



## Greetings from Tomorrow

**The Course: “Industrialization and Pollution”**

**Sofia, Bulgaria, 06 – 10 March 2017**

I am going to write about one of the most exquisite experiences that we have ever had and one of the best projects we have ever taken part in. "Greetings from Tomorrow" might be a simple name for some people with a simple meaning, only something to refer to, three optimistic words. But for the three of us: Lazăr Ioana Alexandra, Stan Andrei Iulian and Bogdan Pavel it meant something more than just travelling there. It was something pulled out of a fairy tale, mainly because the people we talked and spent time with were marvellous!

Today we will be presenting our trip into the lost land of Bulgaria, a place full of culture, a complex language, mountainous areas, an arrangement of a typical Balkan country with many influences that create the perfect mix of old discoveries and the modern society. We spent 5 beautiful days in Sofia and 1 night in Vienna, also a ravishing city that fully brings to life the old Austrian and Hungarian styles of architecture, culture and even power of education, liberty and a high Human Development Index (HDI).

But let's return to our "Show and Tell" about Sofia. :)

### MONDAY



We had to be at "Mihail Arnaudov" 119 High School at around 9 a.m. for the opening session, for the presentations of the participating countries and to see the best school in Sofia. There, we met all the students and teachers from the partner schools for the first time. They were really nice people with big hearts and wonderful smiles on their faces.

All the partners made presentations to show us some information about their country, their city and their school. It was a really pleasing moment, because we knew we would be good friends until the end.

After that, we had lunch in the school canteen. The food was really good and after we finished eating the Bulgarian students showed us their high school.

In the afternoon we went to Politechnical Museum in Sofia. There we enjoyed some presentations.



The museum guide showed us a car that was seen it as a miracle of modern engineering at the specific moment in history when it was built, a car that was suited for a family of 3 and also two cars that showed us the evolution of the automobile.



The protagonist was the Ford Model A (1928), bigger and more beautiful.



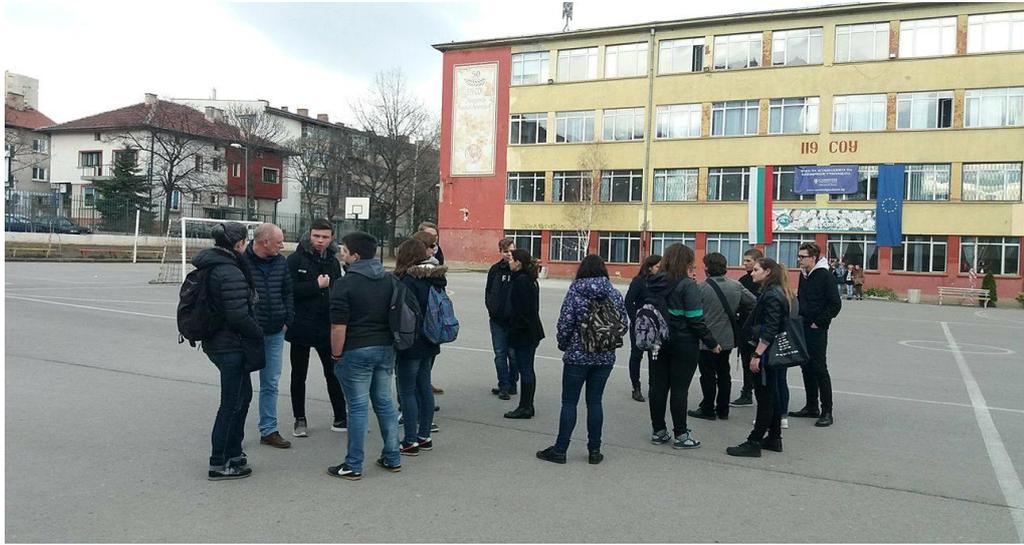
After that we went on a tour of museum. Permanent collections are divided in exhibitions of time measurement, transportation, photography and cinema, optics, audio equipment, radio and television, computing equipment, communications equipment and others.

The museum guide showed us some chemistry demonstrations like in the picture below:



## TUESDAY

We met in front of the school at 10:00 to go on another adventure.



We went to "Muzeiko" Children Science Center to take part in some workshops. First, a wonderful chemist welcomed us to the chemistry laboratory so we could take part in some experiments about the oxygen and carbon dioxide.



After that we went to another laboratory where a man, part of the museum staff and guide, showed us how to recycle the paper. All of us made some cute shapes with the paper that was recycled like stars, hearts and other forms.



We had a little break to enjoy all the funny and interesting things in the building.

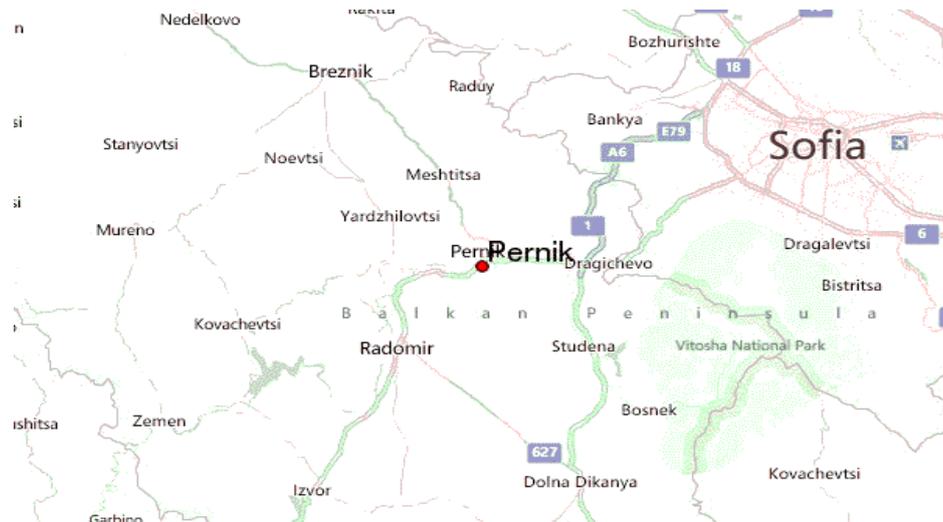


After all, we went to rooftop of the building to see how they recycle the water by collecting it with a specific technique and how to produce energy from the sun rays.



## WEDNESDAY

Wednesday we met in front of the school. We had to wait a little bit more for the others to come, too and after talking more with my foreign friends, it started to rain but only small drops fell, which made us feel more confident. After all the group came, we could finally depart for an Industrial city called Pernik.



To go to this small city we had to take the train and it took approximately 40 minutes, when we spoke more with the Italian teacher and we got to know each other better. We had to walk from Pernik station to the Museum of History which welcomed us with pottery and rooms full with Bulgarian traditional folk costumes, masks, geological rocks and even a small corner of a traditional country house.



After some people from the group made ceramic bowls from clay and we visited the

historical objectives, we went into an old mine transformed into a museum where the tour guide presented us some methods of mining that were used especially in both World Wars when the scatter for resources was high and the miners had to work even up to 20 hours a day! That is impressive!



After the guided tour through the mine we took a few pictures and went to eat at a local restaurant. Before leaving the beautiful city of Pernik we went back to retrieve the ceramics that were made there and after that we had to wait for about 30 minutes for the train that took us back to Sofia. When we came back from school we discussed about the benefits and negative effects of the mining industry. After we talked about it, we reached the conclusion that it's something indispensable for the modern society but if some changes were made this could be a perfect way not to damage the planet and especially not to pollute our environment. Pernik in our opinion was an interesting city with some great attractions!



## THURSDAY

Even if the weather was a bad, our plans didn't change. We went to the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy and we had a interesting workshop called "Atomic absorption analysis".



Also during the tour of the University we had the privilege of seeing the geological discoveries displayed at the University and some old petrified fish skeletons and even a Mammoth's skeleton.

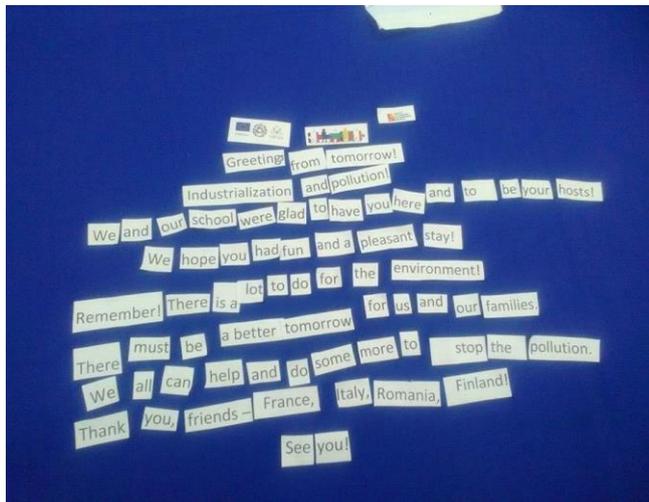


We asked a lot of questions about that process and became very surprised by the answers we got. After that we had another workshop: "Spectral research methods and their

regard to pollution". When the presentation finished, we had the lunch at the University. The final activity of the day was held at school: "For a better tomorrow", where we participated in a drawing competition. We laughed a lot because of our funny drawings and listened to a lot of music during the contest.

## FRIDAY

Another day, other awesome moments. We went on a city center tour and we saw a lot of beautiful and historical buildings. We ate something at a restaurant which had a marvellous and beautiful perspective of Sofia's landscapes and after that we went to school for a game "Find the solution to pollution" when we had a interesting adventure to find some words. When we found them we put them in a specific order to create a message of the project.



After that we had a final party at school, we felt so good, we sang, danced and played some games. At the end of the evening we cried a lot because we had to finally say goodbye to the people in this project...

## SATURDAY

It was a very rainy day, I believe the sky was sad because we were travelling back home. At the airport we talked about the next time we would see each other again, we had a lot of hugs and some girls started to cry. After that we went to the check-in counter and this was the last moment when we saw our friends from Bulgaria.

For our team this was a beautiful experience. We made new friends and we discovered another place full of history and attractions that everybody should see in a life time. We hope that we will participate in other projects like this one! We'd like to thank our teachers, the warm and kind hosts and the coordinators for giving us the opportunity to attend such an event in our lives!