

Cooperation with the high school Lovassy László - Not just socializing, but also acquiring knowledge

The widening of the horizon is best achieved through education and travel. The Gymnasium Lovassy László from Veszprém, Hungary, has been participating for the fourth time with our gymnasium and has successfully achieved both - learning about the cultural and national differences and the similarities of both gymnasiums and the experience of traveling and getting to know the new environment first hand. The idea of exchange was born a few years ago when the mayor Mr. Bojan Šrot talked with the Slovenian ambassador to Hungary who expressed the desire to connect some Slovenian gymnasium with Hungarian. Mr Srot remembered the 1st gymnasium in Celje. The ambassador summoned Dr. Anton Šepetavec, who was for cooperation. It took another two years for the gymnasiums to connect and meet for the first time in April 2016.

The first year went to Hungary for a minor vocal group of our gymnasium, while the second year Hungarian friends returned with a visit to the music and dance group. Students of the third and fourth year are certainly reminded of the performance of the Hungarian folklore, in which we were finally tested by almost everyone present on the platform before school. The project, part of which was this year's visit, started already in the third year. The organizers at both gymnasiums (Prof. Holubné Szita Zsuzsanna as Hungarian and Alenka Blake, MA, as the Slovenian coordinator of the project) decided that in addition to creating friendships, students will actively explore the host city.

The guests arrived in Slovenia on Tuesday, September 18, 2018. Hungarian students were accommodated with our students, and the teachers spent the night at the Faraon Hotel. On Wednesday, project work began in groups. The theme of the project is two years, which means that our students last year studied the protection of the local environment in Veszprém in Hungary, and this year the Hungarian students did the same in Celje. The Hungarian coordinator, Holubné Szita Zsuzsanna, a professor of English and history, told us that the chosen theme for the next two years is likely to be historical. Both cities have rich ancient roots that offer an excellent opportunity for research questions.

Kajuhovci, who provided accommodation for guests, also participated in the research. Six groups of four students (two Hungarian and two Slovenian students) presented presentations on five selected topics; urban gardens (which were studied by two groups), flood safety in Celje, urban forests, water quality and air pollution. The tasks were chosen and organized by mag. Lea Glažar and prof. Nataša Marčič. The work was carried out in the middle of the morning, when groups of data for presentations were collected in a chemical laboratory and on the field around the school, and later they prepared posters and power point presentations or labels in classrooms.

Kira and Bora, students of the third year of the grammar school, Lovassy László, reported about the survey as follows: "We are currently collecting information about urban gardens in Celje. We really like it here, it's very fun. All people are friendly and very fluent in English. "

I asked them if they intend to win the competition in the debates that were on Friday. "Yes, you would be happy to win. The topic of research does not particularly like us, but it probably can be interesting. Last year, our group got another theme, we measured the pH of the water in the river in Veszprém. "Unfortunately, the victory slipped on Friday, but this did not endure too much.

Even the team in the school laboratory against the victory would have nothing, the Slovenian part of the team even offered me a bribe if I had a word in determining the winner. They did not win on Friday, but I think that we can all agree that I am the only loser here because I did not get a bribe.

Csongor, a student of the fourth year, told us a little more about their school: "Your school is much bigger than ours. There are about 600 pupils in our school. I am alone in the 4th year, although it should be said that we have five years. In our first year at school, we mostly learn only languages. I myself taught German and English. German is my first foreign language, but I speak English better. "

He also acknowledged that chemistry or ecology is not too concerned about him and that he is involved in the project mainly because of the desire to travel. Of course this does not mean that by Friday the presentation of his group did not do more than enough, since he laughed the audience with the remark that when comparing the water surprisingly found that the river water was more cold than water under the pipe.

Kata, a third-year student who also participated in the pH measurement team, enjoyed in the laboratory for quite other reasons: "Chemistry is not particularly appealing to me, but at our school we do not have a laboratory. We only have theoretical chemistry lessons. All these experiments are something new for me, and I really like it. "

On Thursday, Hungarian guests came to know the tourist attractions of Slovenia more closely. They visited Ljubljana and Bled.

Hungarian student Eszter summed up her impressions: "I enjoyed my visit to Slovenia. I will definitely visit Slovenia, because I have the feeling that there are still many things worth seeing. Your country is small but very beautiful; you have everything; forests, rivers, mountains, even the coast. Especially I would really like to visit the latter. And everyone here is so friendly! It was wonderful to meet you. "

Friday was our last guest from Hungary on the last day of the visit. The groups exhibited the created posters and prepared for the presentation of the topics studied in the Gymnasium. With the music points accompanied by our outstanding instrumentalists, the event was spiced up by Aleška and Amadey, our director, dr. Anton Šepetavc, he warmly thanked the guests for his cooperation and said that he was looking forward to the future.

Presentations followed. As the jury, composed of Hungarian and Slovene professors, pointed out at the end, everything was good and the choice of the winner was difficult. In the end, this title was earned by the authors of the presentation "City Forest - the lungs of Celje" and received each of their

gorenjka for the prize and in memory of Slovenia. The closing words of the two co-ordinators and the letter from new friends followed.

Mag. Alenka Blake, who, as a Slovenian coordinator of the project, is enormously responsible for the wonderful visit without any problems or confusion for our guests, said about cooperation with Hungarian friends:

"Hungarian colleagues are very reliable, which is of great help to the organization. They are highly educated on the professional side, respect the knowledge and effectively transfer it to their students. It is not surprising that Lovassy-László Gymnasium ranks at the very top in Hungary. The tasks that were prepared last year when we were in Veszprém were really on the level. Our professors Lea Glažar and Natasa Marčič also prepared interesting and instructive tasks for group work. The goal of our cooperation was not merely socializing, but also acquiring knowledge, exchanging experiences and upgrading already known. I think that we have gained all this and more and more with this project.

In conclusion, let us thank once again all the students and professors of the gymnasium Lovassy László. See you again next year! Thank you and we'll see each other next year!

Nika Gradišek

Photo: Jože Petrak Zajc and Nika Gradišek