REPORT ON THE MOBILITY IN ZAGREB

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INTRODUCTION:

When it was first decided that Croatia should organize a thing called *gymkhana,* we didn`t have a clue what it was. I was terrified, how should we organize something when we don`t know what it exactly is. Then one of my colleagues said: ”What does it matter if we don`t know, we will learn!“ That was encouraging… I tried to consult Mr Google, he knows everything…What I saw was a picture of two young (attractive) men in racing suits, leaning against a wild car! It didn`t look bad, but are we really going to organize this?!

After the meeting in Urbino, our colleagues who had gone there knew what gymkhana was, and did their best to explain it to the rest of us. I think I asked at least ten times to have it explained again and again… after the 10th time I had a vague idea of what it was… then I tried to explain it to the rest of the colleagues. It didn`t go smoothly, but in the end we got it, and are now proud to say that the Zagreb gymkhana was great!

PREPARATIONS:

Apart from having to prepare the obvious things, such as the hotel, restaurants, food, museums, there were loads of other things to be done. The city guide and the city tour were prepared. The mayor agreed to host us. We looked for the sponsors to be able to give the prizes. The gymkhana map and the questions were made. We couldn`t escape the role of the mean teachers- the questions had to do with the information which would be said during the guided tour…so if they don`t listen, they won`t be able to establish the coordinates! We informed the police about the public meetings at the qymkhana stalls, got their permit for that, then we rented the stalls from the city authorities and got their permit to have them erected at 4 different points in the city.

And then we were ready for the take off!

MARCH 5, 2017

Our guests are finally arriving! Two of us are meeting them at the Zagreb Airport in the afternoon, and taking them by bus to the centre of the town. There their host families are waiting for them, and we are taking the teachers to the hotel. Italians are arriving in the evening, they will be met by another pair of teachers and their hosts. It is really starting!

MARCH 6, 2017

In the morning everybody arrives at school. Our principal is going to welcome all the guests. After that we organize four groups, mixed of course, for the city tour. The guest teachers can come along, as they do. When we have made everybody feel completely exhausted, we take them to the restaurant for dinner. *Dva goluba* is a good restaurant, but as all the participants are starving by now, we are sure that EVERYBODY will like the food.

MARCH 7, 2017

A lot of different things will happen today. Students are divided into two groups and go to visit museums- one group Technical Museum, the other one Ethnographic Museum. They are both in the town centre, so after that they can go for a coffee, stroll around the city. However, don`t think we are that good- afterwards they have to show us the tickets and send selfies to prove they really did go to the museums.

In the morning all the guest teachers+two guest students from each country+2 Croatian students and teachers go to the reception at the mayor`s. Before that we are interviewed for Radio Sljeme. We are not quite comfortable talking to the microphone (although it all sounded perfect when we listened to ourselves later!), but this is nothing in comparison to the thing that is awaiting us tomorrow! (Keep on reading!) The mayor, Mr Bandić, and his associates give us a warm welcome. After that some of the students are interviewed for some local (Zagreb) TV stations.

In the afternoon the teachers have to work- this is a session on the next step in our project- the radio podcast. How to use a mixing desk, what podcasts to record, there are numerous questions to be cleared out.

MARCH 8, 2017 (D-DAY)

The crew of HTV (Croatian National Television) is waiting for Eduardo, Antonio, two students and me in front of the school at 7 o`clock! They are going to make a report for the morning programme! Now we are not only supposed to talk, but to be seen as well!!!

Everybody else meets at our school later in the morning. Different groups are formed and the rules of gymkhana are explained. Ready to plunge into the adventure! In the meantime, the reporters from *Večernji list*  arrive. An interview for the newspapers!

The hostesses are already at their positions. At each stall there is one teacher. The questions are ready. Who will be the first?

By the way, there is a reason why each stall is situated at its position. Can you try to guess why?

1. Unemployment- St. Mark`s Square, where the buildings of the Croatian Parliament and Government are situated
2. Poverty- the church of St. Francis
3. Immigration- Tomislav square, opposite the Central Railway Station
4. Ecology- Technical Museum

The crew of HTV comes again, now for a report for the afternoon programme. The interviewed students are excellent.

People passing by stop at the stalls and ask what it is. Some of them try to solve the questions. Some say that this whole project is a great thing.

After noon the first groups start arriving at the school, bringing their answers. The jury of teachers is waiting for them to be corrected. At 4 o`clock we have got the winners, the results, the prize ceremony takes place…everybody is tired, but happy.

Students get their well-deserved free-time, teachers go for dinner at *Kod Pere.* Now we can really relax.

MARCH 9, 2017

Students are visiting the Museum of Illusions and the Archaeological Museum, teachers are working. It is hard to be an adult! This time we have got the Europass session and evaluation session.

MARCH 10, 2017

Time for a trip. We are going to Krapina, to visit The Krapina Neanderthal Museum. Evolution is an interesting process…

In the afternoon the Latvians are leaving. The remaining students are planning their own activities…there is still time to go shopping, to visit some sight, or simply to be together, which is the best thing of all.

The remaining teachers spend the evening together at a restaurant. Cheers!

MARCH 11, 2017

Time to leave. Plans are made for visits during summer. (The Croatian Tourist Board should thank us!) There are tears, but also hopes for a quick reunion. It was great having you all here!!!

See you in Sibbo!