

# STEP-Jihlava

## Report

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5. Sem. IBWI

> So spannend kann Technik sein.

# STEP-Short Term Exchange Program

## Report by Stefan Syrovatka

This program showed me how short two weeks can last when colleagues and adventures are that perfect.

We met at train station in Wien Meidling as single persons and arrived in Jihlava as one group. Our guides Armina, Christina and Iveta (international coordinator of Jihlavs Polytechnikum) greeted us at Jihlava Mesto (City of Jihlava) brought us and our bags to Penzion Gustav Mahleruv. There we slept and got breakfast every morning. We also got great City-Maps to check out what was important for us, e.g. where we had lunch and dinner... it wasn't at our Penzion it was on the other side of the city-centre around 15 minutes by foot.

Jihlava is a town of 50 000 citizens and many years ago it became rich and big because of a high amount of silver occurrence. This wealth needed a high city wall that in fact never could overcome from enemies. Many parts of the wall are already there and give Jihlava an historical face. These nice stories told us a local guide (Peter, he spoke good german-language) during a very interesting city-tour.

Our first weekend was used for getting to know this beautiful city and there people. So we went into bars, the shopping mall city-park the centre place we wanted to see everything, because on Monday school and other interesting excursions started.

Early in the morning we had to start to language-school (Poly Glot), it began at 8 o'clock and stopped at ten to twelve, almost every day. Funny games to get to know each other helped us learning Czech language. Our really great teacher told us if we want to learn this language, we have to go into pubs and speak there with local people and one beer or one more could help us to learn it faster... so we did that!

Many excursions to other towns and some interesting companies followed. Very special about this program was that everything was for free, we didn't had to pay anything for meal or these nice trips.

One city we met was Telč also a very historical and beautiful place. There we could enjoy a guided tour in the old castle. The ancient paintings and the old walls set us back into Middle Ages. The general look of this nice town is fulfilled with colours and if you don't know it you think you are in Parndorf Shopping City. For lunch we had a great bohemian menu in the castle restaurant.

Another visit was the town Třebíč, our group went there by train. Special was the old but high tower of the town and its big clock which is the biggest in the republic of Czech. In the north of Třebíč lived and already live Jewish people with interesting and historical places.

The companies we visited were in the nearer environs, so we could reach most of them by public O-Busses.

The first was Opticon, a company that produces since the early nineties glass fibre-cables for telecommunication in many countries of Europe e.g. Telekom Austria. Another interesting company was Bosch-Diesel, it's a part of Bosch and we heard that Bosch produces more than 65% of the parts of every car world-wide. That production in Jihlava was established for Diesel-injection-systems, an important and advanced technological know-how. In Boschs company the employee ride by bikes through the concerns area, that's really funny, I haven't really often seen things like this before.

Other companies we visited were Valeo and Centropen, Valeo produces compressors for vehicles and Centropen produces felt-tipped pens for labels like Stabilo.

The last week in Czech-Republic really was too short we all found new friends and we knew that after this time we won't stay in this constellation again.

In summary this STEP is a really nice idea, it combines holiday with company-visits and language course. Fact, this could be done more often.

Best regards

Stefan Syrovatka