



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

On March 23rd students and teachers went to Portugal for the second Comenius Mobility which took place in Porto.

The second mobility in Portugal, which took place from the 23rd to the 28th of November 2014, was an opportunity to both get better acquainted with the subject "Waste Management" and experience cultural differences first hand.

Only Aware Can Act Fair!



WASTE MANAGEMENT IN PORTUGAL

Portugal situation in 1995 with regard to solid waste management was characterized by total failure of the most basic requirements for environmental preservation, because MW were "dumped" in open landfills in 76% of cases and 14% in controlled landfills: In 1996 more than 300 waste landfills were needed to keep up with the rubbish that was produced. That situation harmed the landscapes and soils and provided vehicles for spreading diseases in local populations. The exception to this scenario consisted in 13 places where the deposition was carried out controlled and in 5 units for organic recovery.

IN RECENT YEARS.

Municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal has been one of the most important environmental problems for all of the Portuguese regions. The basic principles of MSW management in Portugal are: (1) prevention or reduction, (2) reuse, (3) recovery (e.g., recycling, incineration with heat recovery), and (4) polluter-pay principle. Additionally, the MSW responsibility and management structure in Portugal is presented, together with the present situation of production, collection, recycling, treatment and elimination of MSW.



Results showed that 96% of MSW was collected mixed (4% was separately collected) and that 68% was disposed of in landfill, 21% was incinerated at waste-to-energy plants, 8% was treated at organic waste recovery plants and 3% was delivered to sorting.

An Early Start:

Sunday morning 8 am, all 7 of us were waiting on platform 4, Ulm main train station, waiting to board the train to Munich airport to catch the flight to Oporto in Portugal. Our topic of conversation was the weather. "We are going to Portugal right"? "That's a country where the sun shines and there could be a chance of getting sunburned" (little did we know)!



A rude awakening:

Anyway the train arrived on time and we boarded and found our seats together. After a very short while it dawned on us that the train we were on was of a very high standard for a cheap "away-day" ticket.... never mind let's sit back, relax and have some breakfast. 20 minutes later the train conductor arrived and studied our tickets very closely. "Sorry, these tickets are invalid for this journey". That means you are all going to have to get off at the next train station and get the "slower train" to Munich. A quick look at the time and the various hurdles that now stood in our way, left us no other option, but for some "slick negotiations". In the end after a very scary few minutes we continued on to the airport with enough time to catch the first leg of the journey to Madrid, then after a couple of hours walking around a deserted Madrid airport finally getting the flight to Oporto. Coming down was extremely bumpy! A small plan and loads of thermal "holes in the sky" don't really do anything good for a weak stomach.

All's Well That Ends Well.

After landing and receiving a very warm welcome from the Portuguese participants we were all taken to our respective accommodation for the next few days. The teachers' hotel in Guimarães was excellent in both the culinary breakfast and living space. The students were very well looked after in their various guest family homes. For the transportation an excellent private bus service was provided to take us everywhere we needed to get to during the weeks' visitations.

Portugal facts and figures:

During our stay in Portugal we learned a lot about the country, the culture, the language and what financial and environmental issues Portugal is now confronted with. Portuguese language is spoken by about 230 million people around the world (incl. 210 native speakers), and is the official language of 9 countries. The country has a population of 10,576,000 people and is situated on the Atlantic coast, on the western coast of the Iberian Peninsula in southwestern Europe, the most westerly country on the European mainland. The land consists of highland forests in the north and rolling lowland in the south. It tends to be wetter and cooler in the north. The south can be hot and it is dotted with reservoirs to conserve water. There is a big difference between the north and the south of Portugal, not only in a climatic way but also to a great extent in political thinking, financial expenditure and budget distribution.



We also visited the world-famous Sandeman sherry brewery in Porto that produces a Port wine (also known as "Porto"), a sweet Portuguese fortified wine from the Douro Valley, has been imitated in several countries - notably Australia, South Africa, India and the United States. And, over half of the world's cork (especially for wine bottles) is produced in Portugal.

Carl DWYER

A fresh start to our second mobility!

On the first day we met with other students from different countries. After meeting, students from each six countries held a short presentation about their schools and countries. Then we had an "international snack time" and had a chance to try different kinds of food from all over the world. At the same time teachers gave presents to each other. After snack time we went to a coffee shop. Everyone tasted some coffee there.

Then we went back to school. After our first day program have finished, we went to our host families by train. There was a surprise party thrown for a student from Poland. We ate birthday cake and then we sang songs together while a student was playing a piano. We played different games and had a lot of fun. It was a really enjoyable day for all of us.

Ebru Akbasli and Funda Göksu



It was a very interesting and funny day!



The second day program started very early. We met at the school and went to the city of Famalicao. We had free time to chill out and go shopping in the city hall. It is a small but nice city in which you can do a lot of things. In the near of the city there was the youth house. There we saw what young people can do in their free time. Later we wanted to have a picnic but the weather was so cold that we had to eat at home. After that we went to Deveasa Park and visited a garden where people were planting some

plants. The program of the day finished after that visit. In the afternoon the teachers had a meeting and pupils went to McDonald's with their host families to eat something. We got to know all parents and pupils from other countries. The dinner was very enjoyable. It was a nice day with a lot of activities. After the dinner all pupils and parents went their home. Everybody got tired because the day was very intense.

Mehmet Aslan

Last day in Porto!

On Thursday we were picked up from school by bus and drove to a landfill. We watched while the waste was being separated. The workers earn not much money for this work. The waste is separated into many categories such as plastic, paper, sheet, etc. The leader of the company explained us that the particular waste is buried under the earth in order to recycle it. In the afternoon we went to the seaside Vila de Conde.

We went with our partners through the seaside and looked at the fisherman. In the evening all the teachers had a meal in a restaurant because it was the last day of the second mobility. We had a dinner with all the pupils and host families. We ate together and then we gave our presents. After the meal we said goodbye to everyone and turned back to our houses.

Kilicaslan Karacabey



A shining experience: Porto!



After a wonderful Monday, we learned a lot from each other. On Tuesday we all met in school and visited a company. The company that fills the vending machines with sweets and coffee was really interesting for all of us. It was the first time that we have learned how these machines work. After that we used these machines and taste some coffee and sweets.

Then we went back to school. After a very nice trip to company, the programme finished for second day. In the evening we were in the city to eat something. Then we had some time to visit the city. Porto is a small but really nice city. Friends from other countries were kind and funny and we had really good time together.

Serkan Gezer