

Although we look different, we are the same inside.

As part of the Erasmus + comMUNity project, an international visit from Latvia, Turkey and Poland took place at our school in October 2021.

Although we look different, we are the same inside. These are my thoughts after a week spent with exchange students from Latvia, Turkey and Poland here in Katolické gymnázium Třebíč from 11th to 15th October 2021.

It was a great week getting to know each other while exploring our country and its sights. On Sunday our guests from Jelgavas Valsts ģimnāzija (Latvia), Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. Mikołaja Kopernika w Iłży (Poland) and Atakum Anadolu Imam Hatip Lisesi (Turkey) arrived with their teachers and had dinner at their hosting families. Monday was the first complete day in the Czech Republic for our guests. They got a guided tour of our school and Třebíč's UNESCO sights. On Tuesday morning we had a debate training programme led by Adam Born from the Czech debate league and in the afternoon we had a chance to play some debating games moderated by Turkish students. On Wednesday morning we split into three groups and visited the Vysocina museum of Czech folk culture in Třebíč, which was an icebreaker for everybody, because the programme there was really funny and interesting. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon were free for us. We could go on a trip, go to a restaurant and some of the exchange students were able to attend Czech dancing lessons. On Thursday we went on our first common trip to the Lednice-Valtice Area and the town of Mikulov. In the morning we visited the Chateau of Lednice, had an interesting guided tour inside and were able to see some curiosities, for example a unicorn! Then we went for a walk through the chateau park and ended up in a beautiful viewpoint minaret. On our way back to the chateau we took a boat. After that we visited the Museum of the Iron Curtain in Valtice, near the Czech-Austrian borders. We also got a guided tour there which was very interesting but not that funny because we learned there something about the Czechoslovak border protective measures during the communist regime. We could visit a former barrack, where there were authentic uniforms, guns, equipment and even a prison. It was a good reminder for us, that freedom is a great privilege and how glad we should be to be able to have this exchange programme in the Czech Republic. After that we made a quick visit to the town of Mikulov where we had a bit of free time and could go for a tour or to a café. Then we went back to Třebíč. Friday was the last complete day in the Czech Republic for our guests, so we made it a bit special. After a short morning programme at school, we paid an official visit to the Mayor of Třebíč. He briefly introduced our town, he asked us some questions about our project and we had an opportunity to ask him about things we were interested in. At the end we took a picture with him and went back to school. There we had some free time, went to lunch and then we went on our final trip together to Brno, the second largest city in the Czech Republic. We had a tour from our teacher Mrs. Budějovská and walked from Špilberk Castle to St. Peter and Paul's Cathedral. We ended our tour in Vaňkovka shopping centre. Then we came back to Třebíč. It was time to finalize the project. Everybody got their certificates, we thanked each other and had a party where we could one last time talk to each other. And then it was time to say goodbye because the Polish group had to leave Třebíč later that evening.

It was a great week and I really hope that I'll have the opportunity again to meet some of the Erasmus+ comMUNity project exchange students that I met here in Třebíč and that have become friends.

Filip Nekuda, VIII