

IMPRESSIONS FROM LINZ

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I really liked Linz. I think that it is well developed. The transport always arrives on time, there are many museums, the people are polite and friendly. There



are also many different schools and lot of shops. I just think that the atmosphere there is great, because the people accept each other. They won't judge you if you dye your hair pink and have piercings all over your face.

Even the project program

was fantastic. The hosts showed us the city and told us a lot of things about the Austrian culture and history.

Basically, I really liked the city and I hope that one day I will have the opportunity to go there again. Also the project is great and it helps me to improve my English and to make new friends. I'm glad I am part of it!



Elitsa Danailova, Bulgaria

Linz by Day — Monday

- All partners contribution
- All days impressions
- All activities described

The very first day of our visit in Linz was the day of socialising, exploration and a lot of fun. We couldn't wait to meet students from other countries and to see the halls of our hosting school. I found it quite big and very nice, I especially admired the view- whichever window I looked out of, I saw breathtakingly beautiful cathedrals and churches.

I was personally curious about the group distribution, which came out well - we got an

opportunity to get to know people from every nation, as they were represented by at least one person in each group. We did some work together, and finally, we could get out into the streets of Linz to explore some of them.

It really was a Treasure „Hunt“, as we were rushing from one



historical or modern monument to another with several Austrian students, guiding us. Although we didn't get much of the history during it, I was enjoying the walk and sight.

To be honest, even until now I don't know some of the bars' and restaurants' names or what they are famous for. But it was certainly worth the pictures and getting know each other better during the run. J

Soňa Šimonová, Štúrovo, Slovakia



A Walk through Linz at Night — Monday

Linz is best to be visited at night, when all the historic buildings are marvellously lit and presented in its finest way. That was the reason we did this walk starting at around half past seven in the middle of town, close to HAK Linz.

Coming from Rudigierstrasse with the New Cathedral at our back, we turned into Landstrasse with its magnificent Ursulinenkirche and Ursulinenhof, where we had a look at the memorial remembering Franz Jägerstätter's imprisonment in 1943.

We also touched historic ground in front of the house of the Social Democratic Party, where the civil war broke out in 1934. Then we moved on across Taubenmarkt to the Hauptplatz, the main square with its Trinity column and on to Nibelungenbrücke, which was the border-

crossing between the American sector and the Soviet sector between 1945 and 1955. From Nibelungenbrücke we also had a fine view of Ars Electronica Center, Lentos Museum and the Castle.

We then walked through Altstadt, the old town to the governor's palace with its magnificent coat of arms, the Redoutensäle, where the yearly prom of HAK-Linz takes place, the theatre and finally up to the castle, where we had a look at the model of Linz of days gone by, and could look down on the southern part of Linz. We went through the yards of the Castle and on to Donaublick, a spot west of the Castle, where we had a look down on the Northern part of Linz and the Danube.

The

On the first Monday of February, once the participants in the international project ESCAPE have arrived, we all had the pleasure of getting to know the city of Linz a little bit better under the guidance of Michael Huber-Kirchberger, one of the teachers who welcomed us with their arms wide open in Bundeshandelschule und Bundeshandelsakademie Linz, the high school that hosted the very first part of our partnership.

With the high school as our starting point, we began strolling down through the chilly evening on the main street, admiring the beautifully maintained old buildings, until we reached the center, where the "Plague column" stands proud, as a monument of remembrance for the people who have been taken away by the plague epidemics.

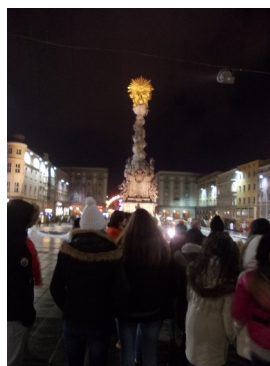
Continuing our tour, we also got a chance to see the City Town Hall, St. Mary's Cathedral - an imposing construction built in Gothic style and St. Martin's Church - the oldest church in Austria still standing to this day.

Those are all points of interest in Linz,

final attraction was St Martin's Church, dating back to 799, the location of the oldest church in Austria.

As only 2 people at a time could have a look in, our group extended over a long stretch on the way back up to Freinbergstrasse. We walked through a quarter of Linz called Römerberg (Romans' Mount) which has retained a village-like character with narrow lanes and small family homes as well as posh villas. But because of the cold weather not many noticed, as they were eager to get back to the warmth and cosiness of the hostel.

Mag. Michael Huber-Kirchberger,
Austria



but the highlight of the evening certainly was the breathtaking view we got the chance to witness once we have climbed Pöstlingberg hill, where the fortification tower - a remain of the fortification wall, the Pöstlingberg Church and the Castle, where king Friedrich the 3rd lived

in, were built.

The whole City of Linz could be seen from the platform on Pöstlingberg hill, the stunning view emphasized even more by the bright lights that shone around the city once the night came around. In the distance, the outline of the Roman-Catholic Cathedral or the brightly lit Ars Electronica Centre were also part of that scenery that will remain imprinted in our mind's eyes.

The tour came close to an end after taking a few pictures with Johannes Kepler's statue, but we would not forget the places we visited and the things we have learned about the peaceful and unique City of Linz.

Andra Soreg, Romania



„but the highlight of the evening certainly was the breathtaking view we got the chance to witness once we have climbed Pöstlingberg hill“

Tuesday — Present and Future

On Tuesday all of us took part in an official kick off meeting of the project at the Economic Chamber of Upper Austria and in the afternoon we visited a local harbour named Linz AG Hafen.

At the Economic Chamber of Upper Austria there were important people from politics of national and regional levels, namely Mrs. Eva Gattringer, Mag. Gisela Gutjahr, Mag. Ursula Panuschka and of course the headmaster of the Austrian school, Dir. HR Mag. Wolfgang Rupprecht who spoke about the present and the future of BHAK/HAK Linz which changes its name into Linz International Business School. Mag. Huber-Kirchberger introduced the goals of the ESCAPE project. All the politicians and other official guests had speeches in which we heard about the importance of international collaboration.

After the first part we had a break

and during this break Mag. Michael Huber-Kirchberger, the project coordinator, had an interview for the local radio. After the break students were presenting their towns and schools. We enjoyed this time a lot. It was interesting to watch the videos about the Slovak and Czech schools as well as to compare school systems in partner countries, to learn about final exam subjects or sports activities carried out in partner countries.

In the afternoon we went to the Linz harbour by bus. They showed how they lift containers at the harbour and a huge



freezing room where the temperature was was -22°C . After that, our guide introduced us their company in the form of presentation. Later on we could eat anything from the buffet and also drink cold drinks. Then we had free time until six o'clock, which was the time for dinner.

We think that everything was good experience for us. We could break the ice and talk to other people from different countries. Also we had to overcome nervousness while presenting so that's good for our future life. We enjoyed it a lot and we are looking forward to going to another partner country. It will be Pápa, Hungary, March 2015!

Filip Adamovsky,
Vendula Bocanova,

Czech team



“We think that everything was good experience for us”

Wednesday morning — eTwinning

The day of Wednesday began with a meeting at the host school, BHAK Linz. We were all split up in a few international groups and we all went into the available computer rooms, where we had a training about the basics of accessing and using twin-space of the project.

Returning into the Multimedia Room, it was time to decide the future logo of the project. Each country presented its own proposal and it was hard to vote, because we liked at least two, besides our own. In the end we had a winner - the logo designed by Viktor from the Slovak team, and this will be our

project's logo from now on.

Shortly afterwards, the Romanians and the Slovaks held each a short presentation regarding our schools, our curricula and extracurricular activities that we are involved in. Then we regrouped to work on our themes, while the teachers went to the computer room to be trained about the twinspace.

Vlad Vatau, Romania



Wednesday Afternoon — Enns



On Wednesday, 4th February, we visited Enns. It is a small town in Upper Austria near Linz. We travelled by train. It took only 15 minutes to get there.

Enns extends 7.5 km from north to south and 8.6 km from west to east. Its total area is 34.3 km²; 12% of its area is covered by forest, and 64% is used for agriculture. The population of the town is about 11.000.

On the main square there is a tower built instead of a church. It is 43m tall and it has 157

steps. There is a hotel room in the tower, which makes it so interesting. We started at the Hauptplatz or Main Square, which has all the features that a proper historic main square in Austria typically has: Burgher houses with Baroque facades, cafes and local people sitting around. If you climb up the enormous Stadtturm or town tower, you will also have an opportunity to see some of the arcaded courtyards that many of the - originally medieval - burgher houses have hidden behind their colourful facades. The Stadtturm was built in the 16th century and is the most prominent sight in Enns. Then we visited Basilika Lauriacum. It was built at the end of

the 13th century. Its style is baroque. Our next stop was Ennsseg Castle where we heard an interesting story about the foot step which you can see in one of the streets.

Enns is the oldest settlement in Austria and we recommend you to go there if you are somewhere around. It is a small town with a lot of things to see. Our Escape group had a really good time in this picturesque city. We say thanks to Elizabeth and Michael for organizing this unforgettable tour, which was a wonderful experience.

Beszédes, Dárió, Hungary



Thursday — Lessons, History, Culture

In the morning school started at 8.10 and the Bulgarian teacher of English Mitanka Todorova, as well as her colleagues Michael Huber-Kirchberger from Austria and Adriana Gora from Slovakia, presented their English lessons to three international teams of students who enjoyed working together and learning new things. The topics were - Hotels around the world, Fast food and Websites. The lessons were in English but other languages like German and Russian helped the communication and some students shared experiences in their mother tongues. In the afternoon the seven project groups visited the exhibition Pozor - Kalte Grenze and the new cathedral, where Michael Huber-Kirchberger gave us a lot of interesting information about the city's past and present. In the evening all the students together with their teachers had a disco at the hostel, danced, had fun and made lots of new friends. We went to bed tired but happy!

Mitanka Todorova, Bulgaria



On Thursday we started the day at the school. The students were divided into three groups. We had to attend three different

English lessons presented by different teachers. I think that this helped us to improve our English even more. Also, we had the chance to know how teachers from other countries teach. After the whole 3 lessons we had a lunch break. Then we went to the museum "POZOR". There were many interesting things such as old phones, paintings, a part of an old car and even documentary films. We also went to the beautiful New Cathedral. It is a neo - Gothic cathedral and it is the largest church in Austria. It is so big and magnificent that you can spend hours looking at the stained glass.

Elitsa Danailova, Bulgaria



„It is so big and magnificent that you can spend hours looking at the stained glass.“

Friday — Ars Electronica: A Glimpse of the Future

On Friday, 6th February in the morning school started at 8.10 and we had our last working session. Every team got certificates. Then we went to computer rooms to do our presentations. We were divided to four groups at the beginning of the training. Each group did their presentation and then presents it to the others. After that we had lunch break.

At 2 o'clock we went to the Ars Electronica Centre. It is situated at the northern side of the Danube opposite the city hall of Linz. It has been built on the right side of the Nibelungenbrücke. Museum exhibits are divided in four areas: Main Gallery, Geo City, Artists, Creators, Engineers and Deep Space. First, we had guided tour for half an hour. We saw many interested things like the two light stick that if you move your head really quick you can see an eye. We also saw the picture of an eye. It was interesting because the guide took it in front of us. Then we went to the laboratory. You could make yourself a souvenir made out of paper. Then the

guide showed us the whole map of Linz. You could see how many single girls between selected ages are in the city, or how many man and women are there, you could also see which kindergarten is suitable for you child and what did Linz looked like many years ago. Then there were smaller maps of dream cities. When we finished the guided tour they took us to Deep Space. It was very interesting. We had 3D glasses on and you had to keep it on threw the whole show. At first we looked at the earth from close and we looked at Linz. We saw the highest mountains and we also had a little skiing experience. Then we saw space and planets and we talked and saw Aurora borealis. They also showed us Mars and told us that there might be life on this planet because they found water. And that was the end of the show. Then we had another guided tour for half an hour where we saw the iron which you can take selfies with and



there was a game where you can kill people by touching the screen and robots and many thing. Then we had an hour in the museum. My friend and I looked at a lot of stuff, but we also finished the puzzle about Facebook and when we did Mark Zuckerberg started talking on the screen. It was a wonderful experience and our favorite in the whole week.

Slovenian team



„It was a wonderful experience and our favorite in the whole week“

English, Library, School

Thursday morning was marked by English classes, the language which helped us build all the connections between different cultures and nationalities. The first lesson was based on funny hotels and it included a Power-Point presentation of the most luxurious but unusual hotels, quizzes and speaking exercises. The second lesson was focused on the impact of computers in our lives. We learnt a lot about the history of internet and its development, and we mixed fun with useful by doing grammar and speaking exercises. The last lesson was about one of the most popular brand among children: McDonalds. This lesson was focused on improving our

speaking skills and helped us realise that more and more people give up daily on junk food and that McDonalds is not as popular as it used to be. Our "journey" continued with a visit in a place where you can dream and set your imagination free: the library. The librarian told us a few words about what can we find in the library and then we all enjoyed looking at books which interested us the most. After we visited the library, the Austrian partners showed us their school. It was a perfect way to start a beautiful day .

Miriam Faur, Romania



Saturday - Time to Say Goodbye

As beautiful, intense and exciting as it was, our first international meeting came to an end. Saturday morning was the time to have our last breakfast together at the hostel, our last meeting in the conference room and our last chats in the hostel lobby. We virtually met each other a few months ago, on the twinspace, we met in person and quickly became friends, as young people should do, we found a lot of interesting facts about each other, about our towns, our schools, our curricula, we exchanged addresses and promises that we will keep in touch. There are project tasks that will bring us together again, at least



on line and, of course, during the next meetings, we'll all have the opportunity to host, to show our schools, our towns, our way of life.

It was a good time to show our gratitude for our hosts and to thank them for all their care, for the time that they used to make our stay interesting, comfortable and fun and for the great ideas that we developed together in order to have a great start and a successful project.

Thank you, Michael, thank you, Elisabeth, thank you, students from BHAK Linz, for this great week that we spent together!

Adriana Maris,
Romania



Obchodni akademie a VOSE, Tabor, Czech Republic



BHAK und BHAS Linz, Austria



Papai Gazdasagi Szakkepzo Iskola Papa, Hungary



Colegiul National "Coriolan Brediceanu" Lugoj, Romania



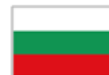
Gimnazium Sturovo, Slovakia



Ekonomska Sola Ljubljana, Slovenia



Profesionalna gimnazia Asen Zlatar, Vidin, Bulgaria



Specialized school no. 3 Khust, Ucraina|



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