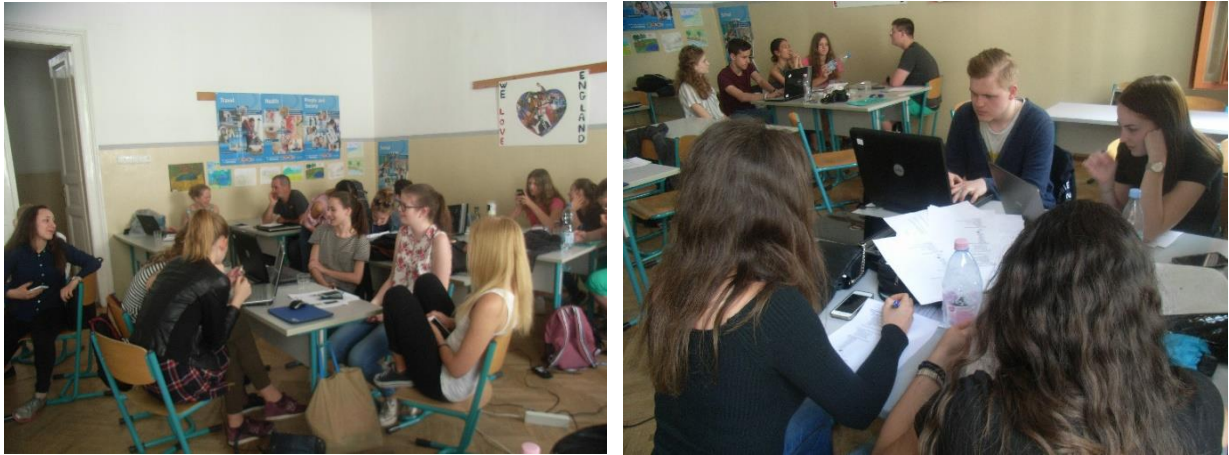


## Estonian students in Hungary

Our Estonian guests arrived on the 22nd of May. We were crazily waiting for them and of course we burst into tears of joy when we could finally reunite. We spent the evening with late night talks but we didn't mind losing sleep.

During the week we were busy with our project work but in the afternoons we could take part in awesome programs. The project works included topics like the use of social media and water pollution.



On our first day we took part in a city tour. We visited the largest and the most impressive square of Budapest, which is also one of the most visited sights of the city. Our guests were stunned by the Millenium Monument in the middle of the Heroes square. Then we could wonder at the panorama of the whole capital from the Citadel, on the top of the Gellért Hill. We ended our sightseeing in the Buda Castle. Needless to say that all of our guests were amazed by its beauty.

On our second day we went to the Rock Hospital. All of us learnt that this museum is dedicated to a former secret emergency hospital and nuclear bunker. According to the Estonians, this was the best program during the week. Our third day was quite busy. We started our day early in the morning at the Parliament. We had a one hour guided tour in this astonishing building, which is a magnificent example of Neo-Gothic architecture. We were all surprised to hear that the Budapest Parliament building is the third largest Parliament in the world. After this we continued our day with the House of Terror. It seemed extraordinary for the Estonians as their country lacks these kind of museums. They were dazed when we entered the building at the former headquarters of the communist secret police. The shocking exhibition helped them understand these periods of the Hungarian history better. We spent the rest of the day in the Szechenyi Bath, which is one of the biggest and most popular thermal baths in Europe. The bath took our guests' breath away with its beauty and special characteristics not mentioning the wide range of services provided by the place. Estonians have never been to a complex like this.

On our last day we had to present our work. As I see it, all of us did a good job. After our presentations we received a big round of applause.



In the afternoon we visited BelFeszt. It is a free music festival that takes over the inner city of Budapest for three days. We could enjoy live jazz, rock, pop and folk concerts on three different stages in downtown Budapest. We really enjoyed the atmosphere and the performances as well.

In the evening we sat down on the Danube Bank and watched the sun go down. As the sun moved down in the sky until it could not be seen any more, we had to realise that our exchange was over. We headed home and said our sad goodbyes. I felt myself very lucky to have something that makes goodbye so hard. But I also know that there are no goodbyes for us, our Estonians will always be in my heart.

I am very thankful to this exchange program for providing such an amazing opportunity to meet new people and visit amazing places. I am very happy that I've met these people and learnt about their country. Everything that I got was more than what I expected. I am grateful for all the experiences I could live through during the program.

Eszter Bartha 11 B