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## Second mobility in Vale de S. Cosme, Portugal

### 23<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>th</sup> March 2014

The second meeting of Comenius project “Only aware can act fair. Students for sustainable food and trade” took place at Didáxis - Escola Cooperativa de Vale de S. Cosme in Portugal. Teachers and students of partnership schools from Germany, Portugal, Finland, Lithuania, Poland and Turkey took part in it. From XIII Secondary School in Krakow participated: the polish coordinator Bożena Bućwińska, an English teacher Marta Pankiv and four students – Emilia Tyrańska, Katarzyna Walasek, Alicja Kierczak, Weronika Cieślik .

#### Monday

On the first day of the project all the participants got together at Didaxis School, which is situated in a picturesque village surrounded by forests and mountains. After a warm greeting of the principal we started our presentations concerning the project issue. On the first day of the mobility everyone had a chance to tell some interesting facts about their schools, their countries and to meet each other. The main subject discussed during the meeting was segregating and recycling of waste. The atmosphere of the meeting was very friendly and natural.

After the presentations we tasted traditional food of every country. Each snack was very tasty and looked very good. We give our credit to our hosts for wonderful decoration of the food, and to the Turkish group, whose snack was not only lavish but also delicious. After the international snack we could see the whole Didaxis school and meet new friends.



Another point of our agenda was a visit to a catering factory.



We could see the whole process of servicing vending machines, food packaging and a transport process. After we had disinfected our hands, we could dress up in special protective clothing and watch how food is prepared. It was interesting to find out something about how the factory works. Visiting a catering factory was a very interesting experience for all of us. Never could we imagine how much effort should be made to prepare and deliver high-quality food and drinks to customers. The first day of mobility in Portugal was educational and enjoyable.

*Emilka Tyrańska*



**Tuesday**

On Tuesday we went to visit Famalicao, a beautiful town in the North of Portugal. We saw there the City Hall, and then had some free time, so we took a walk around the town.



A visit to the Youth House was next in our plan. The building of the Youth House is a great example of filling an old form with a new content, combining of history and present as an entirely new construction was built within the walls of an old college. We were shown around by students of Didaxis School, which was an additional advantage. The Portuguese made a presentation and they told us about the activities young people could do there. There was a recording studio to help the young develop their artistic skills. On every floor there were some quiet rooms to help them focus on their homework. Everything was very modern and comfortable, which created welcoming atmosphere. People working in the Youth House are authorized to help youngsters in difficult situations of their lives, they can advise what is more profitable for them.



After the presentation we were supposed to have a picnic at Devesa Park, but unfortunately the weather was rainy and windy, so we did it in the Youth House. The meal was very good, and nobody was disappointed.

Next we went to the Devesa Park. Devesa park perfectly fits into urban landscape of the town. There we could see community gardens where people grow small plots of vegetables. This allows citizens to

grow their own food or for others to donate what they have grown. Hospitality and the smile of our guide more than compensated for cold and rainy weather. Our guide showed us around its vast territory and did a lecture on its destination.



In the afternoon we came back to school to have a Flash Mob rehearsal. A teacher from Finland showed us some steps to Macklemore's music, and we had to dance it together.

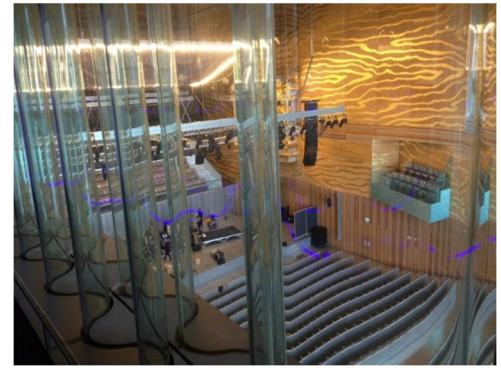
*Ala Kierczak*

## Wednesday

We couldn't wait to see the city of Porto, a city declared as World Heritage by UNESCO, with its fascinating history and exceptional atmosphere. We had a great opportunity to experience both visiting House of Music, Bom Sucesso Market and the Sandeman Wine cellar.



Designed by Rem Koolhaas, an architect from the Netherlands, Casa da Musica or House of Music in Porto was built as a part of the works done to welcome the European Culture Capital initiative and soon become an iconic city symbol. The main auditorium, shaped like a simple shoebox, is enclosed at both ends by two layers of glass walls. The glass, corrugated for optimal acoustics and sheer beauty, brings diffused daylight into the auditorium. The folded glass curtains allow for slightly distorted views of the city. One of the rooms in the building has pale-blue tiles with religious themes on its walls, commonly found in Portuguese churches. And another is soundproof with walls covered with green sponge. All the visitors were greatly impressed by exquisite architecture and acoustic capacity of this marvellous building.



After this visit we had a free time. With our Portuguese friends we visited the city and had dinner.

One can't imagine Porto without tasting porto wine. Next aim of the trip around Porto was the Sandeman wine cellar, one of the first companies to brand and label its wines. Dressed like a Spanish caballeros, our guide led us through the cellar corridors uncovering secrets of producing this noble drink. He showed us huge barrels with fermenting wine and the oldest vintage wine bottled and stored on special shelves behind bars. The history of Sandeman company he told us was fascinating. At the end of our excursion everybody could taste Porto wine. We had a sip and I must admit it was a strong one.

*Kasia Walasek*



## Thursday



The landfill we saw on the last day of our visit proved how much landfiling practices had to change in recent years to meet the challenges of the European



Landfilling Directive. The landfill contract is worth 111 million euro. It includes an ancillary recycling center and transfer station. The contract runs for 25 years. We

also learned that a landfill can be a source of materials and energy.

The last but not least point of the agenda was visiting the seaside in Vila do Conde, one of the oldest settlements in northern Portugal. We could walk along the shores of the beach and take beautiful pictures of the magnificent ocean. Breath-taking sights of the Monastery of Santa Clara, Aqueduct of



Vila do Conde with the ocean in the background are worth admiring. Many mariners from the village were involved in the epic voyages during the Age of Discovery, the atmosphere of which one can feel going on board of a carrack in the harbour of the Vila do Conde.

In the evening all the students taking part in the Comenius project had a farewell dinner. After dinner we returned to our homes and packed up because on Friday we were flying back to Poland. Nobody wanted to leave Portugal.

We really appreciate tremendous job our host teachers and families made to organize our visit. Their hospitality and willingness to help warmed up our hearts in the stormy weather. Farewell to Portugal – a country of a unique culture, lively cities and beautiful countryside.

*Weronika Ciešlik*

