

THE FOURTH NEWSLETTER OF THE PROJECT
ENCOMPASSING CULTURAL HERITAGE OF SMALL
EUROPEAN TOWNS



MOBILITY TO LITHUANIA

25 OCTOBER – 29 OCTOBER, 2021



First day of the project

The Project participants from Spain, Germany, Croatia, Poland and Northern Macedonia (10 teachers and 20 students) came to the gymnasium on Monday morning. That was the 4th meeting of the training activities of the partners of the Encompassing Cultural Heritage of Small European Towns project.

We invited the guests to the gymnasium assembly hall, where they were greeted by Juozas Žymančius, the headmaster of the gymnasium. Everyone was delighted by the concert organized by our students to welcome the guests. Representatives from each country introduced their schools, towns and countries. It was fun to get acquainted with the cultural heritage and traditions of each town.

After the concert, a tour of the gymnasium was organized. Then the students took part in an "Ice-breaking" session under the "Snowball" program. Students had the opportunity to get to know each other better, participate in team activities, communicate in English, thus improving their foreign language skills.

In the afternoon, we told the participants of the project the history of Pajūris Town, visited Pajūris Exile Square, and the guests of the project had an exceptional opportunity to stay and get acquainted with the armament and equipment in the Artillery Battalion of Brigadier General Motiejus Pečiulionis. Later we went to see the Padievaitis mound and admire the Lithuanian autumn nature.





Second day of the project

On Tuesday morning we left for Klaipeda, then we took a ferry to Neringa, where we had the opportunity to visit and show our guests many impressive places. During the trip we admired the bays, visited the Dead Dunes of spectacular beauty, and walked the Nagliai educational trail, which led to the Agila Dune. After enjoying the beautiful views, listening to many stories, getting acquainted with the exceptional flora and fauna, we ended the trip in Nida. We are glad that the participants of the project listened carefully to the stories of the cultural heritage of the Curonian Spit, admired both the unique architecture and the traditions, beliefs and activities determined by the unique way of life.



Third day of the project

An international not traditional music lesson took place on Wednesday morning, led by music teacher R. Ramanauskienė. The teacher presented the singing of Lithuanian folk songs in different ethnographic regions of Lithuania, the specifics of the songs of each region, singing customs and traditions. The most fun thing for all the participants of the project was to sing the Lithuanian folk song "I went to the pub", which caused a lot of laughter and emotions, because it was necessary to perform all the movements quickly and accurately.

Jochen, a teacher from Germany, is very interested in Prussia and everything related to the Klaipėda region. He presented a short history of Prussia in a very interesting way and told about the French prisoners after World War II in Klaipėda. The Lithuanian approach to them was presented by teacher Elena, who shared historical material prepared by history teacher Veronika Gudaitė. There was a nice, productive sharing of opinions and assessments.

In the afternoon, all the guests were invited to the "Folk Dance Party". The purpose of this event is to get acquainted with the folk dances of the project partners, to dance them and to teach others. The hosts of the event started the event with Lithuanian folk dance. This was followed by German, Northern Macedonian, Spanish, Croatian and Polish dances

After the event, all guests were invited to a Lithuanian feast table. The participants of the project tasted traditional Lithuanian dishes: kugel, casserole with boiled potatoes, cheese with honey, baked bread with cheese spread, apple pie, etc. It is gratifying that not only the staff of our gymnasium canteen, but also the students willingly prepared the dishes. The participants of the project tasted each dish very eagerly and asked for their recipes.





Fourth day of the project

On the 28th, the fourth day of the project, we went to the Ventė Cape and Aukštumala Swamp Cognitive Trail with the project partners. Although it was raining in the morning, we decided not to abandon our plan. We told our guests about the ornithological station located here in Ventė horn, the ringing of birds, and climbed into the lighthouse.

When it stopped raining, we reached the Aukštumala Cognitive Trail, which impressed everyone with its gloomy, untouched nature. For many, it turned out to be majestic and exotic. On the way home, we stopped in Šilutė. When we returned to the gymnasium, we organized a lesson of baking traditional Lithuanian Christmas cookies – kūčiukai. Rugilė spoke about their significance, explained how the dough is prepared. Then, with the help of teacher D.Rupšienė, all the students rolled and cut the cookies. We put the baked goods in bags and gave them to all the guests of the project.

Today's trips and activities allowed the project participants to get acquainted with the natural and cultural heritage of Klaipėda region, to understand the Lithuanian Christmas and Christmas customs.









Fifth day of the project

On October 29 a group of our gymnasium students and participants of the Erasmus + project from Germany, Poland, Spain, Northern Macedonia and Croatia went to Vilnius to get acquainted with the architecture of the Old Town. The participants started their trip with the guide Andrius in the Cathedral Square. Walking through the narrow streets of the Old Town, we got acquainted with monuments and buildings of various religions. We visited the Gate of Dawn Chapel, MO Museum and tasted Lithuanian dishes.

This meeting was of great benefit to all participants of the project, they got to know each other's history and culture better and became friends. Understandably, although we are different, we still live in one Europe and we have to look for what brings us closer not separates us.



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