

LITHUANIA- Comenius Project

From our school two teachers and four students together with the representatives and students of 10 other European countries took part in the recent meeting in Lithuania from 11-15th March, 2014. We had an exciting flight. We departed from Budapest Liszt Ferenc Airport at 11:45 and after a 2 hour's flight we changed in Riga. Our next flight to Vilnius started at about 7, so after an hour we finally arrived in Vilnius, where a transfer bus picked us up to take to Alytus. At about 10 we reserved our accommodation. The students together with other project students stayed in the hostel, while we teachers were accommodated in a small hotel with the participant teachers of other countries.

We spent three days in Lithuania. During this short time we participated in school visits to learn more about the Lithuanian education. Within this program we were shown the different specialised courses, classes(welders', car mechanics', builders', painters', hairdressers', artificial nail decorators', florists', etc.) of the local vocational school.

In the mornings the project teachers had working sessions where the main issues of the Comenius project were discussed , the video films of each project country were shown. In the meantime students also had opportunities to get together, learn something about each other's school life and make lifelong friends.

We also had opportunity to get to know a part of the beautiful country, as we took part in bus trips to the capital city, Vilnius. The group visited the most important sights of the town in a guided tour such as the Parliament, the main Catholic church, the Museum of Genocide Victims, the Gediminas Tower and Castle, the streets of the medieval city, etc. Another trip involved a fascinating national park and the small town of Trakai where we could see one of the most important castles of Lithuania, the former capital of the Lithuanian grand duchy as well as village architecture of the diversified religious communities. Both students and teachers admired the different cultural influences on the city architecture.

Within this trip we could get an insight into the educational system, culture and the life of the locals in Lithuania. Both the students and teachers got valuable experience that will be really useful in their further education, as well as work and their life. In the international environment students had opportunity to practise and improve their language skills.