

2017 January ERASMUS exchange to Belgium

We arrived to Charleroi on the 21st of January. At the airport we met our hosts – I may say our friends after their stay with us in October, then we went home. We were so excited about their families who welcomed us warmly.

On Sunday, we went to Knokke-Heist to see the North Sea. During the visit we rented some bicycles and rode around the coast. Then we had some traditional Belgian fries for lunch, which we loved. After the long day we travelled back to home, and we were getting ready for the school.

On the first day of school we were very nervous about our presentation, but we couldn't wait to see the other students from Scotland, Norway, Iceland and all the Belgians of course.

Before starting on our project work we played a "Get to know each other" game, but unfortunately actually it was a useless because we didn't get any new information about others.

The organizers (teachers) introduced to us what we had to do during the whole week, then we started our project work to design a more ecological canteen, classroom and school for the next generation.

On the second day we were in Brugge and we had a chance to discover the city.

Brugge is the most beautiful town I have ever been to! The weather was very cold and foggy and rainy. We were in groups of 6 that included 3 Belgians, 1 Hungarian, 1 Norwegian and 1 Scottish student.



The Belgians got some tips from their teachers as to what we were supposed to look for such as a monument, a statue, a church or a chocolate shop. We were in the most famous chocolate shop in Belgium, where we had to take a



picture of our group. At the end of the tour we got the result of the competition: the group which collected the most pictures based on the tips was the winner.

Gent & Cradle to Cradle

On Wednesday we went to a towel factory. We had a guide there who showed us the manufacturing process. It was quite interesting. They also gave us a short presentation of Cradle to Cradle which is their major product.



We saw a lot of machines and many types of towels as well.

They have towels in different quality for different prices of course.

They are also preparing towels for the worldwide famous brand Adidas.

On the following afternoon we visited to Gent. The weather was perfect so we could enjoy the beautiful view of the colourful houses. We rented bicycle and we went riding all day long around the city.



We went to the Gravensteen castle and visited the St Bavo's Cathedral. It is a very beautiful one and fortunately my exchange student knows a lot the building, so she was our guide during the visit.

At the end of the day we all went home, after the long and eventful outing.



On the last day, we took part in a barbecue party organised by Belgian and Norwegian students.

We danced and talked to the other nationalities.



On Saturday we had a half family day and we had to meet at the airport at half past 7, because our flight was at 20:25. Some students went to Kortrijk – a nearby



town, with their family and me and my exchange family went to Brussels. We spent a whole day in the centre. We visited the Main Square, Manneken Pis, The King's Palace, and the European Parliament.

At the end of the day we went to the airport to meet each other. It was a heart breaking farewell from the Belgians.



By Dominka Zakariás 11 C