

**Dissemination of the eighth project meeting, held in Lohusuu, Estonia, May 4-9, 2015**



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

### **Comenius project meeting**

Last two years have been both fun and educating. Our project „Let's First Understand our National Heritage in Order to Define and Build our European Identity“ came to its end at Lohusuu in May 2015. All the project partners have proved themselves to be hardworking, full of interesting history, marvellous traditions and amazing people. We have enjoyed both visiting all the schools and countries as well as doing project tasks. The students and teachers from Lohusuu school felt honoured to host the last meeting.



Meeting started on Tuesday, May 5th, with all the participants gathering together in Lohusuu School. Because our school is located in such a small place and our municipality is very little, our school's hall is also the meeting place for all the other gathering in Lohusuu. Our headmaster and the Mayor of the local municipality both welcomed our guests and gave a short overview of the place.

After welcoming event we started with our project work. This time all the partners had to come up with the virtual time machine which would show our journey through the last two years, what we have experienced, what we have learned and how it has improved our

knowledge of the partners and of our own country. All the time machines were very different but all of them were mixed together in one virtual time machine which now can be seen on our project web page.



The second and probably the most important project task altogether was writing a letter to the Council of Europe. Students were divided into four groups to ensure that everyone has their opportunity to say what to write in this letter. Later on all the letters were revised and we decided to put the most important thoughts into one letter. We left this work for later.



Afternoon of the first day was meant to get around Lohusuu and to get to know the place. We visited the main places in Lohusuu and had a nice tour. One of the main attractions of Lohusuu is Lake Peipsi, the fifth biggest in Europe, which can make you feel like standing at the edge of the world.



Second day we had our first documentary trip. The first stop was in Pyhtitsa. The only active monastery in Estonia is situated there and because of its 134 years of history and because religion is one of the subjects of interest in our project, I felt that this place is very important to visit. And from the faces of our guests I can tell that this place left a bright memory. It also brought some light to the fact that our region in Estonia is bilingual and two very different nations live here side by side and get along very well. Pyhtitsa represents the Russian part of Estonian history. From Pyhtitsa we head towards Rakvere and showed to our guests the Estonian castle. In Rakvere we had a program which was both educational and fun because all the participants could have the first-hand experience with old equipment and weaponry used during Middle Ages.



On the next day of our meeting we visited Tallinn, our capital city. We had two guides who provided a thorough information tour around old town, showing the most interesting places and telling about myths and legends connected to Tallinn and to Estonia.



On the last day of our meeting, we had a lot of different activities at school. At first we had a small concert where children from our school performed. After that our Estonian team showed everybody the video film which we made about our project years. Nikita Piljavets, the member of our Comenius team and one of the students who has contributed a lot to our project, presented the video. After watching it I had prepared a quiz to all the students and teachers. The participants were divided into groups again and our fun quiz brought up many memories from those two project years. It was great to see that we care a lot about each other's traditions and we remember a lot.



Second workshop of the day was about dances. Because music and dances are part of the universal language, we decided that each country's team is going to teach one of their folk dances to everybody. At first, they all felt that this is an impossible task but the experience we all had together during that day was amazing. It was so uniting to dance in mixed teams strange folk dances and have fun.



The last project work was completing the letter to the Council of Europe. We revised it together and formed a formal letter which was signed by every participant. After that we did an evaluation and according to its results, the project meeting represented a success in terms of cooperation, friendship, results, goals achieved and cultural awareness.

During the evening we took our guests to Tartu, a small town on river Emajõgi, our University town. We walked around the old town, delivered some historical facts and had our farewell dinner in a place called Gunpowder cellar.



Altogether it is possible to say that the last meeting in Estonia went exactly as planned, all the activities and workshops succeeded and hopefully our guests from different European countries got a taste of Estonia and Estonians. These two years inside the project have given both to Lohusuu students and teachers an immense amount of knowledge about the countries involved in project as well as about our own country.



Dissemination made by Raine Lindepuu, project coordinator in Lohusuu School

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