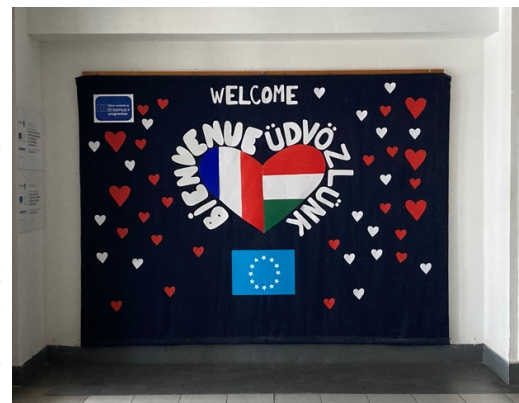


Reflection on our Erasmus+ project

Students from Valenciennes, 13-19 November

by Elza Mitró

On the 13 of November 12 French students and 2 of their teachers came to Veszprém, to Lovassy László Gimnázium. The 10-grade English major class was really looking forward to their arrival as they were the ones to host them and accommodate them during the one-week trip. The aim of the project was to spend a great week together, laugh a lot and learn about cultures, languages and current constructions in our hometown. Also explore a new country, a new school system and besides all that, make good friendships with each other.



Sunday

Around 7pm the French students arrived in Veszprém. We were already very excited about it. The host families picked them up in front of the school and took them home. We introduced the students to our families, had dinner together, but as they had travelled all day, they were tired and went to sleep quickly.



Monday



Monday morning the students were shown around the school. During the second class we gathered and introduced ourselves one-by-one. Everyone had the chance to talk to an unknown person.

In the afternoon the French students were playing a game while exploring the city. They had to go to different attractions and do tasks included in the game and with this they could see the beauty of Veszprém in a playful way.

Later they reunited with their hosts and had good talks. The teachers were also glad to meet with their foreign colleagues. They went to have dinner together at a nice restaurant.

Tuesday

On Tuesday the group visited the EKF office in Veszprém where we learned a lot about the currently undergoing constructions. Following the short presentation about the different projects we got to visit some of the construction sites, including the old prison and the abandoned children's hospital which is going to be a dance studio and wall climbing centre. These sites weren't too far away from each other, but we still got to enjoy the beautiful scenery of Veszprém. It was very interesting to see how they up-cycle these old buildings. After the program was over, we walked back to Kossuth street. It was dark at this point but luckily Koko café was still open. We sat together at the café for a while chatting and drinking hot chocolate. We even got to teach each other some common phrases and sentences in Hungarian and French.





Wednesday

On the foggy morning of Wednesday, we began our awaited trip to Budapest, the beautiful capital of Hungary.

After travelling for an hour and a half, we arrived in Budapest by train. From the South Station we started walking towards Buda Castle. Our first stop was at Matthias Church and Fisherman's Bastion. We had a good time here, took lots of photos and even met with a special foreign governmental person.

Then, we walked through the nice surroundings of the castle buildings. Although numerous long stairs crossed our way, we were compensated by the amazing view to the River Danube and Pest. Both the Hungarian and French students loved this experience as it was new to many of us.

Our journey continued to Váci Street. We had a little free time, therefore the group divided into smaller ones, and everyone went to have lunch. Our French guests had the chance to explore the Hungarian cuisine and even a bit of culture. The meeting point was at Vörösmarty Square where we hopped on the subway.

Next, we walked to Heroes' Square and Vajdahunyad Castle. We were able to find out some information about them by our Hungarian students, who prepared a short introduction for each of the attractions.

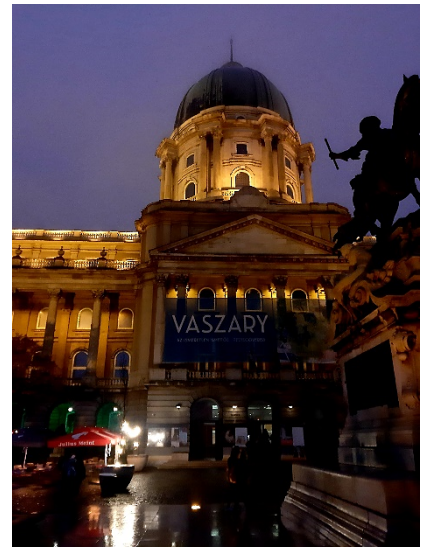
After that, the teachers gave us 3 hours to spend the way we wished. The foreign students wanted to visit the unique fast-food restaurant near the Western Station. A bigger group accompanied them on their way and showed them some local shops and malls.



While others went back to Buda and visited the exhibition in the Hungarian National Gallery. Later they took a longer walk through the Castle and Fisherman's Bastion again, but this time, in darkness. They were able to experience the gorgeous early Christmas lights, the illuminated Castle, Church and Parliament.

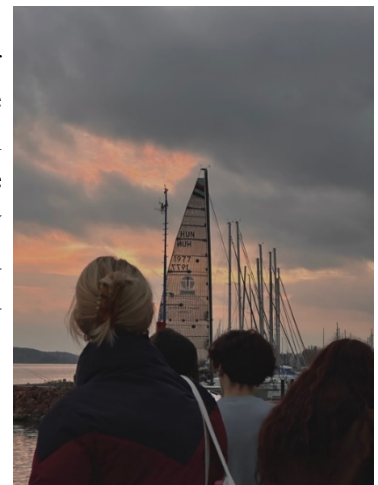
Sadly, our last trip took us back to the train station where we began to go back to our hometown.

We arrived in Veszprém at about 8 o'clock. Everyone said their goodbyes and went home with their host families.



Thursday

They visited our class's English lessons, where we showed each other our favourite pictures about the Budapest trip and taught them a Hungarian tongue twister. Throughout the day they participated in other English and French lessons. After school they had lunch and went to Balatonfüred. We spent the evening together with them, took a lot of pictures by Lake Balaton, saw many seagulls and determined that the water is very cold now. Afterwards we walked along the boardwalk to Hotel Füred and spent an hour playing bowling and enjoyed each other's company.



Friday

We started off Friday morning with evaluating our progress and values learned this week. During this evaluation, we learned even more about the way the project was perceived by various people in the group. After we completed this task, we wished happy birthday for one of our fellow French students with a few different birthday songs in both French and Hungarian. After that, we started with wrapping up the various projects started throughout the week, such as summaries or the mind-map.



Later, in the afternoon we had a glorious send-off party. First our deputy principal said his thoughts about the program, thanked us for our efforts and said some felicitations to the guests. After this we watched the French students' presentations about the region they live in. We were able to get more knowledge about lace-making in Valenciennes, football and even cheese.

In the evening we celebrated our birthday boy with a personalised cake again, ate lots of homemade cakes and pizza. In our very happiness we sang karaoke and others danced a lot. Everyone agreed that we had such a fun and amusing night. It was a great ending for our adventures together.





Saturday

Sadly, this day has arrived too. Our new friends had to leave us and go home. At 11 o'clock, when the French students departed from Veszprém we gathered for the last time, said our goodbyes and promised each other to meet again sometime. We all agreed it had been an amazing week with great memories that we will cherish forever.

