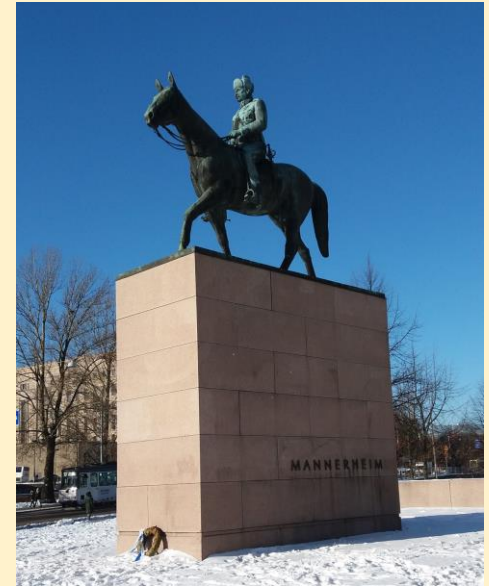
20th Feb: Visit to Helsinki

We had a guided tour of the Finnish parliament, and spoke to Arto Satonen, an MP. We then visited various important sights in Helsinki, such as The National Museum and The Senate Square, to learn more about Finnish democracy and history. The panel discussion groups did a quick presentation of about 100 words of the sights.



The Statue of Mannerheim:

The bronze equestrian statue of Mannerheim, the Finland's former president, was revealed in 1960. The statue was sculpted by Aimo Tukiainen. Mannerheim came from a rich family so he had adopted the idea of monarchies. He had many opportunities to make Finland a monarchy but during the Civil War (1918) he started to realise how it would impact the young independent country. Mannerheim's opinion developed towards supporting democracy. You could say that to others the statue represents monarchy and to others democracy.



21st Feb: Ellivuori and Levo

We went to Ellivuori, where we had lots of different kinds of activities like bowling, fat bike riding, skiing, sledding and football in the snow. For lunch we had sausages and pancakes (and of course our packed lunches).

In the evening we went to Levo, where most of us all went to sauna and rolled in snow. We also had lots of goodies to eat thanks to the students who brought them. Later in the evening every group of countries performed a typical song in their language for us all.



22nd Feb: At the school, preparing for panel

We returned to our panel groups and prepared for the panel on Friday and to create this brochure.

After school we all had something fun to do with our hosts.



23rd Feb: Panel discussions, Seurahuone

We had the panel discussion about young people in politics and voting participation. One person from all the groups took part in the panel with a few quests, and the audience asked some questions.

In the evening we went to Seurahuone, where there was a farewell dinner.



Interviews With Students

Adrian, Germany, age 15 (almost 16): I took part in the program so I can meet people from other countries, and improve my language and management skills, and learn more about Finland. The highlight of the trip was the Sauna, as we do not use them in Germany often, and they are very traditional. Young people do not do enough in politics, and we are the generation of the future, so we should be more interested.

Tommaso, Italy, age 16: My week has been very nice. I took part in this because the project because there are students from different countries and it helps to improve the interaction between other people and countries. I think the best thing might have been the nature here. The participation of youngsters has not increased in Italy, because it is difficult to take part in the political parties due to the old people who are strictly bound to their chairs.

Märt, Estonia, age pretty old: I've done this before, and I wanted to see Finland in a deeper level. The school asked me if I'm interested so I came. There was not a particular highlight, but the whole week's been amazing. People, feeling the culture and the Finnish lifestyle. I think it is important for young people to know about politics because one day, they are going to take over and they need to know what's going on.

Megan, Scotland, age 17: My week has been really good, I have enjoyed it, I really liked Ellivuori. It is very new being in such cold temperatures, as Scotland is not this cold! I took part in this trip as I saw it advertised in school, and I have never visited Finland before. My highlight was the fatbiking and saw the Finnish countryside, and getting to know other nationalities. I think it is important to increase young people's interest in politics, as it is currently very low, youth can change a lot when they are active, and I believe I am active in politics. Finnish politics is very interesting to me, I really liked the Parliament visit, and speaking to a politician was very interesting.

Leevi, Finland, age 17: I took part in Erasmus as it is an interesting concept, the highlight for me was the Sauna, as it was fun. I think that young people should be more active with politics, and follow it more.

Lauri Kiili, a quest speaker, age 17: I was asked to take part in the hey asked me from the student union and I've always been interested in this stuff. Many of my relatives are politicians, so I get a political influence from them and I've been in student union since the first grade. It's great to have young people in politics because we can idolise and with them, young people do know about politics but they don't really make so much public statements so people think they don't care at all.

Some interviews with Teachers

Germany: This is my second visit to Finland, and I am not disappointed! It opens my heart to see young people of different nationalities coming together. My highlight was meeting the MP in Helsinki as the questions the students asked were very clever and critical. I have two daughters at home, and I struggle to involve them in politics, however, I think that young people do participate, but not in the conventional way, I also believe that politics should be driven by social media.

- Mrs. Einhoff

Finland: I have had a busy but pleasant week, my highlight was being told I have a “voice fit for commercials” by a student, and seeing my colleagues again. Young people’s involvement in politics is important, as since World War Two Europe has been stable, so we take everything for granted, and young people are disillusioned by politics, and could potentially repeat past mistakes.

This Brochure was made by

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Thank You!

