

## REPORT ON THE PROJECT OF COOPERATION IN EEA GRANTS

<b>Name:</b>	Adam Smejkal
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Our Icelandic adventure began on Sunday 7 November 2021 in Jihlava at the bus station. At that time, we didn't know that a group of young students were heading towards us, who would gradually become our friends and colleagues for the rest of our stay. Just before arriving, there was a slight nervousness at the bus station, because we didn't really know who we would be staying with. Immediately after getting off the bus, I found my Icelandic roommate and took him home.

We spent the first day getting to know each other, touring the town of Jihlava, which ended in the church, where Dominik Máca played the organ beautifully for us. The next day we visited the thermal power plant Ledvice. The Icelandic students were intrigued by the tour, but unfortunately not in a good way. They didn't like how much carbon such a plant produce compared to other energy sources available in Iceland. We spent the third day at the Polenská workplace, where we had a presentation about electromobility in practice, followed by the first joint project, focused on the use of electric cars in the future, their advantages and disadvantages.

Thursday was marked by steel, we showed Icelandic students in Ostrava its production and processing. The tour was interspersed with a view of the city from above and ended in the modern

museum of science and technology. We also visited Prague with our Icelandic friends, where we had a long tour in the center focusing on the history and architecture of Prague.

I was in charge of Sunday, because I had prepared a tour of the nearby Lipnice nad Sázavou castle. On this occasion, I told foreign students about the history of the castle and I didn't forget to mention the person of Jaroslav Hašek, the writer who came out with the Czech icon Švejk. Visitors could get to know the natural beauty of the Highlands by walking in the local forests, where we admired the sculptures by the regional sculptor Radomír Dvořák, located in the basement of the castle. We ended the demanding day with a Czech classic - fried cheese and fries.

The second week started on the bus on the way to Dukovan. The nuclear power plant was in the sights of most of the exchange students from the first day in the Czech Republic, I think it lived up to expectations. Two students had the chance to speak with a Czech radio reporter. You can listen the aforementioned report online on their website. On Tuesday, honored us with a visit from Ph.D. Dana Drábová, chairwoman of the State Office for Nuclear Safety, with whom we had the opportunity to hold a discussion in the field of nuclear energy.

Unfortunately, due to the covid situation, we had to say goodbye to our Icelandic friends unexpectedly and very quickly, for several months.

Five months flew by and we were standing at the same bus station waiting for the bus to take us to the airport in Munich, from where we took a direct flight to Iceland. After landing, we made our way to our host families. At first glance, we didn't like Iceland's nature very much, but every day we had a chance to see more and more beautiful places. We started every morning in the school canteen, because we had snacks prepared here - drinks and sandwiches. These breakfasts functioned as a perfect meeting place for students before school, where we discussed the experiences of the previous days. I have to point out, however, that only participants of the exchange stay were provided with breakfast here.

Visit to the geothermal power plant. We had the opportunity to look under the lid of the earth's crust, thanks to an excursion to a geothermal power plant. In the customer center, they explained to us both the principle of operation and its impact on the environment, such as the occurrence of an earthquake. After completing the tour, we went hiking in the mountains. We ended the hour-long hike with a bath in the hot natural springs. Imagine that you are walking in the mountains for an hour and out of nowhere there is a stream in front of you with steam rising and the heads of people peeking out of it.

Wednesday was interesting for everyone, because we were visited by the Icelandic Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarsson, with whom the Icelandic pupils in particular had a discussion about saving electricity.

After Thursday's lecture on the topic of sustainable energy by a professor from the University of Iceland, we went to the Icelandic National Museum. There was an exhibition of Viking culture on the territory of Iceland.

We celebrated the end of the first working week with an event called Dimmisio. It was a day when Icelandic students dressed up in costumes and went to the streets to complete tasks given by Icelandic teachers. The team that completed the most points won. Unfortunately, our international team did not win. This event was celebrated by all from the final years of high schools, so we saw a lot of interesting and original costumes. Smurfs, pokemons, cleaning ladies with ponies around Reykjavík, our team was disguised as characters from the Squid game series. It reminded me of the "last ringing" in the Czech Republic. In the afternoon, after finishing the school program, we went to our homes and then went to the birthday party of an Icelandic student. The celebration was really successful because it was under the open sky, in the middle of nature. It was really beautiful there.

Saturday was purely educational. We took a boat that was fully electric to the Westman islands. Here we had a tour of the island and then a visit to the museum with the remains of the volcanic activity that were ubiquitous. We had a day off on Sunday, I spent it with a couple of Icelandic and Czech friends swimming under the waterfalls and relaxing in the thermal baths.

On Monday, we saw the Krýsuvík area with the geothermal power plant and ended the day in the world-famous Blue Lagoon. The next day we had a chance to see the Golden Circle, which is an area known for its geysers and waterfalls. We then went to the Fontana thermal baths in Laugarvatn to relax our muscles.

The iconic church standing next to our host school we visited for the first time on Thursday. After a bit of Christianity and Dominic playing the organ, we went to one of the largest genetic laboratories in the world, deCODE, where we had a guided tour. For example, deCODE is behind the app "Book of Iceland", which shows the family tree of all native Icelanders. Two Icelanders can easily find out how related they are in a matter of seconds.

On the penultimate day, we had a debate about data centers in Iceland. We discussed, presented our opinions, defended our claims. I was in the group that was against its opening.

I enjoyed my last day purely with my family. I am grateful for the family I stayed with for 15 days. After the first few days they told me I was their Icelandic son, it was so lovely of them.

I thoroughly enjoyed this project from start to finish. I made a lot of new friends and even after finishing the program I stayed in touch with a couple of Icelanders and we write to each other regularly. I learned new things about energy and confirmed that there is a point in learning English. I would like to thank everyone who helped us and gave us the chance to participate in this project. And I would also like to thank everyone involved, I think we had a great time together. Thank you.

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