



General Report on Project Meeting in Poland 7th – 11th October 2013, Zabrze

7th October 2013 – the Polish Team welcomed the delegations from Italy, Spain, Turkey, Greece, Romania and Hungary in the Festivity Hall of 'Nasza Szkoła' School. All the delegations were welcomed by our Headteacher, Ms Wawrzynek and by the Vice President of our town, Mr Pawluch. After a warm greeting, we took part in the workshops called 'Music and Cinema'. The participants of each country prepared a PPT Presentation about a chosen film and later sang a song from the presented film. After the workshops, we went to the nearby restaurant to have some lunch and after that we gathered again at school in order to take part in another workshop. Its aim was to prepare the students emotionally for the next day, namely for the trip to Auschwitz. Teachers from Poland prepared the PPT Presentation on „Music in concentration camps” and after that asked students to share their feelings and emotions on the piece of paper with a piece of coal in the hand. Thanks to that activity the students could touch the topic of concentration camps beforehand. Later in the afternoon all the Comenius students met together to play some games and socialise. Teachers also met in order to try some typical Polish cuisine and chill down after a very busy day.

8th October 2013 – The day tour to Auschwitz-Birkenau. That trip was truly impressive as the tour guide was excellent, very knowledgeable and informative. Some of the students were shocked by the enormity and scale of extermination. Everyone was deeply affected by the gas chamber and crematorium sight still intact at Auschwitz. Almost all the students said that that was a trip they will never forget.

9th October 2013 – The day tour to Kraków. All the delegations could admire the Wawel Hill altogether with the Dragon's cave, They also had a chance to see the market square with Mariacki Church on one side and Cloth Hall on the other. After doing some sightseeing everyone had some time to stroll around the city, take some photos and relax in that beautiful place. It was a very enjoyable trip.

10th October 2013 – The day began with the Film Workshops. All the students were divided into 3 groups and they were asked to make a poster which would encourage other people to see the film. All the films were connected with music in some way. After the workshops, we went for lunch and after the lunch a Theatre Workshop started. It was led by a Theatre teacher from Polish school. All the students and teachers had a chance to participate and spent great time with others. It was a good way of breaking the ice. After that, Karaoke started. Each delegation had prepared 2 songs in advance and they were asked to perform them in front of everyone. Students enjoyed themselves, some of them could sing along, others could dance. When the activity finished, all the students started playing music and dancing. Then, the farewell party began.

11th October 2013 – That day the evaluation of the activities, the handing in of the certificates of attendance and the departure of the delegations took place.

STRONG POINTS – FEEDBACK OF THE FOREIGN DELEGATIONS

*all the delegations appreciated the perfect organization and the hosting families who provided a welcoming atmosphere to their students and how well the host students organized cooperatively the free time of their guests. Some delegations agreed that it was a great idea for the Comenius students to meet together after the activities in the afternoon. It was a good way of getting to know each other better.

*all the delegations appreciated the cares, attention and kindness they were welcomed with everywhere, they thanked the hosting families for their hospitality. They appreciated the good matching of the hosting families and the permanent keeping in touch with them.

*all the delegations enjoyed the Music and Cinema Workshops and said it was really well organised and successful.

*all the delegations stated that organising Auschwitz Workshop was very important as it tackled the subject before visiting the real place and prepared the students for the visit. One of the strong points of this workshop was that students were asked to work on their emotional intelligence and share their feelings with the other students. Everyone appreciated that Polish Team managed to link the main topic of the project, music, with the visit to Auschwitz.

*all the delegations agreed that visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau was a real success. The tour was a real shock for most of the students but they said it was worth visiting in order to know about history and learn from it. Some of the students said that it was an unforgettable trip for them.

*some delegations enjoyed the Theatre workshop and considered it a really good activity as students had a great time and it was a good way of breaking the ice.

*most of the delegations enjoyed the trip to Kraków. They said it was nicely planned and very interesting. They also enjoyed being given some free time in order to stroll around and do some shopping

*all delegations appreciated that the Polish team didn't leave teachers in the evenings. The dinners were said to be nice and full of chat which is very appropriate for the spirit of the project. What is more, all the delegations joined together in thanking Asha and Olga for all the efforts to solve their problems, to make them feel at home and for making this meeting a great one!

WEAK POINTS

*some of the delegations said that the Karaoke activity didn't work very well as they said that their students felt embarrassed when singing in front of the others on their own (Greek team). The others believe that it would be better if all the delegations prepare in advance the songs to be sung in the karaoke (Spanish team)

*Spanish team enjoyed the visit to Kraków but they missed the activities which had been planned to be done around the main square.

*Italian team wasn't happy about the hotel policy, about the fact that they had to pay in advance for their stay.

CONCLUSIONS

All in all, the delegations of Italy, Spain, Hungary, Romania, Turkey and Greece enjoyed their time spent in Poland. They had a great opportunity to experience Polish cuisine, customs and history. They also worked together to fulfil some targets of the Comenius project. During the meeting in Poland students and teachers took part in Music and Cinema Workshops. Thanks to that we were able to disseminate good practises of the project as some programmes on television and articles in the local newspaper appeared. Finally, students and teachers had a great chance to grasp a little bit of history connected to the II World War which to many was highly enriching experience, not only culturally but also emotionally.