



## Our Polish Week



The last week of September 2018, from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, national teams from France, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal and Spain met in Kielce, Poland, for the last Mobility of the Erasmus+ project GEOCACHING MINDS ON THE MOVE.



During the weekend both students and teachers spent time together to get to know each other, even if a lot of us were already friends because they had met during the previous trips. Actually, it was a pleasure to see all those people again!!

According to the agenda, on Monday we met at the Polish school “VII High School-Jozef Pilsudski” for the first official meeting. We had the opportunity to introduce ourselves, our countries and cities and our schools to all the partners. Then the first activity started – it was called “Photo Contest - the Cache of Memory”:

there were a lot of photos in different stands related to the past Mobilities in a scrambled order and our task was to match the photos to the right mobility and country. We had a lot of fun and we had the possibility to “jump back” in the past and bring all those beautiful memories back to life! After that, every team had to prepare a stand about their country with photos and realia related to their cities, typical foods and some souvenirs. It was an intense morning, plenty of fun and emotion!

After a tour of the school with the Polish hosts, in the afternoon we had a Geocaching activity in the city center.

We celebrated the first evening of the project with a Gala Buffet at school, spending time dancing, laughing and eating the national specialties we had prepared.



On the second day we met up early in the morning to go to Krakow and to do different activities: a photo rally, some free geocaching, and a visit to the Old Town and the Jewish Quarter. We were split in groups based on TV series like “New Girl”, “Orange is the New Black”, “La Casa De Papel” and the like, and we had the chance to explore the city discovering things and finding answers to questionnaires (of course with the help of the Polish students!). Eventually, in the evening we went back to Kielce.



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day we met at the school for the “Geocaching dissemination event in Kielce : Urban Games for the European Day of Languages”. Every group had to prepare language-focused activities related to their countries to be played with students from different schools and ages at the local museums. The Italian team prepared three activities: the first was based on body language - “Speaking Italian with Hand Gestures” – the second focused on pronunciation of common Italian words, and the third was a set of questions on our country. There were a lot of people and it was fun to bring a bit of Italy to Poland.



In the afternoon, after lunch, we met at the school to prepare some papers with ideas on how Geocaching can be used at school to learn new things. Then we had the possibility to do Geocaching nearby the school.

On Thursday we started our day doing a Geocaching activity based on history in Kielce, and around 12.00 we had a meeting at the Town Hall with the Mayor. After that, there was the “Erasmus+ Flash Mob: Dancing the Polonaise in the Main Square - 100 dance couples for 100 years of freedom”.



There were a thousand of people dancing happily together. We felt like dancers for a day!!! In the afternoon we had time to stay together and to do more Geocaching. We spent the evening at school all together (students, teachers and families) for a Gala Party, dancing again, chatting, eating and having fun. Before going home every participant was given the Attendance Certificate.

On Friday we travelled to the concentration camp of Auschwitz and the extermination camp of Birkenau – places we couldn’t have missed. That was really intense and painful; a reminder not to forget about the horrors that were made and must never ever happen again.

In the afternoon we took a guided tour to the Salt Mine of Wieliczka. It was very tiring because we went down more than 153 meters along and endless staircase, but it was also very exciting because of all the things that we found along the tour and also because the guide was very bizarre! No student had been there before, so it was very surprising!

In the evening we had dinner together and then we split: some teams went to Krakow to spend the last night together and the others went back to Kielce.

On Saturday the teams left Poland to go back to their homes.

Unfortunately every adventure has an end... These past two years it has been fantastic to meet so many new friends and to travel to different places around Europe.

We are sure that one day we’ll meet again. We don’t know exactly where and when, but we have plenty of choice: Italy, Poland, Spain, Portugal, Lithuania, France and Greece... and we know that whenever and wherever we go there will always be a family waiting for us 😊



-Valeria Calini 😊

To know more about the project, look at this presentation: <https://prezi.com/p/2rsney6dgm7/#present>