

Group mobility of school pupils – report Latvia 11th-18th December 2022

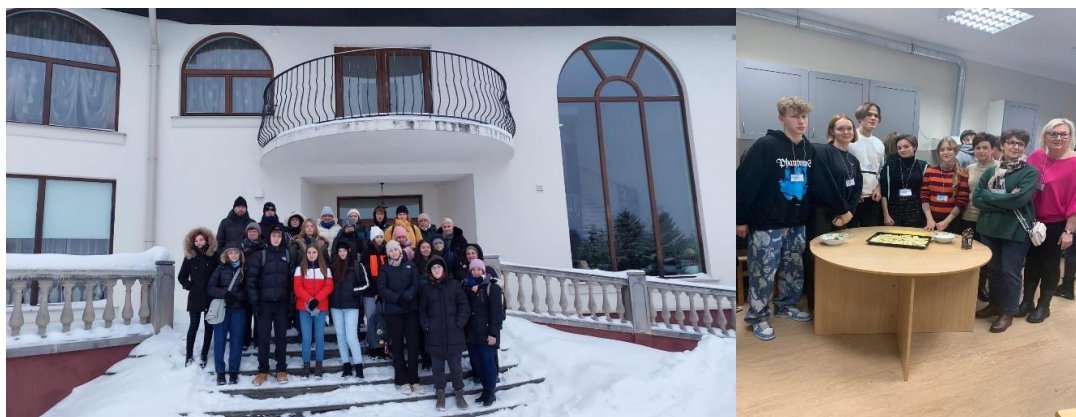
Sunday

Our trip began. Everyone met in the taxi and we were going to the airport. After the check in we had a minute for ourselves. Some of us went for a coffee and others relaxed before flight. When we got to Riga we made new friends with the Germans, the Austrians and the Latvians. Everyone were starving so we went to a restaurant with delicious food. Sunday was very exhausting for us and at the hotel we quickly went to sleep.



Monday

Our day started at 9 am with breakfast, it was our first meal in our guest house. After that at 10 we got on the bus and went to the Skujenes Primary School. They welcomed us with a warm concert named as a welcome ceremony. During the ceremony we introduced our selves and each team presented their country. Then when welcome was over, we ate lunch together. We ate baked potatoes with some chicken and salad. Later it was the time of preparing our national food, we also had an opportunity to try it. We prepared Polish Pierogi (dumplings stuffed with cottage cheese), Austrian Kaiserschmarrn (pancakes with powder sugar), German Kartoffelpuffer (pancake with potatoes and apple jam), Latvian Kārtojums (it's a dessert with whiped cream, rassberry jam and pumpernickel bread). Everything was delicious and we didn't waste any food. While we were waiting every team presented their country traditional dishes. After this tiring day, we got dinner at our guest house.



Tuesday

On Tuesday (13/12) we went for a walk to a nearby town called Cesis. First, we visited the Art Gallery and admired the exhibition of works made by Latvian artists and the second one honoring the women in Iran. After that, we participated in a workshop about healthy snacks. They were made of vegetables and fruit and we got the chance to prepare them ourselves and take some home as souvenirs from Latvia. Then the guide arrived and took us for a stroll around the town and explained the history of Cesis in detail. At the end of our trip we took part in a calligraphy class and sent Christmas cards to our families back home. The bus picked us up and we paid a visit to a garlic factory owned by a family that produces it organically. They add garlic to usual products like candies, tea, chocolate and spices making unusual combinations. At the end of the day we had a snowball fight.



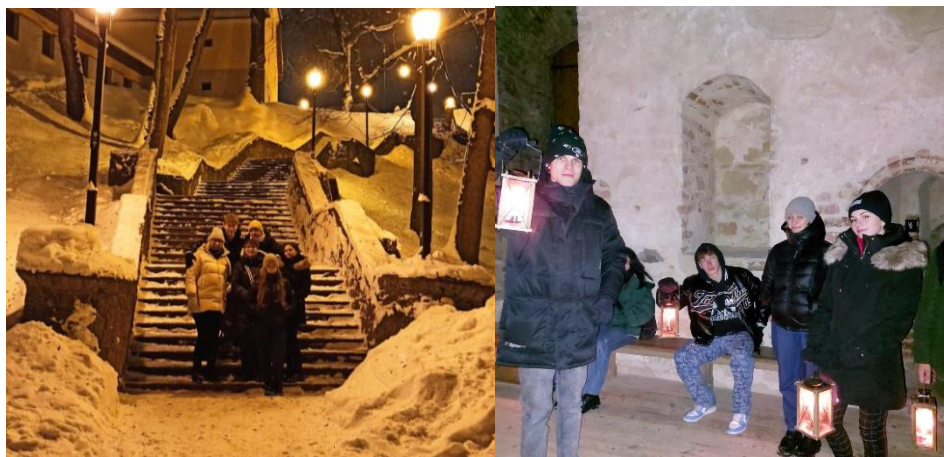
Wednesday

Wednesday began with us taking the bus to school. There we had presentations about our countries. Thanks to the speeches we gained knowledge about the culture and traditions of our partners nations. After that we went to local candy workshop called “Indrani”. The jelly they produce there is made of natural ingredients such as fruit, parts of trees or flowers. The products are gathered in the wild near to the factory. We also ate delicious soup outside. When we came back to school we discovered that the Latvians had prepared a sport competition for us. We were divided into groups of five and we had to complete some tasks like building a tower from cups or picking bricks while blindfolded. Then Latvian families took us to their homes and provided some amusements for example making pizza, skiing or bowling. We had a lot of conversations with our Latvian partners. English is perfect tool to make new friends from other European countries. It was a very productive day.



Thursday

On thursday morning, after breakfast we had some activities with our german and austrian partners. Then we moved to Cesis. After lunch we were in the Cesis Castle. It was a great trip because in this castle we found out something about culture and history of Latvia. The castle was built in 1213, so it's around 800years old. The Livonian Brother of the sword built the castle. It is one of the most well-known castles in Latvia. We had also a medieval feast at the castle and there were a lot of flavoursome dishes. Then we had activities such as regional Latvian dances and songs or sword fight. After all medieval attractions we visited the castle at night and walked around a snowy park. Afterwards, we went back to our guest house.



Friday

We started the day with breakfast at the questhouse. After the meal everyone went to Riga by bus. When we arrived Riga we started a tour through the Capital city with a guide. During the tour we found out about the history of Riga and its architecture. The whole group saw many historical buildings like the Opera and the Palace. After the sightseeing tour the team went to have lunch together. When everybody finished eating, the Polish and the Germans said goodbye to the Austrians and started to head for the Christmas Market. We learnt some facts about how the Latvians celebrate Christmas. We tried some Latvian Christmas food and bought souvenirs for our families.



Saturday

After breakfast we finished packing and went to the airport. We checked and waited for the plane to board. We took last Latvian photos, got on the plane and off we flew. We landed in Warsaw safely and around 5 o'clock we were back in Łódź.

