

ERASMUS+ ROOTS

ISSUE 1

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Welcome to Naantali !



Kick-off meeting in Finland

FINALLY! In September we started our work on the new Erasmus+ project called "Roots". For two years we will cooperate with our partners from Finland, Cyprus, Italy, Turkey and Spain and we will meet at least six times within the next two years!

Since the very beginning we were sooooo curious. Who will be our new friends? Are they like us? What is life in their countries like? Is their culture similar or very different from our culture? And we were also looking forward to the first activities and the first meeting. Finally we will meet them and we will be able to talk face to face and work together!



Here we are! It is mid-December and we are in Naantali with our host families! And we are pretty sure that we will have a lot of fun! One week is a short time but we will manage to make friends not only with our hosts but with all the others, too.

Our trip to Finland started on Wednesday, December 12th in the morning when a minibus took us to the Krakow airport. There we waited for three hours for our flight to Helsinki. Quite good, no turbulences and in two hours we were at Vantaa airport. We arranged our arrival time together with the Turkish team so that we could travel to Naantali together. Our journey was really very comfortable, the minibus stopped on the way at a petrol station where we had some coffee or dinner and before nine o'clock we were at the Palo hotel where we met our host families. Tomorrow everything begins!

Stories, legends, fairy tales

Our first topic for a survey and interviews was about old stories and legends of our town and region. Thirty students from our school worked on it and searched for some interesting facts in books and on the internet and talked to their grandparents. We also asked them about their favourite fairy tales from their childhood. And what did we find?

We found a legend about the "Fryštát bell". Two students, Tomáš and Daniela prepared the story and we used it in our presentation. This story is connected with the history of our town, Karviná.

The most popular fairy tales of our grandparents were "The proud princess", "The princess with a golden star on her forehead" and "Three nuts for Cinderella". And these films are still popular even nowadays!



All the other teams also prepared their presentations about stories and legends in their countries, so we learned for example about the Finnish national epic Kalevala, a Basque story about a thief from Lizarra called Aldabika, or about a witch named Anbotoko Mari, we heard a Turkish story about Kerem and Asli narrated by some old people and some other stories, myths and legends from Cyprus or Italy.

It was quite interesting to listen to the students presenting their work! And also interesting to think if we have similar stories.

Logo competition

In November we all worked on creating a logo of the project. Each school then chose three best logos for the competition and during the meeting in Naantali we voted for the "winner". Our logos were made by Veronika, Daniela and Klára (her logo is Nr.10 here). However, we did not succeed with our proposals, there was a tie between two Turkish logos and in the second round we found the winner! Congratulations to Antalya!



THE WINNING LOGO



Santa is coming!



We were lucky with the choice of the place of the first meeting and the dates! As our meeting took place in Finland just a few days before Christmas, Santa did not have to travel far to appreciate our good behaviour and bring some nice presents to all of us! The Finnish friends arranged a dinner at the Metsätähti restaurant and left the doors open for Santa. And he came! :-)

Campfire in Haijainen



Our meeting was not closed just for the students and teachers. The parents' association prepared for us a nice programme for Sunday morning. We were taken to a local nature trail in Haijainen where had a walk in the winter nature outside the town. And then the time for our lunch came. We baked some buns, ate hot sausages and warmed our hands by the fire. It was a really refreshing time in the forest for all of us!

Excursion to Turku

Naantali is situated in the south-western part of Finland and is known as one of the most important tourist centres. The town has about 20,000 inhabitants and the nearest big city is Turku.

On Saturday we went for excursion there to learn more about Finnish history and culture. We visited the Cathedral where we could listen to a choir practising for their performance or just sit and feel the atmosphere of this old place.

Then we continued in our guided sightseeing tour and stopped for another visit at the Turku Castle. We spent an hour in the castle and the lunchtime was approaching. We split in the town centre, the students went with their hosts, and us, the teachers, walked a bit in the Christmas market and then tasted various meals in a Viking restaurant.

Some of us ate reindeer or elk meat for the first time in our lives. It was delicious and the place looked also very nice and cosy.

After lunch we enjoyed the visit of Turku on our own either back at the market or somewhere else in the town centre.



Turku Castle



Our project work throughout the next two years includes various workshops and activities. The Finnish school prepared a seminar on folk traditions of the country, a workshop "Folk stories, narrations and theatre", a creative workshop with making some decorations at the local museum and a workshop called "United in diversity", which is a motto of European Union.

In all meetings we will also learn to play some old, traditional sports and games. Our first game was called "mölky" and it is a reminiscent of kyykkä, a centuries old throwing game with Karelian roots.

The last workshop then focused on one of our topics, creative writing.

Workshops



On Monday we visited the Naantali museum with exhibitions of the typical life in this area years and years ago and walked in the old town where we visited the most important places. While the students played "Amazing race", the teachers had a guided tour.

National cuisine

One of the most popular intercultural activities in all types of international projects - tasting some traditional meals, sweets or snacks from the national cuisine of each country. This time we prepared garlic spread and brought some sweets. And of course we also tasted what our friends prepared for us. Yummy!



Creative writing

by Eliška Hanusková

Are you asking for my feelings from Finland? The best feeling is that I became friends with all of them, and also how a foreign family was nice to me. I was very surprised that they used computers in lesson. I was also surprised that most people have a sauna at home and that they have such beautiful houses with large windows.

I like them all for every joke, because on Monday we jumped into the icy sea and then went to the sauna. Then we all were falling to snow and making snow angels. If you did not try it, I recommend you to jump in such a winter to the sea, it is very refreshing. I also liked the city so nicely decorated.

The only thing that made me disappointed was that the trip is so short, because as soon as I started having fun with all the friends, I must go home.

I liked the trip, and I hope I will meet some of my new friends again! Living with a foreign family gave me new experience, and this is certainly not my last trip.

My experiences from Finland

by Veronika Mrozková

What surprised me? I was surprised how nice the school and the houses are, how good people here are, everyone smiles, likes to talk with me and for example learns some Czech words. And I was surprised when I saw all pupils with computers during the lessons. And I was surprised when I jumped into the sea, it was very icy.

What I liked in cities?

When I first came to Naantali, I really liked Christmas decoration in the city. Then we came to Viivi's home I was completely surprised how the house looked. On Saturday we went to Turku. I love Turku, because Turku is the most beautiful city I've ever seen. The cathedral was beautiful and the castle was very interesting, I learned a lot of new things about Finland.

What dissatisfied me?

I was most dissatisfied that the visit in Finland was too short.

I really enjoyed this visit to Finland, I met new friends, saw gorgeous places and tasted a dish that I have never seen before.

Thank you for everything!

Creative writing

by Tomáš Kohut

The first feelings from Finland were at the time, when our plane landed and I saw the beautiful city of Turku. First I was excited about the first visit to a foreign country and my first flight by plane, but I was a bit disappointed that there was no snow in Finland!

After two hours of bus travel from the airport and waiting in front of the hotel, I finally first saw the Toissalo family. The family is really great at first glance and always wanted to take care of me. A beautiful house and other things are just a little part of this family.

Other things in Finland, more precisely in the city of Turku and Naantali, were really nice houses, a castle in Turku and Old town in Naantali.

I hope that I will be able to visit this country again and If I could see the beautiful polar glow, I would be the happiest man.









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