

Monday – 05 /12/2022

The first day of our Erasmus-week started at 9 am with a speech by our headmistress Mrs. Raupach. The exchange students were even greeted in their mother tongues. Afterwards all the students got to know each other with the game “two truths and a lie” during icebreaking activities.

Then it was time for the presentations about our hometowns and schools followed by a walk around the school where we showed the foreign students our classrooms and the school yard.

After our lunch break each country presented their history – specifically the separation and unification of each of them. We learned about the Peaceful Revolution here in Germany, the separation of Tschechoslovakia, the collapse of Great Romania, the following Socialist Republic of Romania, as well as their revolution of 1989, and finally we learned about the end of Greece’s military dictatorship (“Regime of the Colonels”) in 1974.

In our free time we went to the city centre before we had to separate into groups. One Group went to the museum “Runde Ecke” which is a former building of the East German Secret service during the time of the GDR. Today it is an exhibition showing the history and Inner workings of the Stasi including machinery and gadgets that were used for espionage And investigative work.

Meanwhile the other group did a tour around the city centre of Leipzig and after this the groups switched.

The last activity of the day was a rehearsal of our school choir in the auditorium where we showed the exchange students the program of our Christmas concert. We finished the day with a walk around Leipzig’s Christmas market.

Tuesday – 06/12/2022

Thursday started with an enjoyable bus ride towards our capital Berlin - including some chocolate, as it was "Nikolaus". After arriving in the big city, our program all about the Berlin wall and Germany's separation started with a visit at the Wall Museum. The focus was put on the people's desire for freedom, Gorbachev's political actions and the consequences of the fall of the wall.

In order to settle the picture of history properly, we also walked along the remnants of the Berlin wall, listening to some facts and taking pictures to remember this trip.

After a short lunch break our bus took us to the Reichstag building next to the main station, as a second educational tour was planned: First we got to listen to Herr Büssow, who showed us a memorial for those who lost their lives while trying to escape the GDR. Then, equipped with audio guides, we were able to visit the glass dome of the actual Reichstag building - in my opinion the beautiful view over Berlin and the interesting information about its architecture were the best parts about this tour.

After learning quite a lot about Germany's capital, we had some free time too, which we spent exploring the city a bit. From the Brandenburg Gate, our big group split into two, one going towards the Christmas market and the other one searching for a nice place to eat. In typical German teenager-style we agreed on the burger place "Peter Pane", which landed well with everyone.

Filled with new energy our big group walked back to the waiting bus, ready to take us on another relaxed trip back to Leipzig.

Wednesday – 7/12/2022

On the third day of our exchange program in Leipzig with Erasmus+ we divided into groups and went to our chosen workshops. You could pick hip hop, graffiti or writing a hymn. Since it was the first day of the workshops, we began with a brief talk about the history and the respective topics. The people who chose graffiti learned a lot about spraying techniques and made some of their own sketches, in the hip hop workshop we already learned some basic steps after the introduction to the history and topic, on which we built and by the end of the day we left the course with a good feeling, all kinds of basic knowledge and the dance steps of our first few hours of hip hop with the goal to perform a small dance routine by the end of the week. And we weren't the only ones with a goal. The group for the hymn should write and perform a song on their own and the graffiti workshop had the chance to spray a part of our school wall, and everyone could design their own small work of art on a canvas.

After the following lunch break, we made our way to the next point of our program: ice skating. To do this, we went to "Kohlrabizirkus", a huge ice rink. There we had the whole ice rink just for ourselves for 2 hours. We went our laps, tried different things, and helped each other. But after a certain time, it became exhausting for everyone, and we got tired.

However, since ice skating was the last program item for Wednesday, we had free time for the rest of the afternoon and did something with our exchange students and new friends.

The whole day has brought us together again. Since each workshop was mixed, you could get to know students with whom you had not been in contact before. We were encouraged to work together at each one of the workshops, i.e., graffiti, hip hop and the hymn, and were able to partially develop and contribute our own ideas.

Thursday – 08/12/2022

On Thursday we met in the morning in the auditorium and listened to a lecture by Pastor Führer about the Peaceful Revolution in Leipzig. It was a kind of eyewitness' account, since his father Christian Führer was a Protestant pastor and one of the leaders and organizers of the 1989 Monday demonstrations in East Germany, which finally led to Germany's reunification and the end of the GDR in 1990. At the end of the presentation, we were able to ask questions, and thus opened a small round of talks.

Afterwards we met again in our three workshop groups (hip hop/hymn/graffiti) to continue working on our projects. The hip hop group continued to work on their choreography, the music group kept writing song lyrics and the graffiti group made stencils. Afterwards we had lot of free time and went to play billiards with our host students. That was a very nice and educational day.

Friday – 09/12/2022

The week went by faster than we could realize.

At 8:30 a.m. in the auditorium – the excitement increased because the final performances were only a few hours away. After a small welcome we went again, but for the last time, to the different groups of the workshops. Like the previous days, the hip-hop group remained in the auditorium. We, the group in the auditorium, began with a small warm-up because we didn't have much time left to finish our choreography. We used the remaining three and a half hours to prepare our show for the evening. In addition, we had the task of designing our own solos, two of which made it into the choreography. The other groups also worked with some time pressure. A final touch to the graffiti works, and the anthem needed to be reworked. Thus, all groups were very busy, but still feverish for the lunch break at 12:30 clock, as all were exhausted.

After the lunch break, we filled out a feedback form so that we could filter out what went well and what might need to be considered in future exchange projects. Most of us were very busy after that day and went home around 2:00 p.m. to rest and to get ready for the evening event.

At 5 pm we met again at school after 3 hours of free time to do the rest of the preparations, such as setting up tables and chairs and delivering food and drinks.

At 5:30 pm our families, some of our teachers and of course the whole Erasmus group arrived in the auditorium. Before the three workshop groups could present their results, Mr. Keeb, Mr. Büssow and some of the students gave a closing speech, where they could review all the experiences of the week and the past months. The hip hoppers started with their performance. This was followed by the presentation of the anthem and a tour to see the graffiti and the designed Erasmus wall behind the cafeteria.

Towards the end there was a barbecue and there were delicious salads. It wasn't over yet: our school band played for the crowning finale, which allowed us to end our great evening and eventful week and we enjoyed the time together as an Erasmus group for the last time.

Some went home afterwards, because Saturday as the departure day for the pupils from Greece started very early, others, on the other hand, were still doing something together. This brought a wonderful time to an end, and we are grateful for what we were able to experience.