

Erasmus+ “Greetings from Tomorrow”: Selected diaries, Helsinki 5.- 9.3.2018

Sunday 4th of March

On Sunday 4th of March Erasmus students arrived here to Finland. I was hosting two Bulgarian students. On the day when they arrived we didn't have anything Erasmus related, but me and my mom decided to take the Bulgarians to Porvoo. There we walked around the old part of Porvoo. The Porvoo river was also frozen so we went to walk on the ice. After that we went to my grandparents' place. There we spent a few hours eating and discussing. After that we went back to home.

We were at the airport waiting for our lovely exchange students, and the reunion was happy! We chatted about how is it going with everyone, and we talked about plans for the evening before everyone of us went home with the exchange student. At the evening we visited for example Ateneum art museum and Senate square, and also we showed some city to our guests.

On Sunday Ivan and I went to city centre with Kuura, Minttu, Helmer and their partners. We did a quick tour looking at some Finnish art in Ateneum.

Our foreign friends arrived and we went ice skating in central Helsinki. It was a great experience for all of us! The French tried their best and I think we had lots of fun together!

Monday 5th of March

On Monday we had to wake up early and go to school. Our program began at 9:30. First we introduced our guests and after that all the students introduced their own countries. After that our school cafeteria had prepared us some coffee and pastries. After that we went to eat lunch at our schools cafeteria. Next item on the schedule was the Helsinki walk. We took our guests and left to Helsinki. In Helsinki we showed them all the quintessential buildings and statues. After walking around Helsinki we were supposed to meet at the dock. From there we took a ferry boat to Suomenlinna. There we had a guided tour from 15:00 to 16:00. Unfortunately the weather wasn't that nice. We all were freezing because of the wind.

After Suomenlinna our official program ended, but we students stayed as a one group and went to get something to eat. After we had eaten we decided to go to Helsinki City Museum. Unfortunately the museum was closed soon so we couldn't stay there for too long. Because of the weather and the lack of free activities we decided to head home.

The ice breaking was so much more interesting than usual because we introduced our partners to the others! It forced us, in a good way, to talk to our partners and plan it together. Presentations of the schools and countries were a bit boring to me because I had already heard those when I was in Sofia. Walking in Helsinki was fun. We told stories of different

wars to the exchange students when all of us were walking on ice. The guided tour in Suomenlinna was very informative and interesting but it was extremely difficult to concentrate since it was so cold.

Tuesday 6th of March

Tuesday morning we met in front of the main building of the University of Helsinki. We went to the university museum and there we had a guided tour about the history of the University of Helsinki. We also walked around the main building. After that we headed to Caverna, which is a buffet near the University of Helsinki. After eating we went to Kamppi. There we had a presentation about clean energy. After that we went to Helsinki Art Museum. There we looked at an installation made out of stuff that people had thrown away. Luckily there was also real art. Our program ended at 16:00. Me and my Bulgarian guests decided to leave Helsinki and go back to home. When we arrived home we ate a little and after that I took them for a walk in nature.

Our day started at 9.30 at the Helsinki University museum, where we were told how the Helsinki University first came to life, how student life had been changing and evolving in there, and how it has affected Finland. After the insightful tour, we went to a buffet that was only a five minute walk away. Having filled our stomachs and buzzing with energy we visited the Electric Center Helen, where we were told about district heating, electricity and how other electricity-related things work in Helsinki. Our school day ended with HAM (Helsinki art museum) trip, where we were able to look at some stupefying paintings. Being done with official program, we went to a library, where we played different games for the rest of the evening.

Wednesday 7th of March

On Wednesday our program began at 9:00. We met with the other students in school and there we were divided into two groups. The other group went to the Inno class, which is a classroom full of cool cameras, big screens and comfortable chairs. The other group went to the home economics classroom. There we were supposed to prepare food from leftovers. The food turned out pretty good. After preparing the food we went to the Inno classroom. There we filmed a short interview about the Erasmus program. When we had finished filming the interview we went back to the home economics classroom and there we ate the food that our group and the other group had prepared. After eating the students went to walk in the Central park of Helsinki, but I can't talk about that because I had to take my physics exam. After my physics exam the other students had already arrived back to school. From there I left back to home with my guests because my uncle came to our home and prepared traditional Finnish food for us. After that we just stayed in home for the rest of the day.

What would you like to take back to your country was well organized and it seemed like others were enjoying it too. One of my favorite activities of the whole week was cooking

with waste food! It was eye-opening to see in person how much good food is thrown away. Walking in the nearby forest, or more accurately Central Park, was literally a breath of fresh air.

Our day ended with us gifting our guests some of the most mouth-watering, luscious, prodigious food in finland: mämmi.

It was nice to use INNO class' equipment to film videos and produce ideas. I also liked cooking from waste food very much.



Thursday 8th of March

On Thursday we met the other students at Maunula center. Before the program started we told our congrats for all the women who participated the program because it was the International Women's day. After that we walked around the Maunula center. Then we were given a task to think about how to save the world through education. We were divided into smaller groups and the we seperated. Our group went to the Inno classroom and there we wrote down our ideas. After a few hours we then had to present our ideas to the other students. They also did the same to us. After the official program we went to Helsinki. There we went to the Allas Sea Pool. That was awesome. I think that all the students who participated enjoyed that really much. It was a really cool experience for many. After that we went back to home.

This day started with solving problems in Maunulatalo. It was fascinating and I didn't know that once you solve something, there's ten more problems to solve. But it was a nice chat and we came up with many cool ideas! Later we filmed a short video where everyone tells what they will be in future and stuff.

Friday 9th of March

On Friday morning we went to the Vantaa Energy waste incinerator. There we had a short presentation about the whole facility. After that we had a guided tour inside the facility. We got to see the “Finland’s largest arcade crane”. After the tour we headed back to school. There we ate. Then we had a final meeting where we discussed about the past week and the whole project. We also had a Helsinki kahoot. After that we planted a tree (well not really, but close enough...). Then everyone had some free time before the final party, which began at 18:00. Most of the guests and hosts went to Helsinki, because the guests wanted to buy souvenirs.

The party began at 18:00. At the beginning we had a little speech about the program. After that we started to eat. Our school’s cafeteria had prepared a delicious meal for us. After eating the Finnish students showed to the guest few of the senior prom dances. The party ended when we asked the guests and their teachers to join our dance. Then ended the official program.

Planting the “Greetings from tomorrow” tree was a happy and uniting moment for all of us.

Visiting waste incinerator was surprisingly interesting. We had a guided tour around the incinerator where the guides told why they burn the waste (because it creates heat and most of the waste non recyclable) and they showed us a few places from the incinerator. After the tour we had some time left so we played some games. At the school we made a video where we told where we see ourselves in 20 years. We also discussed about the program. In the evening we had the party and we ate and danced vanhojen tanssit dances to our guests.

Exchange students from Romania stayed in Helsinki for a day longer than the others, so we decided to go with them to Tallinn! We spent the day in shops, museums, cafes and churches.



