**Summary: Erasmus+ Project Slovenia**

Our journey to Slovenia: April 17th till April 24th 2016

At 12:15 pm on the 17th of April the time had finally come: We, two teachers and five students from the HWG in Wadern, met at the station to begin our journey to Slovenia where we would join students and teachers from Slovenia, Poland, Italy and Bulgaria. It was planned for us to take the train to Frankfurt and from there the plane to Ljubljana where an auto bus would take us to Žiri. There we were kindly greeted by our host families who were already waiting to take us home, show us around the house and of course host us during the week.

The following morning at school we were quite astonished because of the differences to Germany. We were confused when we were asked to lock our shoes and jackets in before we enter school and also by the fact that Slovenian students get snacks and warm meals at school for free. We have to take our own with us or pay for warm meals at the school canteen. So that was much different to Germany but we were pleased to get the chance to find out about a different culture and different traditions.

That was what we did during the entire week under the motto ‘I feel wood for good’.

We learned a lot about traditions from Slovenia and especially from the area around Žiri like the Lace-making-tradition what we were allowed to try ourselves. Concerning wood we visited a high school for woodworking, a school for children with special needs who worked with things made from wood, the Art&Craft Centre of Škofja Loka, a Woodway store in Ljubljana, the local business M-Sora and of course we, ourselves, worked with wood, too: We had already built something made out of wood when we came there because we were supposed to sell it on a market but we also had an arts & technology workshop where we each made a ‘Tower of Hanoi’.

Added to these activities we had some time left to do a bit of sightseeing: We were shown around Žiri by our host families but we also visited the capital city, Ljubljana. Unfortunately we didn’t have much time to look for gifts and souvenirs because the bus was waiting to take us to another impressing place in Slovenia: Postojna Cave. First we drove with some sort of small train to the most interesting part of the cave where we followed a guided tour by a German guide. That was great because otherwise we probably wouldn’t have understood half of it. The stalactite and stalagmite caves were very long and the day was exhausting for all of us. But it was interesting and exciting, so I think it was really worth it. The next day took us to Bled, a very beautiful town with an ancient castle on a hill next to a lake with an island. The view from the top of the hill was amazing and the surrounding landscape was very beautiful. Unfortunately we couldn’t go to see one of the waterfalls. Sadly two days later our last day had arrived and after the wood market we only had one afternoon left with our host families but wanted to do a million things at once. We had to decide what to do. Three of the students from Germany wanted to go to the sea while the other two did something on their own with their families. It was an exciting day with our new Slovenian friends but we were sad that we didn’t have more time to realise all our great ideas.

The following morning the time for farewells had come before we left to get our flight back home. There we certainly had a lot to tell our families and friends who were jealous of us because we were able to see and learn all those great things while they had to stay at home. All in all I think the trip was really interesting, exciting and totally worth it. I learned a lot about a foreign country and of course about the use of wood as well. It was good to improve our language skills, too.

We are all looking forward to welcoming teachers and students from Slovenia, Italy, Poland and Bulgaria to Germany next January and hope that you all will have a great time with us.