

## Meeting in Warsaw - Personal feedback - German point of view

According to the COMENIUS Handbook



And here we are again: in Warsaw, Poland, another city, another country which was rather unknown to us. We discovered a city which truly reflects past and modern times, and the topic of history again proved to be the right choice for this stay.



After visiting the school and the lunch break we set off for our first walking tour around Warsaw and discovered the past: Łazienki Park, Nowy Świat, Krakowskie Przedmieście, the Royal Castle Square and the old town.



We were impressed by the beauty of the buildings and the efforts which had been made to rebuilt and preserve the original.

The second walking tour reflected multiculturalism in Warsaw through centuries. We visited another part of the Old Town as well as the New Town, Barbican and the Cathedral. During our guided tour we were introduced to traces of multicultural heritage of the city, and there are many: German, Jewish, Russian and Swedish ones.



We also visited the Rising Museum dedicated to the Warsaw Uprising of 1944. It shows how life was during the German occupation of Warsaw and there are lots of displays like photos, documents, audio and video installations, a cinema and even a sewer to show how Polish Underground activists moved in the occupied city. There is also a room containing original typewriters and printing machines which were used for producing underground newspapers. And the fight of the Polish people for freedom and democracy which has lasted for centuries went on until the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



The third part of the tour around Warsaw was reserved for the centre of Warsaw, especially the Palace of Science and Culture. The building was completed in 1955 and it was meant to be present from the Soviet people to the Polish people, a fact which causes ambiguous feelings today within Polish society. Today it houses the Polish Academy of Sciences companies, offices, institutions, cinemas and theatres, and lots of public and private events take place here. From the 30th floor of the building we had a fantastic view of Warsaw.



After deeply diving into the history of our hosts' country, we could well notice that we are all connected – in past and present. Under the impression of having shared so many moments in time, pupils exchanged their knowledge about famous personalities from our countries. As pupils had taken their own choices, we, the teachers, also learned about personalities from our partners' countries that had been unknown to us before.

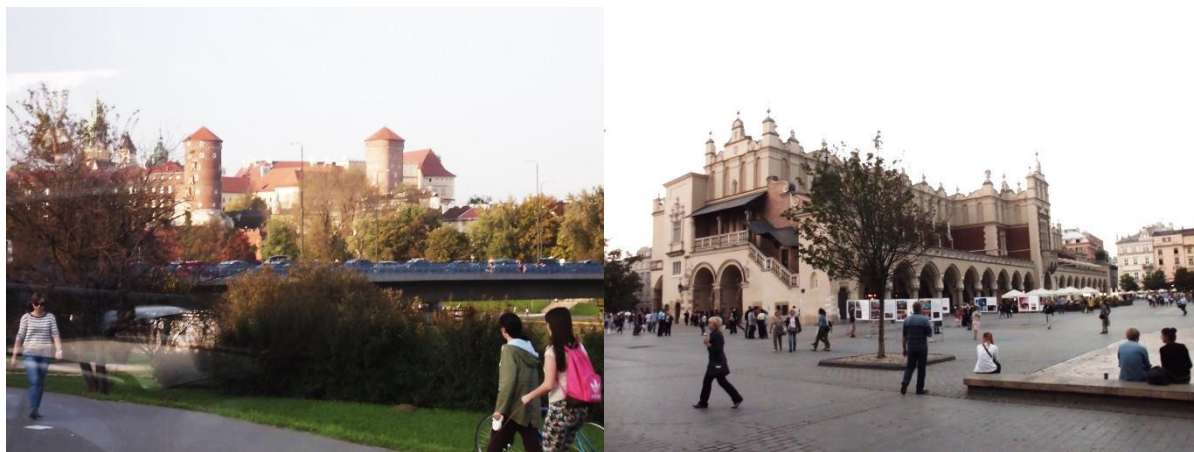


History as a school subject is of different value, as regards the time table in our countries, but during our meeting, we all noticed the importance of learning from the past for a better and peaceful future. The goals set for the pupils were appropriate.

We were able to continue our work according to the work plan, during summer holidays project activities were discussed mainly in our closed Facebook group,

messages concerning organization reached us via email, pupils' contributions were collected by uploading to Google slides, then published in the Twinspace.

On the last day we had the chance of a short visit to Krakow where pupils enjoyed an urban game and could make discoveries on their own guided by a questionnaire and supported by our hosts.



We also visited the salt mine in Wieliczka, a UNESCO heritage site near Krakow. The mine was built in the 13th century and has constantly produced table salt until 2007, but commercial mining stopped at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



I am rather sure that the meeting in Warsaw contributed to a high extent to everyone's knowledge about the city and the country. Stereotypes that might have been existed before must have proved as completely unjustified. Especially for us it is great experience that the tragic history is not forgotten but has been overcome by people who want international understanding and peace.

During the meeting in Warsaw we also discussed the plans for the meeting in Germany where we are going to deal with the topic of economy. The tasks for pupils will be to present a company and to discuss the costs of living by comparison of leaflets and adverts. They will prepare a poster and present

unemployment data of their country. This material will again be shared by using Google drive resp. the Twinspace platform. Teachers will compare the different ways of how pupils are guided on their way from school to work. We will visit various companies and our hopes for the meeting in Germany are that pupils will acquire some more knowledge about workplaces and develop a positive outlook on their future.



<http://meetville.com/quotes/tag/history/page177>

**“History is important because it teaches us about past. And by learning about the past, you come to understand the present, so that you may make educated decisions about the future.”**

Richelle Mead

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COMENIUS-Handbook p. 32, CHECKLIST: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGY IN A PROJECT  
self-understood