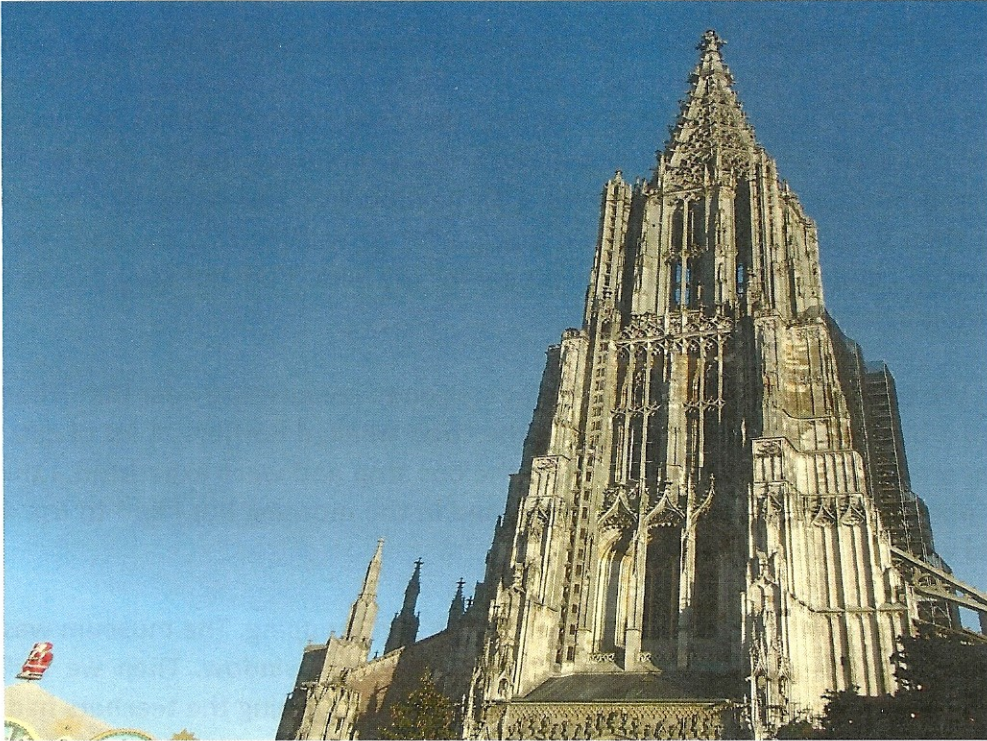


Ulm – Ecological footprint

We traveled to Ulm (24.11.2013 – 29.11.2013) to participate in the German Comenius Project mobility hosted by the school Internationaler Bund. IB's theme was the ecological footprint. Six countries participated: Germany, Finland, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Turkey. The Comenius Project is a project to raise awareness for environmental issues. We stayed in a hotel in Ulm called Comfort. The German school showed us a bio farm, fair trade shop, sights, museums etc.



Ecological footprint

Ecological Footprint describes how much land and water area is required to a person or group for food consumption, materials and energy to produce and process the waste. According to WWF, humanity's ecological footprint exceeded the earth's carrying capacity for 25 per cent.

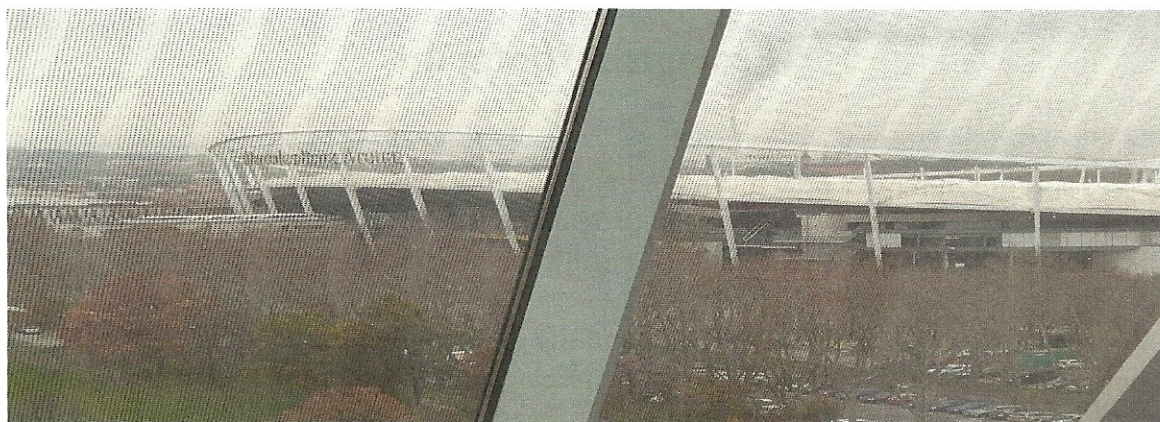
In 2007, China consumed the most resources and the ecological deficit was the largest. The largest consumer after China's biocapacity is the United States, and India. If China's per capita consumption of resources would increase to the level of the United States, it would need the entire amount of the Earth's biocapacity. China uses more than 16 percent of the world's biocapacity, which includes, among other things, water, earth, and wood.

Monday: We met up at the IB school and every country gave a presentation of their country. Participant countries were Germany, Turkey, Poland, Lithuania, Portugal and Finland. Then we did an ecological footprint test on the computer. Finland got the second worst result 3 earths after Germanys 3.3 earths. (I felt some of the answer options in the test didn't apply to me at all so I had to choose a random answer a few times.) Then we had an international snack in which every country brought their local cuisines. I ate mostly German cheese and sausages. Then we went out and walked to the Ulmer Munster guided tour. Tour was nice but the walking we did was quite a lot. Janette felt tired before the tour so she missed it but one day when we went out photographing in Ulm I told her everything I remembered from the tour. In the evening my legs were very tired from walking even though I play football.

Tuesday: We went to the fair trade store for shopping and hearing about their work in helping workers in their countries. There was fair trade 0,7l white rum for 14€ it was a huge shock to me. In Finland fair trade rum would be 40€ at least but I don't we even think have fair trade rum here. I bought some chocolate and second harvest black tea. I've almost drank all of it. After that we went to a bread museum. It had this device with headphones and which you used by inserting number and then it told you stuff. We did quite a bit of walking this day too. My lower back started to hurt so I bought some inflammation gel for my back. I am not sure did we go shopping or taking photographs in the evening.

Wednesday: We took a bus near the Ulm railway station to somewhere near Ulm. Then we walked a long way to a bio farm. It was very cold and the cows smelled horrible. A lot of cats and kittens were running around. Then we walked back to the bus stop and were exhausted. I think we went shopping or photographing not sure. The gel helped in the morning but I had to use again during day so I could walk around some more.

Thursday: We left for Stuttgart for Mercedes museum and shopping. The museum was quite large and futuristic. I liked that you saw Stuttgart arena from the window. Then we walked around Stuttgart shopping areas till it was time to head back. In the evening the teachers had a meal and we went shopping for the last time before leaving.



Friday: We left for München a bit early to do some last minute shopping till our plane left. In München we saw our 3rd Christmas market of the trip and nice sights.

Hannu Laaksonen