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Fourth mobility in Kaunas, Lithuania

21.-26.09.2014

The fourth meeting of Comenius project 'Only aware can act fair. Students for sustainable food and trade' was held at the Food Industry and Trade Training Center (KMPPMC) in Kaunas, Lithuania. Teachers and students from the participating schools in Finland, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Turkey took part. XIII Liceum Ogólnokształcące in Kraków was represented by two teachers: Bożena Bućwinska – the project coordinator and Beata Kubianka – an English teacher, and five students: Anna Bednarz, Olga Dorosz, Katarzyna Gruszecka, Inga Michałowska and Michał Stacharski.



The hotel

There is one thing you need to know before you take part in the project. If you go to the Comenius project, then you will meet amazing people who like us are not indifferent to problems of the world, you'll also see beautiful places and you'll have a million of memories after returning home. The Polish group got convinced about it on the day of arrival. Due to the fact that most of the students stayed in the school hotel (the hotel department of the Lithuanian school), the international intergration started on the first evening. Students from Poland, Portugal

and Turkey spent a lot of time talking, singing, eating traditional food and learning foreign languages. We became one group!

Packaging

On the first day of the meeting, in the morning, we listened and watched a presentation on various techniques of packaging. Thanks to it we got to know something about the symbols of recyclable, reusable and bio-degradable packing and eco-design. We realized how important it is to buy products made from recycled material because then our environment will be cleaner, and this will reduce the consumption of electricity, water and will limit deforestation. This was not the end of attraction- we had a lesson about packaging. A teacher taught us how to pack beautiful gifts for family and friends, in different shapes, using only the simplest things.



A tour of Kaunas



After the presentation we went to the old town to listen about the history of the city. Kaunas is the second-largest city in Lithuania. The focal point of the old town is the square with the sixteenth-century town hall called the White Swan. Next to the square, on the Neman river there is a church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin- this is the oldest Catholic church in Lithuania. Around the market there are many restored houses made of red brick. There is also the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul - the largest Gothic church in Lithuania. Close to the banks of the Neris river we could see the Kaunas castle dating back to the 14th century. One of the biggest attractions is the Kaunas Liberty Avenue- it is one of the longest streets in Europe, exclusively for pedestrians. In the middle of the street there are planted lime trees.

The European dinner

In the evening, when the teachers had free time, the students prepared a European dinner. We cut vegetables, mixed the ingredients and began out cooking, and all this was done under the watchful eye of a friendly chef. The teachers enjoyed the dinner prepared by us and served by the Lithuanian students.



Written by Ania Bednarz

The Food Department



On Tuesday we travelled to the Food Department of KMPPMC school, situated in the suburbs of Kaunas. There, we could see a very modern school building with a lot of brand new cooking equipment. After a short walk around the school, a teacher showed us a big wood-fired brick oven- the school's pride. Then, a group of volunteers dressed in white coats had an opportunity to make a traditional Lithuanian specialty, a so-called "tree cake". Later, we saw a meat portioning room, bakery rooms and a huge school library.

The Paper Mill

We didn't really expect what we were going to do. This mysterious "paper mill" wondered us most on that day. We travelled in the direction of Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, near which the factory is located. The paper mill itself appeared more like a huge facility located over a large area. We had to put on yellow vests for safety, and then we could go to the main building of the factory. The first impressions of that place were a loud machine noise, high air temperature and humidity, and a strange smell of wet cellulose. A kind worker was our guide. He showed us the whole process of making paper, from the wet cellulose pulp through giant rolls of thick paper, to small rolls and packed bags of toilet paper. The noisy and fast moving machines scared us a bit, but everyone was brave, and we went through the entire production line. We left the factory with a great amount of knowledge how the paper is made, and why we had better use paper that is made from recycled material.



Written by Michal Stacharski

The Old Mill



Wednesday was a great day. After a delicious breakfast we set off for a trip to an old mill. At the beginning we took part in the process of making buns. That was a fascinating experience. Later, the miller told us the history of the mill, which was built in 1929, and showed us how it all worked in the past and how it is done nowadays. What was surprising was the fact that nothing has changed and the mill works in the same way as in the past. Then, we visited all the rooms and saw how wheat grain is converted into flour, bran and other products. Then

we were given a challenge and tried to make flour out of grain in the way people did it in the olden days, using stones. That was a difficult task and demanded a lot of strength. Afterwards we had lunch which consisted of bread rolls made in the traditional way and we also ate traditional Lithuanian cakes which looked and tasted like pancakes but were smaller. When we were leaving the mill, we got the buns that we had made earlier.

Kedainiai

We had a chance to visit Kedainiai, a place connected closely with both Polish and Lithuanian history. Kedainiai is one of the oldest towns in Lithuania, the seat of the Radziwill family, with an imposing 17th century Calvinist church, inside which there are tombs of Krzysztof and Janusz Radziwill. On our walk around the town we admired old, historic merchant houses and we found a monument of Czeslaw Milosz – a Polish writer, the Nobel Prize winner, who was born in the vicinity of Kaidaniai.



Free time – Ice-rink



The rest of the day was also awesome because our Lithuanian friends had planned the whole afternoon for us. We went to a very modern ice rink and had fun ice-skating, learning it or polishing our skills. Later on, in the hotel one of our friends tried to teach us a Belgian dance and it was great fun. That was a perfect day. We think that travelling, sightseeing and meeting people from other countries is a great experience and teaches us a lot, not only the languages.

Written by Olga Dorosz, Beata Kubianka, Inga Michalowska

The Devil Museum

On Thursday we went to visit an unusual museum situated in Kaunas. It's called the Devil Museum. There were hundreds of statues of devil. It was great because we had a very good guide who told us a number of interesting stories. This place is very important as it is one of only a few in the world. The museum was initiated by A. Zmuidzinawicius. He was a collector who wanted to gather various figures of devil. Later, he also started to look for pictures, masks or other things related to demons. Among them he found



many witches and gnomes. In this very museum we spent about an hour and a half and it was really worth visiting. At the end our guide showed us that he could speak Polish quite well. So then he was telling us about Adam Mickiewicz in our language. We were truly impressed, and will remember this museum for a long time.



Saying goodbye

Unfortunately, Thursday was the last day together. We had some free time to see the big shopping centre and buy souvenirs. However, everybody was sad. We wanted to spend more time with our foreign friends, so at the hotel we had a party. Everyone was singing, dancing and having fun. This amazing trip was a very interesting and instructive adventure for us. We learnt so much, met fantastic new people and of course practised the English

language. (However, each of us learned a few phrases in Lithuanian). We just wish we could have stayed longer. And we hope to meet our friends again in March, when they come to Poland.

Written by Kasia Gruszecka

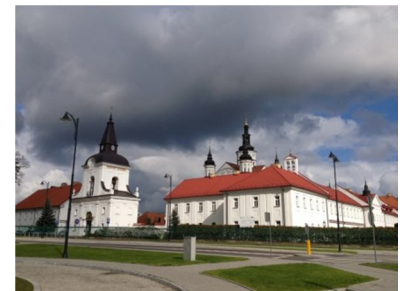
On the way home – Kruszyńiany

For us – people from Krakow, the north-east of Poland is a land of wonders. Here, you can see spectacular landscapes, impassable forests and a mixture of cultures and religions. That's why coming back from Lithuania we decided to do two stops on our way. One of the places we wanted to see is Kruszyńiany – a tiny village with a small, wooden 17th century mosque, which belongs to the Tartar minority in Poland. The area was given to the Tartar population by the king Jan III Sobieski as a reward for the military service.



On the way home – Suprasl

Another fascinating place on our way home was Suprasl, with a magnificent Orthodox monastery (Lavra). We didn't have time to visit it, but we could enjoy a wonderful view of the whole monastery, which dates back to the 16th century.



We are impressed

That's what we feel after our mobility to Kaunas. That was an instructive meeting during which everybody could learn a lot about the idea of sustainable food and aware consuming. The programme of the meeting was perfectly prepared and carried out, with a thought given even to the smallest details. The Lithuanians managed to keep everyone interested, engaged in the activities, cooperating as a team. We still appreciate their hospitality and will have to learn a lot from them.

Written by the team

Redaction team: Anna Bednarz, Olga Dorosz, Katarzyna Gruszecka, Inga Michałowska and Michał Stacharski. Beata Kubianka, Bożena Bućwińska