

Comenius Project

SAVING ENERGY & RECYCLING - 2010 - 2012

Final Meeting in Uzerche - France / May 27th, 2012 - June 2nd, 2012

Students' Impressions written on their way back home from France

On Whitmonday, May 27th, 2012 we started our final Comenius journey to Uzerche/France. It took about 4 hours to get from Frankfurt to Paris by train where the warm sun seemed to wait for us.

We saw the famous sights of the capital by feet, by metro and by boat and it was just hilarious. Of course we were tired in the evening when we fell into our hotel beds but also v e r y happy. However, I must admit I noticed I was getting excited and I was wondering what my host family would be like.

The next day we had to run to the train - my fellow travellers do know why☺ -. We were lucky and reached the train in time and after 4 more hours we reached our final destination: Uzerche.

I noticed I got my adrenalin flowing... - I hadn't seen my host sister before nor had I found her on facebook and I hadn't got her mail address.

Of course I had no reason to be excited for my host sister Enora and her mom were so nice and thus a fascinating time began.

It was no problem at all being a vegetarian for Enora doesn't eat meat, too. What's more her English is very good - that was of importance for me since my French is megabad - and I wonder why my teachers think it isn't -!

We went to school every morning by bus and that was an interesting experience. In Germany the school buses are very quite in the morning because most of the students are still sleeping. This is not true for France. They talk and even sing a lot in the morning.

The Comenius project activities were well planed and we did a lot of interesting things regarding Saving Energy & Recycling. And interesting excursions. The weather was hot and we had a lot of fun!!!

At school I noticed that the French students stared at us. They do not seem to see Germans a lot these days, hm☺ ?

On first sight the French culture seems to be similar to our culture - but I soon learned: it is not!

The French "celebrate" their meals, eating takes longer and they have more courses and they take themselves a lot of time etc..

I had the feeling that the teenagers are more mature than we are. They dress in a very female way at school and I thought they have a lot of self-confidence.

Of course I am very well aware that these are my very personal impressions.

All in all, I can say that I had a wonderful, amazing, impressive and unforgettable time and a lot of fun!

I want to have my host sister here in Germany and who knows - she might visit me here sooner than I think?

LEONIE

From the 27th May to 2nd June we were in Paris/Uzerche - France. It was an amazing trip with Anna, Sabrina, Leonie, Katrin, Laura, Tonia, Dan, Mr Wunderlich, Mr Herold, Mr Dietzel and of course Mrs Hochgürtel. On Sunday we were in Paris and visited the Arc of Triumph, the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and many more famous sights. At the hotel in Paris we had rooms for three or two persons and single rooms. Anna, Sabrina and I were together in one room and we simply enjoyed it. The next day we travelled by train to Uzerche, this journey took four hours but in the train we slept and did funny

things like singing songs. Because of that it wasn't boring. When we arrived in Uzerche our host families were already waiting for us. We went home and had dinner together. After that we all met at Base de la Minotrie. This is a place where you can go canoeing. With two girls and a boy, Sabrina and I went canoeing. I lived together with Katrin in a host family and our host sister is called Lucie. They gave us such a warm welcome. With Lucie the week was really great. We went cycling in the woods, took a lot of pictures, did trampolining and visited the nature around Uzerche. Lucie has two sisters, one is older and her name is Manon. She is a great cooker! And the younger sister Suzanne is really sweet. The parents were friendly and spoke a lot with us. During this trip I met our Polish, Spanish and Turkish friends, I was so happy to see them once again. I also got to know some new nice people who were all friendly and nice!

I'm so sad that the Comenius project ends now but I'm sure I will never forget the time we spent on this project. It was a great experience for my life! I learned to help myself when I'm in trouble and I saw how people live in other countries. I also learned some words in French which is good for me and that I don't have to be afraid about new things because sometimes you worry about things that are very unimportant.

JESSICA

Before we started our Comenius project in Uzerche/France we spent one day in Paris. I had been looking forward to this day very much and we saw a lot of this really wonderful city.

On Monday I was nervous since we were supposed to live in host families. I had had facebook contact with my host sister, but still I was excited.

And then we had such a warm welcome at the station and we got along with each other very well from that moment on. On Tuesday Jessica moved in for her host family had a lot of pets and we didn't have any - she's allergic to them and so everything was perfect.

We had a wonderful time together and our host families took pains to give us a great time and to show us as much as possible of France. We laughed a lot and we enjoyed especially the time at school with the French students and the other exchange students. I loved the excursions and it was overwhelming to experience so many things together.

The Comenius project brought us together and we all got along well. We never had problems! Our shared Comenius week was simply wonderful and exciting. It was hard for all of us to say goodbye because we had to leave our new friends. I really wish I will meet my host sister and my host parents once again. This week in France was so eventful and I would be grateful to get the chance to gain an experience like this in the future again.

KATRIN

Unfortunately our Comenius project is over. It was the last out of six meetings, this time in France/Uzerche. But I was lucky - I was in!!! During the first two days I was pretty excited. I don't speak French, thus it wasn't always too easy to understand each other. But we improved our talking abilities day by day.

The first morning my host family asked me what they should serve for breakfast and I said bread and cheese which is a common breakfast here in Germany. My host parents looked quite surprised for this is not a French breakfast at all. But of course they didn't mind and I enjoyed my meal.

We did a lot of excursions, the most of them were interesting. I especially liked our chocolate factory visit.

On our last day 16 students of the Comenius project came together and we played the "Laser game" – it was sooo great. We had sooo much fun together and this time was also important for our new friendships.

I made friends in France like I did before in Turkey and Poland – just because of joining the Comenius project – that's awesome. I really hope they will accept our invitation to come to Germany soon!!!

On our way home we had to face some delays of trains, thus we missed other trains and for more than 4 hours we didn't have any seats. But after such a week this couldn't bother us at all: we still had fun and we appreciated the extra time we had due to the delays.

After a long trip of 13 hours we finally arrived at Hanau station. Although our journey home was „special“, it had also been fun.

I am very sorry that our Comenius project had come to an end now. It was such a big deal for me! During these two years I learned so many things. I did not only improve my English but I learned so much for my future life. Sometimes only details impressed me but they are by now a part of my life.

In respect to "Saving Energy & Recycling" I learned a lot. I think I am now very aware when it comes to this topic. But the best part of the project is for me that I found new friends in Turkey, Poland and France only because of this amazing Comenius project!

TONIA

Bonjour mes amies! ✍

I had a good week in France. The people are so friendly and lovely. At the beginning I was scared and I didn't want to go alone to my host family. My feelings were mixed, but I had big luck. Anna and my host sisters were cousins and so we were together in one family. Three days at my host family and two days at Anna's. It was wonderful and funny. I had some problems with the language because the family didn't speak English. It was very difficult, but it worked because we wanted it to work!!

Now we all are good friends. If you talk with hands and feet, you understand each other.

On Wednesday we went shopping at Brive. It was so good. They have nice clothes in France, only the ice cream is very expensive.

We had fun with each other. At the end, no one wanted to go home. Maybe we will go back or our new friends come to Germany. I look forward to it.

The other teams from Turkey, Spain, Czech Republic and Poland were so great. The Polish team was very cool, they talked a lot with us. The Turkish team was funny.

I think everybody should join a Comenius Project or something like it, if he/she can do it. It's a special, impressive and wonderful experience!

I would do it again, if I could. I miss my friends and the week in France (and it is only 1 day ago that I came back).

So, you hear it was wonderful for all of us!!!!

LAURA

SAVING ENERGY & RECYCLING: It was simply a great project. Our first day in Paris seemed to be the highlight of our journey but I was wrong. Our group was awesome and it proved to be a week to remember.

After a very warm welcome at Uzerche station we all drove to our host families. But not for long because they had organized a meeting with the other German students at a river and we went canoeing. WAUH! The first night went well – and in the morning we had our first real French breakfast: baguette and croissants. What else could we wish for?!

The first day at school was different compared to our school experience. Especially the school bell was irritating. We joined various Comenius projects and after we were showed around the school by some French students we soon felt at “school” / home. The welcome evening at school with all host parents was great. It was a nice idea to invite all participants of the project so we got to know the other host parents and the other teams better. And of course, again we had a lot of fun.

The week was full of interesting events, surprises, inspirations and – surprise – we enjoyed each and every minute.

My personal highlight was the day we visited a chocolate factory. I love chocolate and it was interesting to see how it is made and especially the way it is made. It was just a great idea to take us there and we all loved it.

On our second to the last day we visited a young family (parents and 2 kids) who decided to live in a kind of tent and who take great pains to gain their living from nature. Therefore they collect energy via solar panels, rain water and so on. What an experience that was to be in their “living room” and see how they live.

Summing up I can say that joining the Comenius project meeting in France was an additional, enriching experience for me. Not only the various countries I was allowed to visit were fascinating! The greatest enrichment I probably made were the various people from different countries I met. They will be forever in my heart.

And above that I am now sure that it is not important to speak a certain language, because there is a language that everybody understands: speaking with hands and feet!

ANNA

Although I don't speak French I was able to communicate with my host family very well. Actually they talked a lot with me and I had a great time with them.

The excursions and the time at school were great. I was deeply impressed by Paris. It was special to visit the sights which I only knew from TV or movies – they are even better when you are next to them.

DAN

Like all my class mates I was also a bit scared of going to France because I thought I am not able to speak French properly, not to mention understanding French. Furthermore, I hadn't had the chance to contact my host family before we arrived.

It was a journey into the unknown and I simply hoped I would survive this week in France...

But you know what? I mastered everything! My fears were gone before you can say Jack Robinson and this Comenius week in Uzerche was so amazing. I liked it very, very much!

I did learn a lot – and I am not talking about improving my language skills which I definitely did – in fact I was surprised how well I speak and understand French. I also got to know the French culture and the wonderful French people.

Above all I realized that it doesn't take much to lead a happy life, if you find and/or have good friends.

I can only highly recommend participating in a Comenius project to every student!

SABRINA

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June 2nd, 2012 - WPK-Improve your Skills – Jenne Hochgürtel