

Koppang skole

Skoleveien 50,
2480 Koppang
Norway



Study visit to Slovakia

Official report from the study business trip

Destination and duration of the visit: Six teachers and six students of the Koppang skole went on a business trip to Slovakia on 12-15 June 2017. Teachers and students were grateful to take part in a partnership activity between two European countries.

The host organisation Elementary school with kindergarten in Častá (in Slovak: Základná škola s materskou školou Častá /abbreviation: ZŠ s MŠ Častá) applied for funding from the European Economic Area Grants (EEA Grants) to cover travel costs of our 12-member group to travel to Slovakia and make a reciprocal visit of Slovak school after Slovak visit to Koppang school in October 2016 as a next activity of bilateral Slovak Norwegian cooperation between Koppang skole and ZŠ s MŠ Častá.

Purpose of the trip: Improving bilateral cooperation between Norwegian and Slovak schools, learning about similarity and differences between Norwegian and Slovak countries, cultures, educational systems, traditions and natural and cultural heritage. Raising awareness of Norwegian and Slovak public about the importance of learning and protecting the nature, learning about falconry at school and its frequent application in adaptation to climate change. Getting familiar with climate change in Slovakia and the impact of this change on wildlife, especially the predators.

Funding: Project activity is supported by EEA grants and co-financed by the State Budget of the Slovak Republic within the framework of bilateral Slovak Norwegian cooperation under the program area of Adaptation to Climate Change (ACC) – PA7

Participants:

List of teachers: Olav Øystein Wollan (male) – teacher of Norwegian, English and Social studies, Helen Margrethe Schjelderup (female) – teacher of Mathematics, Sciences, Gymnastics, Marita Grøtan Heggstad (female) – teacher of Arts, Music, Adam Bielek (male), Mali Engh (female) - teacher of 1.grade (6 years) for all subjects there, Hilde Solvang (female) – headmaster of the Koppang school

List of pupils: Magnus Lilletjernbakken (male) - 7.grade, Andrine Mellemstuen (female) – 7.grade, Sigrid Marie Austeng (female) – 6.grade, Tobias Negård (male) – 5.grade, Maria Olderheim Follstad (female) -5.grade, Selma Henriksen (female) – 5.grade

Framework Programme:

12.06.17. – Leaving Koppang – 2:00 am, departure Oslo Lufthavn Gardermoen – 06:45, arrival Schwechat Vienna, Austria – 09:10, arrival in Bratislava 10:30, leaving the city of Bratislava to Devín and Devínska Kobyla at 13:30 – visiting museum of scums in nature, arrival in the city of Častá and the castle Červený Kameň at 18:00

13.06.17. - Breakfast at 8:00 at Librese (Červený Kameň), going to school at 8:45 in Častá, arrival at ZŠ Častá at 9:00, 9:15 welcome from the pupils of ZŠ Častá, at 9:30 presentation of primary school pupils from Častá, at 10:00 little snack, 10:15 presentation of primary school pupils from Koppang, at 11:00 touring the school and viewing the methods of teaching and touring the kindergarten, at 12:30 common lunch at the school, at 13:30 transfer to Červený Kameň, at 14:00 Program at Červený Kameň, history of the castle, 15:00 OZ Astur – Falconry, at 18:00 dinner Taverna, at 20:00 Guided tour in Červený Kameň,

14.06.17. - Breakfast at 7:00 Librese, transfer to Štiavnické Bane at 8:00, arrival in Štiavnické Bane at 11.00 and check – in at the hotel, visit at primary school ZŠ s MŠ Štiavnické Bane at 12:00, lunch at 12:30, at 13:00 presentation of primary school ZŠ s MŠ Štiavnické Bane, 14:15 transfer to Museum in Svätý Anton, touring the museum at 14:45, transfer to Banská Štiavnica and at 17:00 visit in Terra Permonia – creative workshops, transfer from Banská Štiavnica at the hotel and dinner at 19:00, at 20:30 go for a swim in a local pond

15.06.17. – visit Banská Štiavnica at 9:00, lunch at 12:00, transfer from Štiavnické Bane to Častá at 13.00 (all), 16:30 - transfer from Častá to Schwechat Vienna, 20:30 - Departure from Schwechat Vienna, 22:55 - arrival Oslo Lufthavn Gardermoen,

16.06.17. - 00:30 departure from Oslo Lufthavn Gardermoen by car, arrival in Koppang at 02.30.

Description of the study trip:

Start of the trip: Monday 12.06.17. – We were ready to say goodbye to Norway and hello to Slovakia. For a couple of days we would experience a new country. We would learn about Slovakia and get to know a new culture. Two nations and two schools were brought together by this specific project: Adaptation to Climate Change (AAC).

In the morning at 2:00 am we met pupils and parents in the center of Koppang. The departure from Oslo Lufthavn Gardermoen was at 06:45. We arrived Schwechat Vienna, Austria at 09:10. A nice busdriver took us to Bratislava. When we first arrived in Slovakia we visited Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia and neighbouring natural areas. Adam Bielek one of the participants guided us in the old town of Bratislava. In Bratislava we had our first meeting with the traditional Slovakian kitchen. Cabbage-Soup made an impression and we started to understand the importance of soup. In Norway we eat bread for both breakfast and lunch, and we hardly ever eat soup for starters. Full by the Slovakian meal we left the capital city and drove to Casta. We left Bratislava and went for a visit in Devín and Devínska Kobyla and the museum of scums in nature. This place was close to the capital, and it was beautiful natural area in Slovakia. It was situated at the confluence of the Morava and Danube. We went to see Sandberg's world-renowned geological location, and we had a look at the beautiful Botanical Gardens of the Little Carpathians and the Bird Paradise.

After a couple of hours we were settled in Cerveny Kamen. The Red Stone Castle that would be our home for the next two nights. It was kind of hard to believe, that we were to sleep in this historic surroundings. After a couple of days we understood that Slovakia has numerous castles and fortresses. The Slovakian history can be seen and felt almost wherever you go, often accomplished with knowledge and hospitality from local guides. In Norway you will hardly find as many historical places, especially in these conditions. This is extraordinary. It became even more impressive when pupils from Casta filled the castle with dresses, roleplay, dance and music. We had two interesting days in Casta, containing information about local nature, history and environment. We got to experience cultural traditions which were presented by national clothes, children songs and folk dance. The rest of the trip took place in a small village called Stiavnicke Bane, where we visited a school where falconry is a part of the curriculum. In an environmental and educational perspective they have different animals and gardens from all over the world. It was fascinating to see the vertical garden on the outside of the school wall - funded by Norwegian money. No wonder the Norwegian king has visited this school and participated in their falconry show. The last evening and the last day we were tourists in Banska Stiavnica (UNESCO city). The Norwegian and Slovak pupils went to an art workshop, where they could make different things out of paper, wood, plastic etc.

The kids enjoyed the workshop and the teachers were impressed, both by the artistic place and the pupils creative mood.

End of the trip: Thursday 15.06.17. We left Častá for Schwechat airport Vienna at 16:30. At 20:30 we had departure from Schwechat Vienna and we arrived Oslo Lufthavn Gardermoen at 22:55.

We left Slovakia with so many impressions and we have learned so much about our fellow European country. We wish and hope for the future is that this partnership may develop and expand into a big and predictable project. We arrived in Koppang at 02.30 and all of the parents were there to welcome their children.

Results of the study visit:

We contributed to development of our bilateral partnership with our Slovak partner school and learned a lot about their country, culture, traditions. We are working on measures how to continue in our bilateral cooperation further.

We have learned a lot of Slovakian history, and this is motivating for learning more about other countries and cultures.

We have become familiar with the education system in Slovakia

We have been thought falconry, and how this is helpful for students and birds. We have learned a lot about predator birds.

We have improved language and presentation skills of our students and teachers

For our students this has been a motivation for learning a foreign language

We could see how climate changes were a challenge by the river, due to flood several times during the year. We also got to know of the climate change in Slovakia and its effect on animals especially raptors and seasons.

We have also increased attractiveness of our schools due to cooperation with schools in Slovakia. We are in the local newspaper “Østlendingen” <https://www.ostlendingen.no/midt-osterdal/stor-elvdal/skole/koppangselever-pa-slovakia-besok/s/5-69-430075> . We have many visitors at our schools profile at Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KoppangSkole/> were we wrote travelling letters from Slovakia and posted pictures from the trip.



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