

## Week of Erasmus

### Prepare:

In autumn we received an invitation to participate in the Erasmus project. With friends, we thought it might be fun and interesting, I suppose to improve my English and general ecology skills thanks to this project.

18th of January we had the first Erasmus preparatory meeting (if we do not count information meetings). At this meeting, we were preparing for the analysis of the soil at the laboratory with the students. A week later we had another meeting to prepare a presentation at Brownfield and a lot of translations to make everything ready. There was only a week left to arrive students, and the last preparations were about information about students and the program for a week.



I personally had a little exception, I got a student Barbara from Slovenia, she was very friendly and communicative, her English was very good and easy to understand. With Barbara I wrote about a week before arrival to Czech. I am in contact with her to present.

### Program:

The day of arrival was very stressful for everyone, because no one knew how it would be, but I think, me and Barbara were calm because we wrote with each other and we knew what to expect from each other.

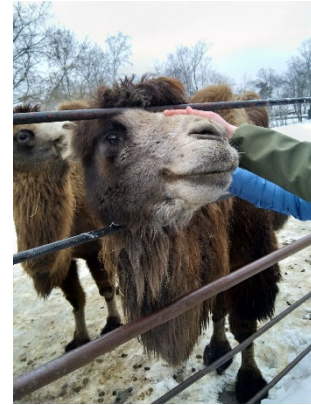
The first day it was a welcome at school and a school tour with a refreshment, in the afternoon the students had a biological laboratory where they studied the rot (Barbara liked the microscopy very much and she was interested about it), later was a tour of the Prague center that ended in a Czech restaurant.

The second day in the morning we had a lecture about Brownfields, which was very interesting because we were accompanied by ecologist Jan Šturma, who had interesting and expert remarks, the rest of the day the students had laboratory where they made a soil and water analysis, in the meantime to take a short break and went to the museum of water supply.

The third day we went for a trip to Mníšek pod Brdy where we had a lecture from the local rangers, telling us the meaning of their work and what is all they need to do for the animals in the woods. After the lecture we went to Brownfield Skalka, where we sang national songs, and spent time together around campfire. That evening we were playing bowling.



The fourth day we were almost whole day in the ZOO, where we had a guide. In the first part we listened to information about the flood in 2002 and in the second part we had a tour of the Prevalski horses and later about the camels. After the ZOO we went to Prague Castle but unfortunately Barbara and her friend was cold, so we left together and we went to the shopping center Chodov where we were an hour to buy some things to remember Czech Republic and us.



The last day we went to the Ruckl Nižbor glass factory where we had a lecture about the production and processing of glass. In the afternoon the students had biological laboratories again, others helped with the preparations for the end of the week of farewell to the students, we made pizzas, desserts and we viewed photos from the whole week. Then we said goodbye to all and I and Barbara and her friend from Slovenia and his host went to Charles Bridge to buy a „trdelnik“ ,because they wanted to try it very much. From there we went home to pack a suitcase.

The train of Slovenes was at the main train station in the morning, where we were waiting for the train. I showed Barbara that there was a piano. Whole week she missed playing on piano, so she showed us what she could play on piano with her chemistry teacher. In a few seconds the train arrived and we were farewell.

### **Feelings about that week:**

For me this week was very exciting and interesting. I learned better speaking with foreigners. From Barbara I learned a lot of information about Slovenia for example: history of Slovenia, the meaning of their national anthem, their habits, how to read Slovenian words. We often talked together in the evenings when we didn't have a program, even three hours in a row which was exhausting.

I also liked the fact that we had a lot of excursions that week and also a lot of interesting lectures. I became acquainted with the other classes of ecologists and with my class I was much closer now.

Barbara really liked the Czech Republic. She was very interested in the biological laboratories when she was watching a rot or when she did the water and soil analysis. She liked the walks around Prague that is full of history. She was excited about our big ZOO where we have camels. She really enjoyed bowling and shopping in the shopping center but she didn't like the cold weather.

I think she was happy because she received me as a host 😊. We were very nice to her and after few days she felt like at home. She got used to having tea and she was not afraid to say anything.

It was a very exciting week. I would repeated it.



*Barbara and Me*