

## **Gathering in Lithuania**

(16th July – 23rd July 2005, Vilnius-Druskininkai)

I spent a wonderful week in Lithuania with 25 fantastic people! I think the only thing we needed to have fun was: to meet nice people, get on well with each other and enjoy the programmes.

Our unforgettable week started on July 16th, when most of us arrived. While we were waiting for the others, we discovered the capital, Vilnius. It's such a beautiful city with many wonderful churches...

The next day started with energizers in a big park. First of all, we tried to memorize the names in a funny way, then made a portrait of each other in pairs, trying to cross the 'river' on a few piece of paper, catch the person who threw the 'TEMPO' behind us...So many wonderful games!!! For having lunch, we went to 'Marceliukes Kletis' where we ate traditional Lithuanian food. Then we went back to the hotel and left for Druskininkai by bus. The journey took two hours but we stopped at Trakai and had a look at the castle which was standing in the middle of the lake. When we arrived in Druskininkai I got two new room-mates instead of Orkide from Germany. Thessa from the Netherlands and Tiina from Finland shared the room with me. In the evening we had an official welcome held by Mrs. Aurelija Stasaitiene. Later we were preparing for the International Evening on which we had a chance to taste each other's food and wine.

Our Monday started with the game 'Love and Kiss' and 'Princess and Castle'! Then our programme was concerning to the theme of the gathering, 'Living in the changing Europe'. From this occasion our teamers held us a Lithuanian lesson. During this time we got to know how the map of Lithuania looks in reality...which part is famous for example bears, cheese, basketball, the hill of crosses, the castles...Later we learnt some Lithuanian words from a 'dictionary' (The teamers wrote some important words and expressions for us). And of course a country isn't represented enough without its traditional dance...so we were also taught to that! In the afternoon we had an invitation to the municipality where they told us a little about the town. After dinner we had our first Day evaluation in Tree-groups where we shared our opinion with the others. The evening finished by dancing.

On Tuesday we had a boat trip to a little village, called Liskiava. After lunch we started the preparations for the Country Market. It was something special for us since we introduced our countries to each other. Everybody tried to make it more interesting, for example the Latvians with their traditional dance while the Russians advised one of their games which we liked very much and played it all the time when it was possible!

On Wednesday morning we made some manual works from white material. I must admit we had many talented participants in art! They could prove it also the next day when we went to the Small Gallery (Museum of V.K. Jonyna). In the afternoon we were cycling to Grutas Park. It's a Soviet statue park but we preferred staying at the playground and had fun to going to see the statues. In the evening we had many energizers, including trust games, till midnight. Then we went to Filip's, Pantelis's and Sergio's room as every evening and we had nice talkings there.

On Thursday, arriving from the Museum we separated into workshops. There were four kinds of them: drawing, dancing (oriental dance), web-site and newspaper. I joined the newspaper group, in which we were three but sometimes asked for some help from the drawers.

On Friday we realized that it was our last day there!!! Everybody was sad so we began the day with our favourite energizers to be happier for the rest of our time. We had the whole

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day to finish our workshops. After it we had time to go to the town and do some shopping or just have a nice walk there.

Unfortunately, the farewell evening arrived! We introduced the workshops, said thank you for each other...then Aurelija and our teamers, Dovile and Aivaras made a little surprise for us. We were taken to a place where we found a sauna, a swimming-pool and a jackuzi! For most of us it was the first time to try these out!!! At midnight we went to the conference room to watch the photos then talking to each other. Early in the morning at about 4 o'clock the Cyprians and the Russians had to leave for the airport! Unfortunately, this was the point when saying good bye started... The rest of us had to leave only at 10 o'clock in the morning. At the airport we seemed to be like the members of a crying competition... We had to realize that at the end nobody stays there...

We agreed to keep in touch with each other and hopefully meet again one day! I'll never forget Dovile with her 'telephone' game; Aivaras with the 'Whata-Foo-Liam'; Alieke with who I was wondering about the pictures in the restaurant all the time; Thessa with who we tried to refresh our French knowledge; Tiina who pronounced the word 'Köszönöm' (Thank you) perfectly; Matias with his story about the 'ghost'; Sergio who promised to dance with me next time; Gianfranco, the money collector; Constantina, my journalist colleague; Pantelis, who expressed all his feelings during drawing; Orkide, our oriental dancer; Filip, the most talkative among us; Karolina, My Secret Friend who was fond of jewelleries; Ania who had particular feelings; Agnija, our classical dancer; Alina and her story about the butterfly in the room; Simona M. who had to leave alone from the gathering; Simona U. with the rabbit game; Elena who was looking for something special to buy; Ivan who made a portrait of almost everyone; Axel who had to go to his room through the window and Stefan to who I talked a lot during changing the plane in Vienna...

*Nikolett Szénássy*  
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