

Jager-Manuela-STEP-Report
REPORT – SHORT TERM EXCHANGE
PROGRAM

The attendance of STEP – Short Term Exchange Program from August 20th until 2nd September 2011 in Jihlava was the best decision I've ever did. First I wasn't sure if I should join the programme because I asked my colleagues if someone will go on the trip as well, but the only feedback I got was: studying during the summer holidays – are you serious? I'm glad that I didn't listen to them and I applied for the programme. The last night at home I felt very excited, how will the programme be, how would the other guys be? I got the answer to these questions the following day.

On Saturday morning we meet each other at the train station "Meidling" in Vienna, there was the first time I saw the other attendants and during the train ride we had a lot of time to get in touch with each other. For example I got in touch with students from different countries like Hungary, Bulgaria and Ukraine as well as from different studying degree programmes. When we arrived in Jihlava we were cordially received by our guides which supported, attended us the whole stay. They directed us to the pension "Gustav Mahler"

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which was a very beautiful furnished accommodation and remembered – as the name of the pension assumes – on Gustav Mahler who was an Austrian composer. Also, they provided us with the information for the whole two weeks. They informed us about our lessons at the college as well as the daytrips we make. In Jihlava they showed us where all necessary building where, like the college, the pension and where we have our lunch and dinner, as well as the language school. We let the first evening gently fade away in the so called “student club”, where we had some drinks, were listening to music and playing table top football.

On Sunday we had our first daytrip to Telc, which is a UNESCO world cultural heritage. It is a town near Jihlava and founded in the 13th century. The Gothic castle in Telc is really worth seeing. We had a guide who provided us with all information about Telc, its castle and we got a lot of information about its history and its inhabitants.

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Also the daytrip to the company Valeo – a manufacturer who produces automotive components – was very interesting because

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they showed us the whole production process. As you can see on the picture, we had to wear protective-clothes, which fits us perfectly and looked very fashionable. ;-)

Especially the trip to the capital city of the Czech Republic - Prague - was very interesting because I have never been to Prague before and I was very impressed by the old buildings and the whole surrounding. It was the ideal location for taking a picture of the whole group. At this point I would like to mention: when you decide to go to Prague you absolutely have to taste Trdelník which is

a traditional cake and sweet pastry, made from rolled dough, wrapped around a stick then grilled and topped with sugar and walnut mix... mmmh ;-)

During the daytrips and the lessons at the language school we learned the Czech language.

The language school wasn't very far away from our pension so we were able to sleep as long as possible. ;-)

On the first day at school the whole group was split into two smaller ones. We had very nice lecturers who had a lot of patience with us when we

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pronounced a vocabulary the 20th time wrong and the lessons varied from day to day and also during the day. For example the first part of the lesson contained getting to know new vocabularies, how to write them and how to spell them correctly and the second part of the lesson contained repeating the pronunciation by playing bingo with these words.

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Also, we had to solve a quiz which took place in the centre of Jihlava. The quiz contained some questions for example: How many banks are placed on the market place? Or another question: Has the museum of Gustav Mahler open today? These questions were of course in Czech so the first thing was to understand the questions, some of the vocabularies used, we know, but for others we used some tools like the "Google translator" and at this point I have to say that some of us – for example the group I was in – didn't translate all the questions correctly, so it happened that we answered the question of the museum with all opening hours for the whole week...

On another day we learned the animals in Czech, for example elephant means slon, lion means lev, goat

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means koza... We

completed the lesson with a visit of Jihlava's zoo.

At the college we had lessons like "web in practice"

where we learned PHP and lessons like

"computer

nets" where we created our own network cable.

It

took us a while to make it working.

These two weeks passed very quickly, too quickly on my opinion. On the last and final evening we celebrated a big party at the student club and we promised each other that we

will stay in touch and of course some of us meet regularly since then.

All in all I have to say that: If there is such a program again I won't hesitate to join!

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