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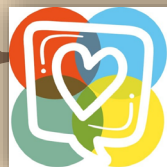
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Your story is my value

“United in Diversity”



United in Diversity:
Transnational Project
2019 - 2021 CZ | GB | P | RO



COLEGIUL NATIONAL
CANTEMIR-VODA



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Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Arrival to Kromeriz

After long anticipation, we had finally arrived in Kromeriz where we were greeted by the headmaster of the partnered school. We were finally about to begin the journey we had all been waiting on for so long!

We checked in at the hotel and quickly made our first contact with two fellow portuguese students that were apart of the project, which we, the Romanian students, invited to join us to the supermarket.

That initial contact opened our eyes and made us realise just how different everything is in different countries, from the restrictions set during the pandemic, to the way the school system works and much more.

After a long night talking to the portuguese students, we hit the hay, anticipating our first workshop the following day.



First day of workshops

In the morning of the first day of the project, we grabbed a quick breakfast, and then went on a short walk to the school. We met the czech students and participated in a short session of get-to-know-each-other games, which included learning each other's names and other fun activities.

Afterwards, we were separated in three mixed groups in order to do different workshops at the same time. The workshops included: cooking a traditional cookie which was really similar with our „cornulețe”, icing gingerbread and writing recipes. It was a really lovely, fun and well-organized first day and we truly believe it couldn't have been better.



The trip to Zlín

On the second day of the project, we took a bus early in the morning and embarked on a journey to the nearby city of Zlín.

We learned about the great man called Tomáš Bat'a, a czech entrepreneur and industry magnate. He founded the Bata Shoes company, which went on to become one of the world's biggest multinational retailers, manufacturers, and distributors of footwear and accessories.

We visited one of the factories and we learned about the history of the company, the methods of manufacturing, along with other interesting things about their founder and owners.



Zlin workshops

We also attended a workshop about stop-motion animation where we made our own flipbook, learned about the methods of creating these kinds of films in the 20th century and the czech artists who dedicated their lives to creating stop-motion animations.

We even sat down and watched old stop-motion animations. It was obvious how much work was put in to create just one short movie for the sake of children 50 years ago.

After that, we were free to roam the streets of Zlin until our bus came to take us back to Kromeriz.



The last day of workshops

On the third and final day on Kroměříž, we went to school to do a final activity.

We had to make a short stop-motion animation with our group colleagues, in which we had to represent our country together.

By making an stop-motion animation, we were able to bring our concepts and ideas to life. We were able to make easily a video with a deep meaning. We were able to improve our skills in technology along with our animation skills and we could explore our creativity.

Unfortunately, that was the last day with the other students so, after the last activity, we watched the animations made. Eventually, with difficulty and sadness we said



Friends



By participating in the project we were given the chance to meet students from other countries and to become friends with them.

At first, it was a bit awkward because we didn't know each other, and we tried hard to befriend everyone. After a while, we started to relax and be ourselves, we played some games to discover things about ourselves, and that was the start of our friendship.

Speaking, we began to find similarities and differences between us and our cultures, which brought us closer.

Every evening, after finishing the activities we had, we would go out and walk around the city to spend more time together and get to know each and everyone better. Even though, now we aren't together anymore we still chat using social media.



Cultural differences in schools

We noticed a few things that were treated otherwise in the assigned school.

The first thing that amazed us were the shoes. All the students were using flip-flops in the school, which seemed really comfortable and calm, compared to our typical shoes that we are more or less restricted to wear in our high-school.

Another difference is the way of seeing school. We see school as a place where we go, sit in a chair for a lot of hours, maybe do one or two extra scholar activities, and that's it. In the school we went to, we understood classes to be more interactive and with a focused on artistic and overall development view of school, students being able to choose an art activity that they wanted to focus on (such as music or painting) and intensively doing it.

These differences are mainly because our schools different profiles, CNCV being a math-and-sciences kind of school and the assigned school being a pedagogic one.



Czech Traditional Food

One aspect that the Czech are known and praised for worldwide is their food. As far as similarities go, we, the Romanian students were more than happy to find out that the Czech share a similar tradition to us, and drink mulled wine during the Christmas period. They call their mulled wine “Svarak”, and the recipe is similar, as they tend to use red wine and any type of citrus fruits and spices.

If the Czech are well-known for one thing, it's their sauces. For instance, while there, we stumbled upon “Svíčková na smetaně (marinated sirloin)”, which essentially consists of braised beef covered with a thick, creamy sauce of parsley root and carrots. Their tendency is to serve any type of dish, whether it be meat, vegetables, or anything else, dunked in a creamy sauce, which quite honestly, is extremely delicious and different in comparison to our cuisine.



Kuře na paprice



**Marinated
Sirloin with a
side of
dumplings**

Architecture

Archbishop's Palace in Kroměříž is a complex of buildings built in the XVth century style Renaissance, located in the Moravian city of Kromeriz in the Czech Republic. The buildings of the complex served as the residence of the bishops and (since 1777) of the archbishops of Olomouc. Archbishop's Palace and the gardens were scored by UNESCO in 1998 on the list of World Heritage Sites. UNESCO has inscribed the palace and garden on the list of World Heritage Sites. The pleasure garden, on the other hand, is a very rare and largely intact example of a baroque garden.

The main difference between Zlín and most Czech cities is that life in it is centered around the business, and not, as usual, around an old castle or a commercial market. Although there is a castle in the center of town. Zlín is an industrial city with typical urban architecture, expressed in functional buildings, built under the guidance of the famous architect F. Gahura and medieval architecture, carefully preserved by the inhabitants. Combining the incongruous, the city has retained its individuality, recognition, and provincial touches. It's not like in other Czech cities.





“United In Diversity”

Here is a short
video that we’ve
come up with
that previews our
experience in
Kromeriz!



Ending

Finally, we'd like to thank all the students and teachers involved in the project for giving us such a wonderful time and a one in a lifetime opportunity to travel and find out more about other cultures.

