

Dissemination of the third project meeting, held in Trysil, Norway, March 9-14



Let's First Understand our National Heritage in Order to Define and Build our European Identity

Comenius project meeting

Trysil Videregående Skole, Norway, March 9-14

There were altogether three participants in our project meeting in Trysil – our project coordinator Raine Lindepuu, me and my classmate Aleksei Kraft. Our partner school is situated in Trysil, which is a relatively small town about two hundred kilometres from Oslo towards Swedish border. Trysil is one of the best known Norwegian ski resorts, thousands of tourists visit it every year. Our visit lasted five days and the students were hosted by our partner school students. During the visit we had a very good English practice because everybody in Norway speaks English very good – parents and teachers and students. As I was accommodated with a Latvian boy, Juris, I could also speak my native language, Russian, because Juris speaks it too. Our teacher didn't like it very much, she wanted me to speak more English. So I did.



Every day something interesting happened. On our second day in Trysil, March 10, we went to sightseeing Trysil. The students took us around the town and talked about famous and important places and persons connected to Trysil. We could see that they are very proud of their town. At midday we had a meeting with the mayor of Trysil in the Town Hall. The mayor had prepared a thorough presentation about the past, present and future of Trysil. He talked about history and economy and showed us that Trysil has a great potential to become even bigger and better place for the tourists. After this meeting we went to the schoolhouse and could stay in lessons. Trysil school is more like a vocational school and the subjects taught there are a bit different from what are taught in Estonian upper secondary schools. In Trysil, emphasis lies on learning a profession. Students have many options – they can learn to be a cook or an artist, a businessman or a builder. It is quite big school, there are over 300 students but still, the schoolhouse remained me of our own Lohusuu schoolhouse, it was cosy and full of light. Our first day's lunch was made by the students who study cooking and it was traditional Norwegian food which has also become international. That is why it felt like back at home, in Estonia. Except reindeer meat, of course – that we don't have in Estonia. After lunch we had a working session. Students were divided into groups and we had to evaluate different logos. Every school had to make their own project logo at home and also make suggestions for the whole project logo. During the working session we introduced our own logos and tried to find which of the suggested logos could be our project logo. After discussions and talking to other groups, we decided that Romanian suggestion was the best choice for our project logo. Although our Estonian logo was not chosen, lot of people thought of it as a possible candidate.



Because Trysil is a ski resort and the students have skiing lessons up in the mountain, they took us to skiing too. On Tuesday, March 11, we had the whole morning up in the mountain. Everybody was supposed to ski. I had never tried the downhill skis before but after I was shown how to ride with them I found it very easy. Many students from other countries, Greece, Spain, Poland and even Latvia, had never skied before and it was quite funny to see them trying for the first time. Norwegian students were supposed to help those who didn't know how to ski. For us, Estonians, it was like being back at home.



Our outdoor lunch was once again made by the school students. This time it was traditional Sami food. Samis are native minority, living in the northern parts of Norway, Sweden and

Finland. Our teacher Raine knows a lot about Samis, as she has lived in the northern part of Finland and has some friends who are Samis. So she gave us a lot of information about Samis. After lunch we went back to school and this time we had to present our homework – introducing the tourist guide. Each school had to prepare 10 pages of tourist information, including the most important and most interesting sights and places, traditional food and festivals. Tuesday evening was a movie night for the students but teachers had much more fun – we heard that they had a dance lesson with the local dancing teacher who taught them traditional norwegian folk dances. Our teacher told us later that many of those folk dances are actually the same as Estonian folk dances. Once again we could see that although we seem to be far away from each other, Estonia and Norway have much in common.



On Wednesday, March 12, we had a field trip to Oslo, the capital of Norway. We visited two most important museums, the Fram Museum and Viking Museum. In Fram museum we learned that Fram was actually the name of the famous ship which took Amudsen to the South Pole. But first the norwegian explorer Nansen tried to discover North Pole by sailing the ship. He didn't succeed. Our guide talked about interesting things and facts connected to this part of Norwegian history. Right next to the Fram museum, the Viking Museum is situated. It was so strange to see an enormous Viking ship and imagine how the real Vikings actually sailed with it. There are lots of stories about vikings connected to Estonians and that once again made us feel like watching the part of our own history. Those two museums gave us a perfect picture of norwegians as sea people and explorers.



On Thursday, March 13, we met again at school and had a workshop just for the students. We were making bookmarks to remember our trip to Trysil. We had to write our wishes on the bookmarks and we could even do it in Norwegian. Norwegian language didn't seem easy to me and I only managed to learn one phrase. Thanks to this trip I could speak a lot of English and I learned a lot about other project partners and about Norway, of course. Both me and Aleksei made many new friends from different countries and we hope that some day we will meet again. Perhaps they will come to Estonia, to our final project meeting.

Dissemination made by Nikita Piljavets

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"This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."